



April jobs as advised by the N.A.S.

April is a 'let's go for it!' month on the allotment but proceed with caution. Hopefully we will all be feeling the benefit of the lengthening days and warm sunshine but beware there is always a price to pay with the treat of hard, night frosts never far away. Hold back and wait a day or two rather take a risk. It isn't the loss of seedlings or young plants that causes the problems but the loss of your precious time that you will ever get back that does the damage. The allotment will always catch up eventually and reward your patience with bumper harvest.

Sowing and planting

Continue with planting out the seed potatoes; aim to complete the job by the end of April. Be prepared to cover the emerging shoots of the earlies with soil if a frost is forecast. Complete the planting of onion sets and carry on making successional sowings of beetroot, carrots, parsnips, lettuce, spinach, spring onions, kohlrabi, radish, turnips, early peas, Swiss chard.

Sow maincrop peas and make the last sowing of summer broad beans. You could try an early sowing of dwarf and climbing French beans towards then of the month. Use the darker seeded varieties they are hardier and more suited to the early sowings. Protect them from frosts. On a prepared seed bed sow the seed leeks and summer cabbage. Plant out celeriac grown on earlier and keep the plants well watered all through the summer.

Sow under glass, in pots and trays filled with fresh seed compost, the seeds of runner beans, sweet corn, courgettes, pumpkins, squashes, outdoor/ridge cucumber. It is now safe to transplant the cold greenhouse tomatoes in to their final positions keep some frost protection handy.

General

Early sowings of Brussels sprouts will need thinning out this month and the soil for next month's transplanting of sweet corn, courgettes, marrows, pumpkins and outdoor/ridge cucumbers will need preparing. Put up the runner bean poles and start to support the growing peas with brushwood or netting. Prepare seed beds for outdoor sowing of main crop vegetables next month.

Water

The water has now been turned on at all of the allotment sites and dependant of the weather will stay on until October (TBC). Brixham Town Council continue to advocate water harvesting and advise allotment holders to consider a water butt on site. Remember that small ponds are also encouraged on your plot to attract wildlife.



Inspections

The lengthsmen have been carrying out their inspections and we are pleased to report that the majority of allotments are looking great for this time of year. Some tenants have been confused over what the guidelines are and we would encourage all allotment holders to refresh themselves with their tenancy where all of the terms and conditions are clearly documented.



Green Waste Collections

Again this service was a success with plenty of allotment holders taking advantage. At Wall Park these was quite a queue!