



Pretoria Road allotments, Patchway, Bristol

Growing Session 2011

Now July is here we have to think of looking after the plants we have carefully grown to enable them to ripen to maturity. There are a number of people who have just started in the last month who have asked the question what can be grown at this time of year,. Well I would start planning things that grow really quickly . Lettuce, Radish, Rucker, Spinach, Turnips, Beetroot and Carrots. You may also still be able to buy Tomato, Cucumber and Sweetcorn plants from your local nurseries or garden centre.

How to obtain the best soil potential from your plot:

Manure contains a wide range of minerals and nutrients, including abundant amounts of the three main chemicals that plants need for growth: nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium. It also contains many trace elements.

It also improves the structure of soil. It contains both animal waste and plant material (such as straw or hay). In other words 'humus' which enables the soil to hold moisture and promote easier, healthier plant root growth.

It is wrong to think that all manures are the same. The diet of every animal differs, especially between grazers and carnivores. Almost all of the manures used by gardeners are from vegetarian animals, such as horses and cows. But even these differ. For example, horse manure tends to contain undigested seeds eaten with grasses and gardeners using this manure often experience weedy gardens. Cows however have more effective digestive systems, which kill off the seeds and the resulting manure is less weedy.

Horse Manure

In the UK, it is probably easier to get hold of (from local stables) than cow manure. It is quite easy to handle as it is relatively dry and usually mixed with straw or hay. If you contact Chris on Tel: 07769155360 he can arrange for a bag of horse manure for £1.00 a bag.

Contact the committee: growpretoria@gmail.com

website: growpretoria.org

Calendar of events 2011

<p>January 2011 15th Launch the Lottie Lottery</p> 	<p>February 2011 19th 2pm – 5pm Run our own Ta-ble top sale at Patchway Commu-nity centre. Allotment to run refreshments, bottle stall and plant/seeds sale table Sell Lottie Recipe books <u>Profit made £113.00</u></p>	<p>March 2011 20th 10am-12pm Opening the shop on site with sale of plants, seeds and refreshments</p> 
<p>April 2011 25th 12pm-4pm Lottie Grand opening – open to public –with BBQ, garden themed events, ta-ble top fundraisers and Easter bonnet competition</p>  <p><u>Profit £500</u></p>	<p>May 2011</p>	<p>June 2011 19th 10am – 12noon Bacon butty morning</p>  <p><u>Profit made £73</u></p>
<p>July 2011 9th 1pm-5pm Patchway Festival - Lottie open to public – BBQ, table top activities and scare-crow competition</p>  <p>.....</p>	<p>August 2011 National Allotments Week 8th – 14th 14th Animal homes and wildlife gardening workshop for children</p> 	<p>September 2011 Car at a local car boot</p> 
<p>October 2011 9th 10am – 12noon Bacon Butty morning</p> 	<p>November 2011</p>	<p>December 2011 4th 1pm-4pm Christmas Fayre at Lottie Sell Lottie Recipe book</p> 

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Water Conservation

As you all maybe aware now, the allotment site will have a change in the way the water is calculated by the water and sewage company. In addition the water companies are making us aware that this winter and spring has been an exceptionally dry.



The committee have tried to find ways to reduce the water bills and just as important conserve the amount of water we use during the year. New taps have now been installed on all the areas and these taps will automatically switch off instantly. We would like your feed back on how you feel these new taps work. The committee had discussions about water butts being held around the site with some kind of collecting roof at convenient places around the allotment site. The Co-op have kindly now given us a grant of £1200 for a water harvesting system to improve the allotment site which is scheduled to be started in the winter 2011/12. We have just received 16 barrels (220 litre), with a tap, and are available for purchase to any plot holder, which cost £20 each. Please contact Larry our treasurer if you wish to purchase.



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Current News

New Plot holders

We wish to welcome any new plot holders who have joined in the last few months on the reclaimed land near the shed. A total of 12 new plots have been created. The first year can be a difficult learning curve, so please do not be shy or afraid to ask for advise or help from any of your established neighbours and committee members, who will only be delighted to give any advise of what they have learnt themselves or be told by more experienced plot holders. I think any of the long standing plot holders will vouch that the time and effort you put in to your plot is well worth it and rewarding.

New raised Beds being created

Raised beds are being planned for the future in an area near the shed and being used by disabled persons and plot holders who in the future find difficulty bending and working at ground level. The area of land near the shed has now been prepared to accommodate these raised beds and are planned for these plots to be started from October 2011. Volunteers will be requested at our next AGM in September to help with putting in the concrete posts and framework of the raised beds during the scheduled start in October.

Fund raising

The opening of the shed in April gave a profit of over £500 and the profits from the shop are very encouraging since opening in April. The Bacon Butty day in June made a profit of £73.

Possible change of status of Pretoria road allotment Society to charity status

The chairman has informed us at the open meeting on 3rd July that there are benefits to the allotment site if we move our status from a society to a charity. Our chairman Chris will outline the benefits to become a charity at the AGM in September.

Just to remind you all of the major events in the next few months:

The July Patchway festival is an opportunity for the public to visit on an open day to our allotment site. There will be a bacon butty table at the festival from our allotment society with a raffle, and the shop will be open with refreshments available from the shed. The public will be able to view our facilities and plots during the festival opening on the Saturday 9th July from 1pm—5pm where a raffle will be held near the end of the day.

We hope as many people as possible can make these important events in the allotment calendar as we need your continuing support to ensure these events are as successful as possible.

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