



BTC Allotment Newsletter

ISSUE 12 –
December 2020

December Pests & Diseases

Check nets on winter cabbages, cauliflowers, Brussel sprouts, kale and broccoli . You'll need to keep them in place all winter to keep off pigeons. Repair any holes and re-fasten any nets that have come loose.

Remove dying leaves from Brussels sprouts, cabbages and other brassicas as soon as they start to turn yellow. Leaving them to rot on the ground risks spreading grey mould.

Digging over your soil during winter will help expose hibernating grubs to the watchful eyes of hungry birds.



Slugs can still be a problem even this late in the year. Check them in the outer leaves of cabbages and cauliflowers.

Mice and rats can be a problem as winter approaches. They are partial to digging up newly planted broad bean seeds, garlic and shallot and onion sets.

Check stored crops such as potatoes, swedes, squashes, onions, shallots and garlic for signs of rot.

Continue Winter digging

As long as your soil is not frozen or waterlogged, you can still dig. But if the earth sticks to your boots when you walk on it, it's too wet and you risk compacting the soil. Either keep off your beds altogether, or work from planks to distribute your weight.

Dig in rotted manure or compost

If you've already worked out next years planting plan, it's worth digging plenty of organic matter into the beds where you intend to grow beans and peas. Even more than most vegetables, they need rich fertile soil.

Top up compost and leaf mould bins

Continue adding any of last seasons old plant material to your compost heap and collect any fallen autumn leaves for your leaf mould pile.

Lift root vegetables for storage

Harvest the last of your carrots, turnips, kohlrabi and any remaining beetroot. They can be stored if necessary. Celeriac and parsnips can stay in the ground if there's no risk of their being 'frozen in'.



Top Tasks For December

- ◆ Harvest leeks, root vegetables, autumn and winter brassicas and perhaps, a few hardy salad crops.
- ◆ Plant garlic, rhubarb and new bare-root fruit trees and bushes
- ◆ Prune apple and pear trees, soft fruit bushes and outdoor grape vines if its not too cold
- ◆ Dig over your plot, add plenty of well rotted organic material and cover beds to protect the soil
- ◆ Check nets



Green Waste Collection

The lengthsmen will be continuing the collection service in the New Year.

Keep an eye on the notice board for updates.



MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM BRIXHAM TOWN COUNCIL