



# AWSLG JUNE 2026

## Welcome to your plot

June is the month the allotment truly delivers on every promise spring made. The plot is in full swing — runner beans racing up their canes, courgettes threatening to take over, tomatoes setting their first trusses, and the salad bed supplying the table almost daily. This is the month you have been working towards since January, and it is deeply satisfying.

It is also the month when the allotment starts demanding something in return. Watering, weeding, harvesting, feeding — the jobs multiply as the season accelerates. The growers who thrive in June are not the ones who work hardest; they are the ones who work most consistently. A little and often keeps everything manageable.

One thing above all others deserves your full attention this month: water. As temperatures rise and the soil dries, the pressure on our shared water supply increases dramatically. How we all use water in June determines whether everyone's crops thrive or struggle. Please read the watering guidance in this issue carefully — it matters to every plot on the site.

## COMMITTEE CORNER

Updates from the committee are posted on the allotment main notice board each month opposite the canteen. Committee member names can also be found displayed on the on-site boards. If you have a question or concern, do stop by or email [awslg.ltd@gmail.com](mailto:awslg.ltd@gmail.com).

### ANNUAL SHOW 2026

The growing Season is well underway, and hopefully, your crops are thriving. It is not too early to be thinking about what you may like to enter in the Annual Show. This year, the Show will be held on Sunday, 6th September. The day is a chance to get together for a celebration (or commiseration) of the season, and there will be something for everyone:

- ✓ Produce categories - fruit and vegetables, including classes for new plot holders
- ✓ Domestic classes – Cakes, preserves and drinks
- ✓ Flowers – floral arrangements
- ✓ Children's classes – creative projects with an allotment theme
- ✓ Photography – if you see something that will take a good picture, snap it!

Last year's schedule is available on the website to give you an idea of what will be involved as the 2026 schedule will be very similar.



**WE ARE HOPING TO FIND A PLOT HOLDER WHO WOULD ENJOY BRINGING OUR COMMUNITY TOGETHER.**

**We're looking for someone willing to coordinate a small team to help plan and organise some of our social events throughout the year. You won't be doing it alone — there's plenty of support available.**

**Please speak to a member of the committee if you are interested in helping**

**TOGETHER WE KEEP OUR ALLOTMENTS THRIVING!**

**QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS?**

Contact the Secretary or any Committee member **Email:** [awslg.ltd@gmail.com](mailto:awslg.ltd@gmail.com)

# Members & Community News



**MEETS EVERY SECOND FRIDAY**  
**2.00 pm until 4.00 pm**  
**In the Hall**

*All welcome — knitting, nattering & cake!*  
*Finished bunting pieces may be left in the canteen.*

## SAVE THE DATES

### TIDY UP SITE MORNINGS

Sat 11<sup>th</sup> JULY 12<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER

### SOCIAL EVENTS

Sun 5<sup>th</sup> July **Summer Celebration**

Sun 6<sup>th</sup> September **The Annual Show**

14<sup>th</sup> November **Artisan Fair**



## ENDING SOON

Melcourt compost remains on offer at £6.90 instead of £8.70.

The polytunnel is bursting with hundreds of home-grown plants, all ready to go straight into your allotment. Every vegetable has been lovingly raised on site by our brilliant volunteer team — you won't find better quality, value or convenience. All profits go straight back into improving *your* allotment site.

We currently have around fifteen varieties, from classic veg to salads and seasonal flowers. Broad beans are a steal at £1.50 for twelve strong, allotment-ready plants — when they're gone, they're gone.

Pop in for a browse — there's usually someone from the team on hand if you'd like advice.

## MOWER HIRE

Enquire Saturday & Sunday Mornings.



Next to the Office Between 10am & 11am

## APPEAL FOR CHILDREN'S GARDENING / WILDLIFE BOOKS FOR THE LIBRARY IN THE CANTEEN.

If you have any children's gardening or nature books that you're happy to donate to the Library, we would be delighted to give them a new home.

