



[Fruit & Vegetable Growing Guide for January/February](#)

January to February are generally very cold months with hard frosts freezing the ground although there are no guarantees with British weather.

[Sowing & planting in January/February on the Vegetable plot](#)

There's nothing to sow or plant outside with the possible exception of garlic and even shallots if the weather is mild but there are a few things you can start off under glass or even on a south facing window sill. Tomatoes and aubergines can be sown. They will do best in a heated propagator to get them going.

The big problem at this time of year is available light. Covering cardboard with aluminium foil and standing it to the north side of the seed tray will reflect extra light and help prevent leggy, drawn seedlings without the expense of special horticultural lights.

Onions from seed can be sown in January but unlike tomatoes who like it hot, you want the temperature around or slightly below 15C.

[Harvest](#)

Parsnips and Swedes in the ground can come up when you are ready, cover with fleece or straw to stop them freezing solid into the ground. Kale and winter cabbage should be available and brussels sprouts which may well go through to March.

[Fruit](#)



Resist the temptation to try out the new secateurs Santa brought you on stone fruits like cherry and damson, which should be summer pruned although you can still prune apples and pears etc. as they're dormant.

Bare rooted trees and bushes can still be planted until March.

Contact the committee: allotmenteer@outlook.com

growpretoria-patchwayallotment.com

Calendar of events 2017

<p>January 2017</p>	<p>February 2017 Seed Exchange held on Saturday 18th February from 10.00am to 3.00pm</p> 	<p>March 2017</p>
<p>April 2017 Easter Fun Day held on Saturday 08th April from 10.00am to 3.00pm</p> 	<p>May 2017 Bacon butty morning Date yet to be announced</p> 	<p>June 2017</p>
<p>July 2017 Patchway Festival - Lottie open to public – BBQ, table top activities and scare-crow competition Date yet to be announced</p> 	<p>August 2017 Wine & Cheese Party Date yet to be announced</p> 	<p>September 2017</p>
<p>October 2017</p>	<p>November 2017</p>	<p>December 2017</p>

Contact the committee: allotmenteer@outlook.com

growpretoria-patchwayallotment.com

Future Events

You will see from the Calendar of events for 2017 that we may have a possible five events this year.

Seeds Exchange Day 18th February from 10.00am to 3.00pm. The aim is to exchange seeds you don't want for seeds that you do want. Or you could just purchase seeds for a recommendation of 30 pence a packet. There will be refreshments available. Tea at 25p a cup and coffee at 30p. All proceeds go to the society funds.

On Saturday 08th April from 10.00am to 3.00pm, we are having an Allotment Easter fun day with a range of activities for all the family. These are the following:

Easter Bonnet Competition, Easter Egg hunt, Throw the wellie, guess the number of sweets and Face painting with a Butterfly or Tiger design.

The aim of the event is to raise Allotment funds and promotion of home grown fruit and veg. This event is open to everyone as a Community Open Day. Barbeque & Refreshments including homemade cakes will be available during the event.

A Bacon Butty event in May. Dates to be announced.

The Patchway Festival will be held in July and the actual date and activities will be announced in due course.

A Wine & Cheese party in August. At the moment, we don't know the exact dates and times of these three events but the Committee will be discussing at the next committee meeting March and will post the dates on the Notice boards by the gate and in the kitchen of the shed.

If there are any plot holders with new ideas for events this year please contact the committee on the official email address : allotmenteer@outlook.com You can of course just let a committee member know and we will consider any events, if there is sufficient funds.

AOB

An update of the possible new gate and car park for the allotment at the back of the main shed/kitchen building area is ongoing, with the council in principal agreeing this is a good idea. The gate is dependent on when the council are able to start the next instalment of the renewal of the perimeter fence. The council believe they can do this work in the late spring or early summer. We will keep you informed as and when new developments take place.

The Gazebo installation is complete. The guttering and water butts though are still ongoing. The reason is the water butts, we were let down by original suppliers. Les our Chairman told us that there may be some Ex wine vats available. Les is looking into obtaining some of these as soon as possible.

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.

Contact the committee: allotmenteer@outlook.com website:

growpretoria-patchwayallotment.com