

JULY - **Jobs to Do**

Flower Garden:

- Trim the following **hedges** with shears: **Beech, Berberis Darwinii, Blackthorn, Box, Hawthorn, Hazel, Sea Buckthorn, Hornbeam, Holly, Lawson's and Leyland Cypress, Lonicera Nitida** and **Privet**;
- Trim the following **hedges** with secateurs (to avoid cut leaves turning brown): **Eleagnus** and **Laurels**;
- **Prune** June-flowering shrubs, such as **Philadelphus** and **Weigela**;
- Cut back and deadhead **Oriental poppies** after flowering. Cutting them right back to ground level will stimulate growth of fresh new foliage, and perhaps even some new blooms. Mulching and feeding will help to support this new growth;
- Cut back **Delphiniums** and **Geraniums** after the first flush of flowers to encourage a second flowering period. Feed after cutting them back;
- **Deadhead** flower borders regularly to prolong flowering;
- Disbud and dead-head **Dahlias** if growing for large blooms. Leave **Roses** that produce attractive hips;
- Liquid feed **containerised plants** and keep well watered in dry spells;
- Tie in **Climbers**, such as Clematis and Roses, training new growth diagonally or horizontally to encourage more flower buds;
- Continue **deadheading** annual/perennial flowers;
- If the weather is dry, water **Camellias** through to September to promote buds for next year;
- **Autumn-flowering bulbs**, such as A**utumn Crocuses**, **Colchicum, Sternbergia, Amaryllis** and **Nerine**, can be planted now.

Vegetable Garden:

- Feed **Tomatoes** when first fruits have formed using a traditional tomato feed; avoid splashing the foliage by watering carefully (best to sink a pot with the plant and water direct into this). To keep **Tomato Blight** at bay, which has been the biggest threat to Tomatoes in recent years, spray regularly, starting this month, with a fungicide such as Bordeaux mixture - removing any affected leaves will help to slow its spread. Blight will be apparent when black patches appear first on tomato leaves, then on the stems, and soon the whole plant collapses and dies. Outdoor plants are particularly vulnerable in periods of warm, moist nights from late June onwards. Any blighted material should always be removed from allotment sites to avoid spreading the blight to other plots and either be burnt or taken home and placed in the

Brown Bin for collection (the same applies to Potato blight). See our Fact Sheet on our website for more information on blight (which similarly affects Potatoes) + you can sign up on www.blightwatch.co.uk to get alerts when blight is likely to strike in our area. **Blossom end rot** (when ripening fruits turn black and leathery at the base) is caused by lack of moisture at a key stage in growth, so regular watering during any dry spells is vital (though perhaps only necessary for plants in greenhouses this year!);

- **Spring cabbages**, which are always quick to bolt in spring, should be sown around mid July; Although such crops will still run to seed in spring, they will bolt later than crops sown earlier, while later-sown crops may be too small to survive winter;
- Plant out **Cabbages, Cauliflowers, Brussel Sprouts, Broccoli** and **Kale;**
- Further sowings of **Carrots, Beetroot, Florence Fennel, French Beans, Peas** and **Lettuces** can be made;
- To prevent bolting in **Chinese Cabbage** and other **Oriental Brassicas**, these crops should be sown from July onwards;
- Ward off **Carrot Fly** by covering plants with a fine woven plastic mesh like Enviromesh or fleece;
- Pick yellowing leaves off **Brassicas** promptly to prevent spread of grey mould and brassica downy mildew;
- Lift and dry off autumn-planted **Onions** and **Garlic**, when the foliage starts to wilt and turn brown;
- If you have **blackfly** on your **Broad Beans**, try jet-spraying them off or use one of the pesticides available from the Trading Centre – our Trading Centre team will be happy to advise what to use. **Note**: blackfly will spread on allotment sites to other plots and also attack **Dahlias**.

Fruit:

- Thin **Pears, Plums, Peaches, Nectarines** and **Apricots**. **Apples** should be thinned at the end of the month;
- Peg down **Strawberry** runners for new plants;
- Summer prune **Red** and **White Currants** and **Gooseberries**;
- Make sure **bees** can access caged and cloched fruit flowers to ensure pollination.

Lawn:

- Keep **mowing** regularly, except during drought. In hot weather, set the mower at a slightly higher level than normal for early summer as this can prevent the lawn drying in hot weather and help the grass better resist the wear it suffers in summer;
- This is the last month to apply a **liquid** summer lawn **fertiliser**, especially if a spring feed was not given, although a soluble feed and weed product may be useful if there are weeds present in the lawn.