

My Allotment Monthly Tasks

January

Cold and wintry, now is the time to clear your allotment of any autumn debris: leaves, twigs and damaged plants. You should be able to harvest winter vegetables. (Check your Crop Calendar to see which should be ready) and, if part of the month turns out mild, you could sow some seeds. (Check seed packets to know which).

February

Depending on temperatures during February, it may be time to sow more seeds. (Remember to check seed packets to know which can go out). Now is the perfect time to build a scarecrow or smarten up an existing one; the birds will start to show more interest in your plot as seeds will form perfect food for our feathered friends!

March

Finally, after the long winter, you'll start to notice longer days, which means spring is just around the corner! Dig over the ground so the soil is loose and ready for planting. Check your Crop Calendar to know which vegetables can be planted out now, though most will still need to be started indoors or in a greenhouse to protect them from the weather.

April

Frost on the ground is still a possibility throughout April, so it might be a good idea to keep any seedlings covered with some garden fleece to protect them. If the weather is kind, a lot of vegetable and herb seeds can be sown this month. Look carefully for the first sign of garden pests, and research some methods to eradicate them safely.

May

May can be very hit or miss weather-wise. The potential for hot, dry spells means it's important to keep new plant growth watered. However, there is still the possibility of frosty nights or heavy showers, which are equally damaging to your young crops. Keep an eye on the weather forecasts and protect plants as necessary. Check your Crop Calendar to see what you can plant this month.

June

Sun, sun, sun is the order of the month (hopefully)! Keep plants well-watered (it's best to do this during the cooler parts of the day to avoid the sun's intense heat evaporating all that water). Along with great plant growth, comes the unfortunate abundance of WEEDS! Your hoe will be your fiend to control their growth. More pests will appear in June too, so keep them at bay with safe deterrents.

July

All you can think of is summer, right? But now is the time to plant winter vegetables! Check seed packs for instructions. Keep on weeding, as they'll just keep growing with all that sunshine and water! Now is the time you'll start to reap the rewards of your hard work and preparation, as there should be plenty of produce to harvest! Research some recipes to use up all of those vegetables and herbs!

August

So much produce! There should be A LOT of vegetables and herbs ready for picking this month. Keep up that watering, as it's likely to be hot, and remember to weed to keep in check those pesky wild plants. It's a good idea to check your Crop Calendar to see if there are any other seeds to be sown.

September

Summer seems like a distant memory, though September can still bring warm, sunny days, so continue to water any crops or seedlings. A lot of plants will have now offered their last crops of the year, so you could research how to compost these to make rich nourishment for next year. Start to prepare the soil, digging it over in readiness for next year's planting.

October

Dig deep then dig deeper! Digging over any unplanted ground now is really important to make it easier to dig over next spring. There's still likely to be plenty to harvest if you've planted late-growing crops. (Think pumpkins – it is October after all!) As nights turn longer and cooler, frost becomes a possibility once again. Have protection ready for any plants or seedlings growing for winter.

November

Although the days are turning chilly, there should be just enough bright, dry days left to get out into your allotment plot to clear it, ready for the winter. Autumn leaves, twigs and leftover plants can be raked away, leaving you plenty of free space to finish that digging. Some of your winter vegetables could well be ready to harvest this month; it's a good idea to check your Crop Calendar to find out which.

December

There's little to do on the allotment plot this month, so spend some quality time deciding what you'd like to plant and grow in the following year. Remember to pop out to check on and pick the last of the winter vegetables before Christmas; if you planted any, there might be some nice Brussels sprouts to cook for your Christmas dinner! Update your Allotment Diary with achievements and challenges from the year too!