



AUGUST

Harvest

Lots of crops can be harvested in August, including carrots, runner beans, beetroot, globe artichokes, cucumbers, courgettes, and second early potatoes; maincrops may be ready from the end of the month. You can also harvest onions and shallots – leave them to dry in a sunny spot before storing.



Prune trained Apples & Pears

Some fruit trees can be pruned in summer, including plums, to avoid the development of silver-leaf disease. Trained apples and pears can be pruned in summer, as can spur-fruited, established apple trees.

Sow Crops

You can still sow lots of crops in August, for harvests into autumn and beyond. They include lettuce (keep out of the glare of direct sun), rocket, spring onion, radish plus winter salads, including mibuna, mizuna, mustard leaf and lamb's lettuce.

General

The end of this month signals the time to begin summer pruning your apples and pears (grown as cordons, espaliers or fans. For trees and bushes, leave these until the winter to prune). Start with the pears and then move on to apples. The purpose of summer pruning is to encourage the development of fruit buds for next summer. August is definitely the last month to prune stone fruit trees (plum, apricot, cherry and peach), complete the task as soon as possible. You want to aim for an open structure of branches and remove any that cross over so they don't damage each other. Trim any box hedging before the first of the frosts arrives. Remember, "Make the first cut after the last frost and the last cut before the first frost".

Prepare for a holiday

Going on holiday? Give the plot a thorough soaking before you go, and harvest as many crops as you can, even if they're small. If you can, get a friend or neighbour to water for you while you're away.

Green Waste Collections

- The collections went ahead in July as advertised however we have been receiving reports from some tenants that they weren't aware of the service. Going forward the dates for green waste & general waste (where applicable) will be advertised in the notice boards at Wall Park, Drew Street & Penn Lane. Also all tenants with an email address will receive notification. To aid those allotment holders without the use of internet, please help them know about these services with word-of-mouth.