Please drop them off at the canteen during its opening hours. Thank you for supporting our young readers



## Addiscombe Woodside & Shirley Leasure Gardens

**Allotment Shop Opening Hours:**  
From 1st March 2026

- ~ Saturday morning: 10.30 am–12.15 pm ~
- ~ Sunday morning: 10.30 am–12.15 pm ~
- ~ Saturday afternoon: 2.30 pm–4.15 pm ~

Allotment Address 56/58 Glenthorne Avenue CRO 7EZ  
Visit our website: [www.awslg.org.uk](http://www.awslg.org.uk)  
Email Address: [awslg.ltd@gmail.com](mailto:awslg.ltd@gmail.com)

## FOOD BANK

The allotment also grows a wide range of fresh produce for our local foodbank, and they're always grateful for any extra during the summer glut. If you have spare plants — veg, salad or flowers — please feel free to donate them to the foodbank plot or the polytunnel. Every contribution is appreciated and genuinely helps support our community.

# This Month's Growing Guide

June is full throttle. Everything you sowed and planted in spring is growing fast — sometimes faster than expected. This is a month for keeping pace: harvesting regularly, feeding fruiting crops, staying on top of weeds before they set seed, and above all, watering wisely. The plot rewards consistent attention this month more than at any other time of year.

## ★ THE GOLDEN RULE PLEASE READ

*Water is our most precious shared resource, and this summer we are asking everyone to play their part. If you are fit and able, please consider using a watering can rather than a hose. It uses far less water, delivers it exactly where your plants need it, and means there is enough pressure for everyone on site.*

*If you do use a hose, please check the tank level before you connect it. A full tank means that while you are hosing, your neighbours can still fill their watering cans at the same time. An empty tank means nobody gets water. It takes seconds to check — please make it a habit.*

*This is about community. We all share the same supply. A little consideration goes a long way.*

## WATERING WISELY: THE MOST IMPORTANT SKILL OF SUMMER

June is when water management becomes the difference between a productive plot and a struggling one — not just for you, but for your neighbours too. Water pressure across the site drops significantly during hot spells, and a hose left running unattended on the ground affects every other plot holder trying to water at the same time.

The RHS advises watering deeply and infrequently rather than a daily light sprinkle, always targeting the root zone rather than the foliage or surrounding soil, and watering in the early morning or evening when evaporation is at its lowest. Follow the six principles below and your crops will thrive — and so will your neighbours'.

### WATERING WISELY — THE SUMMER ESSENTIALS

Water pressure across the site falls significantly during hot spells.  
Every one of us affects everyone else's supply.  
These are not suggestions — they are acts of community care.

**1. Hold the hose in your hand at all times.**

A hose left running on the ground — even briefly while you attend to another job — wastes more water than a careful grower uses in an entire session. The RHS confirms that targeted watering at the root zone<sup>®</sup> is both more effective and more efficient than flooding the surrounding soil.



**2. Water the root zone, not the leaves or bare soil.**

Direct water to the base of the plant where the roots are. Wetting leaves encourages fungal disease; wetting bare soil simply evaporates.



**3. Water in the morning or evening.**

Watering in the heat of the day loses a significant proportion to evaporation before it reaches the roots. Early morning is best — plants take up water before the heat builds.



**4. Check before you water.**

Push a finger 5 cm into the soil. If it is still moist, the plant does not need water today. Overwatering causes as many problems as under-watering.



**5. Collect rainwater wherever possible.**

Water butts connected to shed guttering are one of the most valuable things on any plot. Rainwater is free, unchlorinated, and better for your plants than mains water. If your shed lacks guttering and a butt, this is the summer to add them.



**6. Report any leaks or dripping taps immediately.**

Email [aws@ltd](mailto:aws@ltd) or speak to a committee member to arrange repairs promptly. A single dripping tap wastes thousands of litres over a season.



Thank you for helping everyone's crops thrive this summer.

# This Month's Growing Guide

(continued)

## PRIORITY JOBS THIS MONTH

Listed in order of importance — focus on the top jobs first.

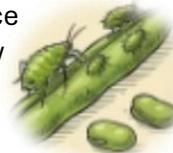
1. **Feed your tomatoes fortnightly.** Once the first flower truss is setting, switch to a high-potash liquid feed — tomato food — applied every two weeks. This is the single most impactful thing you can do for your tomato harvest. In the polytunnel, gently tap flowering trusses to aid pollination, and ventilate freely in warm weather to prevent botrytis.
2. **Pinch out tomato side shoots weekly.** On cordon (indeterminate) varieties, remove every side shoot growing in the junction between the main stem and a leaf stem the moment it appears. Left unpinch, energy goes into foliage rather than fruit. Bush varieties do not need this treatment.
3. **Harvest courgettes every two to three days.** Pick at 10–15 cm. Each one harvested prompts the plant to produce another. A courgette left on the plant becomes a marrow within days — and once a large marrow sets, production slows significantly.
4. **Lift your first early potatoes.** First earlies planted in March are ready now. Push a fork into the soil well away from the stem and lever upwards carefully. Tubers the size of a large hen's egg are perfect. Cook them the same day for the finest flavour.
5. **Keep on top of weeds.** Hoe between rows on dry days, so cut weeds wither rather than re-root. Never allow weeds to set seed — one plant going to seed creates hundreds of problems next year.
6. **Sow for succession.** Sow small amounts of lettuce, radishes, spring onions, and salad leaves every two weeks for a continuous supply through summer rather than a brief glut.

