

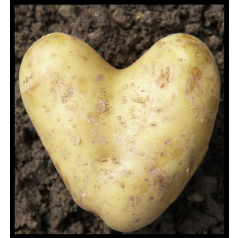


GROWING TOGETHER


Welcome to 2023's Harwich Town Council Allotment Newsletter. Over the last 18 months I have become familiar with most of our plot holders and thank you all for being so friendly and welcoming since I joined HTC as Assistant Clerk. As a reminder, you can find me in the Guildhall, 11 Church Street or by calling 01255 507211 (option 4). The Guildhall is open Monday, Wednesday and Fridays 9.30am – 1.00pm. I am always happy to help where I can and welcome



anyone to make contact to discuss their allotment plot. If you are considering taking on a second plot, please drop me an email at marie@harwichtowncouncil.co.uk where I will be able to add you to the waiting list.



WE DONT HAVE ANY VEGETABLE JOKES YET



SO IF YOU DO LETTUCE KNOW

Allotment Representatives Role

Harwich Town Council is looking for site representatives from **Dunns Meadow** and **Boatswains Call** to consider undertaking a voluntary position to assist the committee with knowledge and support for the management of the site.

The main duties involve monitoring the site, assisting, advising the committee and council staff and attending Allotments Committee meetings which are held 4 times a year at the Guildhall, Church Street.

If you feel you can offer your time and support to the committee in this role, please forward a letter of interest giving brief details of why you would like the position.

Allotment Representatives get one plot rent free

CONTACT DETAILS

Sometimes, the council may need to contact all plot holders via quicker and more efficient means than letter. It would be appreciated if you could ensure that we have your up to date e-mail address on record.

Price Increase

Please be informed from September 2024, price per rod will increase to **£5.50**. Those in receipt of state pension will continue to pay at 25% discounted rate.

Bonfires

Please see below the timings of permitted bonfires across all HTC allotment sites.

Winter Timings: Oct to Jan –After 1500hrs
Summer Timings: Feb to Sept –After 1800hrs

Flammable Liquids -REMINDER

Please be informed, HTC's Tenancy Agreement states no oil fuel lubricants or flammable liquids are to be stored in sheds within the allotment sites.

Composting

Why make Compost? Your plot will inevitably generate green waste, from weeds to old crops and spent compost, but please do not be tempted to dispose of it at your local tip or on the bonfire. This “waste” is actually a tremendous resource, as a large percentage of it can be recycled into compost that will enhance the fertility of your allotment garden.

Your “black gold” will:

- Improve soil texture
- Improve aeration of the soil
- Increase water-holding capacity of the soil
- Improve soil fertility
- Feed micro-organisms that keep soil healthy
- Reduce landfill pressure
- Save you money

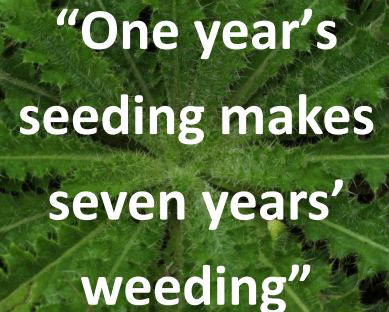
How to Compost using the "Cool" Method Compost production works best when there are a couple of heaps on the go at the same time; one that you are adding to and another that you have filled and left to decompose; a process that can take up to a year. The containers could be wooden bins (with a cover) or plastic composters, whatever suits your space. The volume of your container should ideally be 1 cubic metre, any less will still work but may take longer. If there is a vermin problem on the site it is wise to put metal mesh at the bottom of the heap, over the bare earth.

To create good compost, you should mix carbon-based waste (browns) half and half by volume with the nitrogen-based plant (greens) remains. The green material provides nutrients and moisture whilst the browns decompose more slowly and provide the energy source for the microbes that carry out the composting process. The brown material also absorbs excess moisture and facilitates air-flow within the heap.

www.nsalq.org.uk/growing-advice/composting/

Leaving so soon??

Please be informed that under the Allotments Act 1950, s4, any tenant leaving the allotment plot and ending the tenancy, are expected to leave the plot in a satisfactory condition deemed by HTC. Any plots left which need further clearance or maintenance will be charged to the vacating tenant.



“One year’s
seeding makes
seven years’
weeding”

Pathways

As per HTC’s Allotment tenancy agreement, **‘The tenant shall keep every hedge that forms part of the boundary of his/her allotment properly cut and trimmed, all pathways between plots trimmed and well maintained’**. This is to be the width of 0.5metres.



Black Plastic Ground Covering

Black plastic covering has proved very helpful with controlling weed growth and managing the areas of a plot not currently being cultivated. The 500g black polythene plastic sheeting which comes in a width of 4 metres and is sold in lengths of 5 metres (20 square metres) is offered by HTC at a very competitive cost of £11.00 per 20sqm.

Should you wish to take advantage of this, please contact Andy, HTC’s Estate Supervisor on

01255 507211 (option 5) who will arrange to take payment and organise collection of your order.