

## WHAT YOU NEED TO DO IN THE FIRST THREE MONTHS OF HAVING A NEW PLOT

Of prime importance is to read, fully understand and learn the two site booklets, The Rules & The Byelaws

These refer to all aspect, including bonfires, cleaning water butts, & supervising children – you must keep them on your plot at all times. Do not bringing bricks, sand, gravel, concrete etc. to site. You need written permissions for sheds, greenhouse and paving slabs.

In the first 3 months of taking up a plot, at least 75% must be cultivated (which must be maintained throughout the time you have a plot). The remaining 25% can be internal paths/sheds/water butts/compost heaps etc. Any items on the site survey for your attention must be completed.

‘No Dig’ does not mean no work. The plot may have been handed back to us in a poor state, with weeds and grasses growing all over it. Your first job is to dig out these and take them off site (they will not compost down and will include seeds). Prepare the ground, particularly before you lay a mulch.

Plan what to grow and look at adjacent plots to see what grows well. Neighbours are often very helpful. Are you going to have fruit bushes, strawberries etc.? You will need to think about crop rotation, and what is in the ground at the moment - in winter there may be Asparagus and Rhubarb underground. Are there any clues regarding previous crops?

Allotment are not a fair-weather hobby and plots must be worked on all year round. Spring, Summer and Autumn may well be planting out seedlings, watering, weeding and picking your crops. In winter the ground needs preparing for the new seasons with digging, spreading manure and compost. You may like to include seasonal crops like Leeks, Brassicas, Sprouts and Kale?

The Site Team carry out plot inspections on the whole site every 5 weeks. We are primarily concerned with plots not being actively managed, with seeding weeds (affecting other plots), paths not mown, trees/bushes overhanging paths and adjacent plots. Plots should be fully cultivated, tidy & relatively weed free. Healthy plants will produce good crops so failing or diseased crops should be removed from site.