## TOMATO CARE



## PEST & DISEASE WATCH

Slugs and snails are at their most damaging in June, particularly on young brassica transplants and lettuce. Check under pots and boards in the evening when they are most active. Aphids continue on broad beans — once harvested, remove plants entirely. Blight risk rises steadily through the month as temperatures and humidity increase (see Grower's Tips for the full seasonal strategy). Pigeons and parakeets remain a constant threat to all brassicas — net without exception.



## WHAT TO SOW & PLANT NOW



### SOW DIRECTLY OUTDOORS:

- Beetroot, carrots, and Swiss chard — continue succession sowings
- Salad leaves and lettuce — every two weeks
- Radishes and spring onions — every fortnight
- French beans — if not already done
- Kohlrabi and turnips
- Swede — early June for an autumn harvest

### PLANT OUT:

- Winter brassicas sown in May — Brussels sprouts, purple sprouting broccoli, kale, and winter cabbage. Firm in well and net immediately against pigeons and parakeets.
- Leeks — into holes made with a dibber, watered in but not backfilled
- Basil — now safe outside; keep well watered

# New to Your Plot

Welcome to your first June! This is when the allotment starts feeling truly generous — and also when it starts asking more of you. Here is what matters most this month for newer plot holders.

## THE MOST IMPORTANT THING: HARVESTING REGULARLY

The single biggest difference between a thriving plot and an overwhelming one in June is how often you harvest. Courgettes left on the plant become marrows within days. Lettuce left too long bolts to seed and turns bitter. Broad beans past their best go tough and starchy. Your plot genuinely rewards a visit every two or three days — not just to look, but to pick.

The principle is simple: each time you harvest, the plant makes more. Regular picking is not just about eating well — it is how you keep the whole plot productive through summer.

## YOUR FIRST BIG SUCCESS THIS MONTH

Lift your first early potatoes. Push a fork into the soil well away from the stem and lever upwards carefully. Find tubers the size of large eggs and you have done it — home-grown new potatoes. Cook them the same day they are lifted, with mint and butter. The flavour is incomparable to anything bought in a shop, and that moment is one of the real rewards of allotment growing.

## WHAT NOT TO DO IN JUNE

- Do not water in the heat of the day — wait for morning or evening.
- Do not leave a hose running unattended on the ground — water is a shared, precious resource.
- Do not let weeds reach the point of setting seed — a quick hoe now prevents months of problems.
- Do not neglect climbing crops — check and tie in every visit.



## YOUR JUNE JOBS (IN ORDER)

1. **Water thoughtfully.** Check the soil before watering. Water at the base of the plant, morning or evening. Hold the hose at all times — and please read the *Watering Wisely* section in the *Growing Guide* above.
2. **Harvest courgettes every two to three days.** Do not let them become marrows. Pick at 10–15 cm and the plant will keep producing all summer.
3. **Check supports on climbing crops.** Runner beans, peas, and climbing French beans are growing fast. Check that canes and netting are secure and tie in any stray stems.
4. **Start feeding your tomatoes.** Once you can see the first tiny tomatoes forming, begin fortnightly liquid tomato feed. This is what produces a worthwhile crop.
5. **Hoe between rows on dry days.** Five minutes of hoeing now saves hours of hard work later in the season.

# Grower's Tips

## BLIGHT: YOUR SEASONAL STRATEGY

Blight was flagged as an emerging risk in May's Pest & Disease Watch. June is when that risk becomes real. Potato blight and tomato blight share the same pathogen (*Phytophthora infestans*). Warm nights above 10°C combined with high humidity create 'blight alert' conditions. When an alert is issued, apply a copper-based fungicide spray to potato and tomato foliage as a preventative — the RHS endorses this approach. Good spacing between plants for air circulation and continued earthing up of potatoes are your best structural defences. If you see dark patches with yellowing edges on any leaves, act the same day: remove and bin — never compost — all affected material immediately to prevent spread.



