

# BTC Allotment Newsletter

ISSUE 7 – July

## Jobs for July

July is usually one of the driest months, so watering can be essential. To help with this, hoe regularly to break up the soil and water in the cool of the morning or evening.

### Top tip

This month, protect heavily-laden fruit tree and bush branches against snapping under the weight. Use a stake or prop to keep them upright. If necessary, prune cherries straight after harvest.

### Harvest

Keep up with the harvesting of all crops because the allotment is now in full production. Lift early potatoes and carry on earthing up the rows. Harvest garlic and shallots as the foliage begins to become yellow and strawy. Pick the first of the early tomatoes. July is the start of globe artichoke season. If your plant is into its



### Sowing and planting

- 1) Sow spring cabbage, turnips, Oriental vegetables, chicory, fennel, and autumn/winter salads.
- 2) Carrots can still be sown, but beware of carrot fly when thinning existing seedlings.
- 3) Last chance to sow French beans and runner beans (south of England only).
- 4) Plant out leeks and brassicas for a winter supply, if not yet done.

### Problems

- a) Check plants regularly for aphids.
- b) Watch out for potato blight and tomato blight.
- c) Look out for asparagus beetle.
- d) Keep an early eye out for the sunken brown patches of blossom end rot on tomatoes.

### General

Aim to keep the hoe moving at every opportunity. Water all crops at least once a week. Start to draw the soil up around the base of Brussels sprouts and sweet corn plants to encourage extra roots.

