



BTC Allotment Newsletter

ISSUE 11 —
November 2020

November Top Tips

Things are certainly winding down on the allotment in November, but there are plenty of jobs to be getting on with, including planting and pruning. You can also harvest many different veg, including carrots, cabbages and celeriac.

Blackcurrants, redcurrants, whitecurrants and gooseberries can be pruned any time between November and March, while they are dormant. Prune out any dead, dying or diseased wood and aim for an open, goblet shape.

You'll need to protect your brassica crops from hungry pigeons at this time of year. Use mesh and make sure that it lifts clear of the brassicas, otherwise birds will be able to peck through it.



Green Waste Collections

Our lengthsman have now visited all of the sites helping tenants remove their green waste. These collections have proved very popular and will continue in November, so check your emails and allotment notice boards for further details.

Water The water has now been turned off for the Winter. Please do not turn it back on. The lengthsman will be carrying out regular check whilst conducting Allotment inspections.

Plant Protection—Biological Controls

Things have changed in the gardening world since the days when there was a spray for everything and everything got sprayed.

Biological controls are in many ways more effective than old-fashioned chemical treatments. Better for the environment as well since they target the pest not our friends the predators that eat them.

Weed Suppressant Fabrics

Groundcover or landscaping fabrics can be laid over recently cleared soil to suppress re-growth of old weeds and prevent new weeds from establishing.

There are a number of different weed suppressant fabrics available, each with its own advantages and disadvantages.

Spun materials: These are usually made from plastic fibres bonded together to form a sheet. They can be used in most situations, both short and long term, but are best covered with a protective mulch of bark.

Woven materials: These are sheets of woven plastic strands for use as temporary cover or for the long term on beds and borders.