## PLANNING FOR THE SUMMER GLUT

June is when you can see the summer gluts coming, which means you still have time to plan for them. Broad beans freeze beautifully — blanch for two minutes, refresh in cold water, and freeze in usable portions. Courgettes make excellent chutney and freeze well as soup or cooked fritters. July's newsletter will carry a full guide to preserving the summer harvest, but the principle is this: when you have more than you can eat fresh, preserve it the same day rather than letting it go to waste, or donate surplus stock to the food bank.

## ADVANCED TOMATO MANAGEMENT

Beyond the weekly sideshoot removal and fortnightly feeding in the Priority Jobs above, two things separate good tomato growers from excellent ones in the polytunnel. First: ensure daily ventilation, not just to aid pollination, but because stagnant warm air is exactly what botrytis (grey mould) needs to take hold. Second: plan your stopping point. When a cordon variety has set four or five good trusses, pinch out the growing tip two leaves above the highest truss. All remaining energy then goes into ripening existing fruit rather than producing new growth that will not ripen before autumn.



## LEEK PLANTING: THE KEY TECHNIQUE

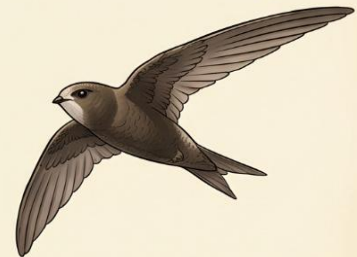
June is leek-planting time on Croydon's heavy clay. Make holes 15 cm deep with a stout dibber, 15 cm apart in rows 30 cm apart. Drop a single seedling into each hole, but do not backfill with soil. Simply water in well — the water settles, compacting the soil around the roots to anchor the plant, and the open hole around the stem encourages the long white shank that makes leeks so valuable. Leeks planted this way in June give excellent results from October onwards.



# Nature & Wildlife Garden Watch

## NATURE & WILDLIFE GARDEN WATCH

June is one of the most rewarding months to spend time simply observing. The swifts are screaming overhead, bumblebee colonies are at full strength, and the wildflower areas are at their most spectacular. Take five minutes on your next visit just to stand and watch — you will not regret it.



### Wildlife to Watch For

#### 1. Swifts



The swifts that arrived in May are now a constant presence above the site. These extraordinary birds spend almost their entire lives in the air, landing only at the nest. Their screaming calls are one of the defining sounds of the British summer. Swift numbers have declined dramatically in recent decades, making every sighting something to treasure.

#### 2. Fledgling birds

The first broods of robins, blackbirds, and blue tits have left the nest and are learning to find food independently. Young birds sitting on the ground or a low branch are completely normal — their parents are close by and still still feeding them. Please leave them undisturbed.



#### 3. Bumblebees and solitary bees

Bumblebee colonies reach peak strength in June. Solitary bees are nesting in bare soil and hollow stems across the site. The diversity of bee species in the Wildlife Field is a direct result of years of careful management by the wildlife team.



#### 4. Butterflies

June brings the first meadow browns, ringlets, and large whites of summer. The Wildlife Field wildflower areas are the best place to find them, particularly in the mid-morning warmth on a sunny day.

Top tip: Take a photo or keep a short diary of your sightings and share them with the garden team; it helps with our long-term conservation records!

### WHAT YOU CAN DO THIS MONTH

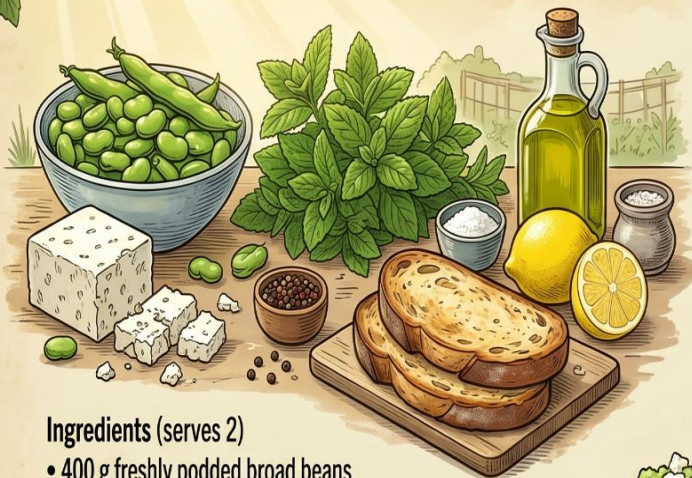
- Continue to avoid cutting hedges or disturbing rough areas — second broods of birds are nesting throughout June and July.
- Sow a patch of phacelia, borage, or calendula in a spare corner — among the most valuable pollinator plants you can grow.
- Keep shallow water dishes topped up at ground level — June can be surprisingly dry, and insects, hedgehogs, and ground-feeding birds all need fresh water.
- Leave a small unmown corner or a pile of old stems on your plot — vital habitat for beetles, spiders, and the beneficial invertebrates that keep pests in check.

