



Pretoria Road allotments, Patchway, Bristol

[November in the Veg Plot](#)

Although the Days are shorter and colder, and working on the vegetable garden may have lost some of the appeal that it had in the summer, any work carried out on the veg plot in November will save twice as much when spring arrives.

Vegetable Garden

Weeds will continue to slowly grow for most of the year, so clearing these now will stop them from getting a head start in spring.

Winter digging needs to be completed as soon as possible to allow the land to settle over winter. This is especially true where brassicas will be planted next year as these like the ground really firm.

Secure covers over compost heaps/bins, although the material needs to be damp winter rain and snow will saturate it and slow the rotting process.

Plan the crop rotation for next year. Planting one group of vegetables in the same ground year after year increases the risk of a build-up of disease.

Greenhouse

Ventilate the greenhouse at every opportunity, good air flow is essential for good crops. Clean the greenhouse glass inside and out, light levels can be drastically reduced in a dirty greenhouse, resulting in weak and drawn seedlings.

Fruit

Propagate Rhubarb crowns by lifting and dividing in to smaller pieces, planting at the same depth in their new position.

Apples and pears can be winter pruned once the leaves have fallen, the same goes for gooseberries and currants.





Top dress around soft fruit bushes and well-rotted organic matter such as garden compost.

Prepare the ground for any new fruit bushes or trees, and plant out whilst the soil is still relatively warm and workable.

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</p>	<p>June 2017</p>
<p>July 2017 Patchway Festival - Lottie open to public – BBQ, table top activities and scarecrow competition Date 08th July 1.00pm to 5.00pm</p> 	<p>August 2017</p>	<p>September 2017</p>
<p>October 2017</p>	<p>November 2017 Bonfire Night 04th Nov. at 6.00pm. BBQ refreshments</p> 	<p>December 2017</p>

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Current / Future Events

At present we have about 6 half plots vacant on the Allotment site. If anyone knows of people that may be interested in having an allotment plot, please let us know.

If there are any plot holders or members of the public, with new ideas for events this year or wish to take on a vacant plot, 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 contact the Secretary who will gladly show you the available plots and organise the paperwork and keys when you decide on a plot.

At the Committee meeting in November it was agreed that next year we would organise four events throughout the year. These events will be a seed exchange event, Easter fun day, Patchway Festival and Bonfire Night. The full details of dates etc will be announced in due course.

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 agreeing this is a good idea. The main gate is now been renewed and the fence up until the main fence on the back of the houses at Pretoria road is now completed.

The Gazebo installation is complete. The guttering and water butts are now in place and the water butts are now starting to be utilised. There is a potential of 4000 litres of rainfall can be collected from these water butts and will help with the ever rising of our water rate bills. At present, we only just receive from the plot holders enough to cover the water bills, so we need to offset some of the inflation costs by collecting as much rainfall as possible from water harvest stations, water butts and buckets.

The Allotment Society have just invested in weed control fabric to cover the vacant plots that we have at present. A number of Committee members kindly strimmer and cleared plots that have been given up, but need TLC. There is enough weed control fabric for 4 half plots so will save us a lot of work in the future in maybe having to sort out vacant plots that require maintenance.

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