



Pretoria Road allotments, Patchway, Bristol

[Vegetable & Fruit June Growing Guide](#)

Flaming June should bring us a hot sunshine filled month with the risk of frost passed. We're also moving towards the longest day, June 21st being the summer solstice so there is plenty of daylight to let you get on with things. There is a lot to do in June but the rewards for our efforts are coming in the harvest.

[Direct Sowing](#)

The following can all be planted: French and Runner Beans, Main Crop peas, Beetroot, Carrots, Turnips, Swedes, Cauliflowers, Sweetcorn, Squash, Courgettes & marrows. Outdoor tomatoes can also go into their final position. Don't just move them straight from the greenhouse or they will be checked. Use a cold frame to condition them or move them back into the house at night before they go into the big wide world.

Your leeks may well be ready now, about pencil thickness. I like to plant mine as a follow on to the early potatoes which will be up by the end of the month. We actually tried some on the last day of May with fish from the local Atlantic bar and were excellent and tasty.

[Cultivation, Pests & Problems](#)

Most likely you'll need to water if the weather is dry and bright. Don't just lightly sprinkle each day. It helps pests like slugs and encourages shallow rooting. Water generously so you won't have to water so often.

Watch out for slugs and snails. Whether you use pellets, traps, biological controls or just pick them off doesn't matter as long as you keep on top of the problem.

The butterflies are about now as well. Beautiful as they are, check the undersides of your brassica leaves for the yellow or white eggs that will hatch into caterpillars and devastate the plant. You can squash them, wipe or wash them off easily at this stage.

Contact the committee: growpretoria@gmail.com

website: growpretoria.org

Calendar of events 2014

<p>January 2014 Jan. Seed Potatoes sale— Bacon Butty morning</p> 	<p>February 2014</p>	<p>March 2014</p>
<p>April 2014</p> 	<p>May 2014 Bacon butty morning</p> 	<p>June 2014 National Allotments Week Animal homes and wildlife gardening workshop for children</p> <p><u>June 08th</u> <u>11.00am—3.00pm</u></p> 
<p>July 2014 Patchway Festival Lottie open to public – BBQ, table top activities and scare-crow competition</p>  <p>...Wotten Garden Club 16th July evening.....</p>	<p>August 2014 National Allotments Week Animal homes and wildlife gardening workshop for children</p>  <p><u>Wine & Cheese evening 3rd- 5pm until late</u></p>	<p>September 2014</p>
<p>October 2014 Halloween Party. Fancy Dress. Best Pumpkin. Halloween</p> 	<p>November 2014</p>	<p>December 2014 Christmas Fayre at Lottie Sell Lottie Recipe book</p> 

Contact the committee: growpretoria@gmail.com

website: growpretoria.org

Fruit

If we do get a prolonged dry spell, don't forget that fruit bushes and trees need watering. Swelling apples and currants need water as much as leafy vegetables. Once again give a good soaking rather than little sprinkles that encourage surface rooting.

In June apples have the "June Drop" where the tree drops excess fruit. After this it is a worth thinning out if the branches are still overcrowded. Tie in Blackberry canes as they grow and check netting, fruit cages etc have no access for the birds.

When you've had the last rhubarb, give them a good feed by mulching with well-rotted manure mixed with compost or an artificial like growmore to enable them to build strength for the next year.

Compost bins

The council have provided the Allotment Society with the money to purchase some concrete compost bins. This is for us to recycle all our green waste that is able to be composted. A few weeks ago Les Brookes, Darren Bowden, Derek Howell and Mike Stinchcomb spent the day putting in the concrete posts near the raised beds area. This was a real team effort as these concrete posts were not just very heavy, but they had to be carefully measured so the concrete sides would fit properly. Well done to all the effort put in, so the Society has a good system in recycling its green waste.

New Lawn Mower

Derek Howell, our Treasurer has just purchased a new lawn mower to help with the only other one that is working. Some people have notified the committee that they have had difficulty being able to find and use the only working lawn mower. There was also a risk that this would be worked into the ground. The lawn mowers are held in the kitchen area and when each time you wish to use, can you please fill out the lawn mower loan book and check the machine has sufficient oil before use.

Future Events

National Garden Scheme week is on Sunday 08th June from 11.00am to 3.00pm. There will be refreshments available and any help for the event will be most welcome. Please contact Jenny for details.

Can member plot holders, please submit to me any ideas of any aspect of growing your own vegetables and these will be included in the future Newsletters.