#### ♥ Nature note:

*The froglets that emerged from the Wildlife Field pond last month are now dispersing across the entire site. A single common frog eats hundreds of slugs, beetles, and other invertebrates in a season. If you find a small frog on your plot, it is doing you an enormous favour. Leave it be.*

# FROM PLOT TO PLATE

## Broad Bean, Mint & Feta Bruschetta

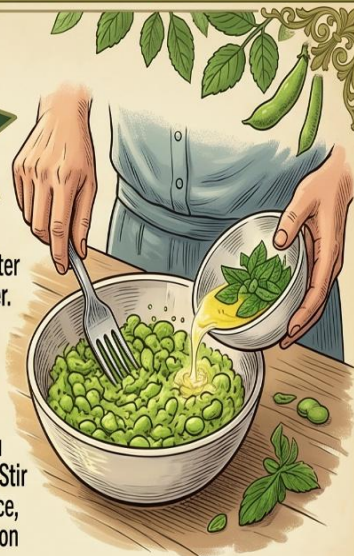


### Ingredients (serves 2)

- 400 g freshly podded broad beans
- 100 g feta cheese, crumbled
- A generous handful of fresh mint leaves
- 2 tablespoons good olive oil
- 1 lemon
- 2 thick slices of sourdough or good white bread, toasted
- Salt and black pepper

### Method

1. Cook the broad beans in boiling salted water for 2 minutes, drain, and refresh in cold water. For large beans, pop them from their grey outer skins — the bright green inner bean is far more tender. Very young, small beans need not be skinned.
2. Crush roughly with a fork in a bowl — you want a textured mash, not a smooth purée. Stir in the olive oil, a good squeeze of lemon juice, the torn mint leaves, and half the feta. Season generously.



3. Toast the bread until golden. Rub lightly with a cut clove of garlic if you like.
4. Pile the broad bean mixture onto the toast. Scatter over the remaining feta, a drizzle of olive oil, a little lemon zest, and a final crack of black pepper. Eat immediately.

**Top tip:** Any surplus broad beans can be blanched and frozen for risottos and pasta dishes through autumn and winter. Blanch for two minutes, refresh in cold water, and freeze in small portions. Nothing from your plot need go to waste.

## SALSA DANCING at the ALLOTMENT!

### Salsa Dancing at the Allotment!

Something a little different — and a whole lot of fun



Join us in the Main Hall at AWSLG for a monthly salsa session open to all plot holders and their guests.

First session: Sunday 7th June 2026  
3.00 pm — 4.30 pm (90 minutes)  
The Main Hall, AWSLG

Free for all AWSLG plot holders — no experience necessary, just bring yourself and a willingness to give it a go! Bringing a friend? Guests are warmly welcome. A small contribution will be asked of non-members, donated directly to AWSLG. No partner needed. Wear comfortable shoes. Just come along, have fun, and discover that allotment life has more to offer than you might think. Sessions run once a month — watch the newsletter for future dates.

## Summer Plot Maintenance

June is an active inspection month. At least **75%** of your plot must be under active cultivation.



Plots where weeds are seeding onto neighbouring plots, or where cultivation falls below required standards, will receive a **Plot Improvement Notice** with four weeks to improve, followed by a **Plot Termination Letter** if no significant improvement is made.

If you are struggling due to illness, injury, or other circumstances, please contact the committee immediately at [awsig.ltd@gmail.com](mailto:awsig.ltd@gmail.com). We are here to help.

**TOGETHER WE KEEP OUR ALLOTMENTS THRIVING!**

**QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS?**

Contact the Secretary or any Committee member **Email:** [awsig.ltd@gmail.com](mailto:awsig.ltd@gmail.com)