

A.W.S.L.G. TRADING CENTRE NEWS
ADDISCOMBE, WOODSIDE & SHIRLEY LEISURE GARDENS LTD
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**SEED POTATOES
FOR 2021**

Newsletter

September 2020

How were your potatoes this year?

Fancy a change of variety?

There is a problem with the seed potato harvest in Scotland so we may get varieties we have never had before. Below is a list of the likely varieties we might be able to purchase. This list will also be on display in the Trading Centre from September, please have a look and mark any variety you might be interested in, this will give us a good idea on what to order and hopefully we can get it for you. If you would like to try a new variety why not order a bag or interest 10 other people in the same variety to make a bag pay. Most varieties come in 25 kilo bags. Prices should be the same as this year or may be higher due to supply and demand.

1ST EARLIES	2ND EARLIES	MAIN CROP CON'T
Accord	Bonnie	Maris Piper
Arran Pilot	British Queen	Maxine
Casablanca	Carlingford	Orla
Duke of York	Charlotte	Pentland Crown
Dunluce	Estima	Pentland Dell
Epicure	Gemson	Picasso
Foremost	Kestrel	Pink Fir Apple
Home Guard	Marafona	Record
Int'l Kidney	Maris Peer	Sarpo Mira
Lady Christl	Nadine	Setana
Maris Bard	Nicola	Valor
Pentland Javellin	Sagitta	
Premiere		
Red Duke of York	MAIN CROP	
Rocket	Cara	
Sharpe's Express	Carolus	
Swift	Desiree	
Ulster Prince	Golden Wonder	
Ulster Sceptre	Harmony	
Winston	Kerr's Pink	
	King Edward	
	Majestic	

**Weather
Bufs.**

Our weather station is now producing historical data on a ½ hourly basis. Every ten days this is condensed to give the following read out for a 10 day period in tabular form :- Date, Ext Temp max and min, Average Pressure, % Humidity (high and low), Wind Speed max and Wind Gust max, Daily rainfall [mm] + comments. If anyone would like to receive a copy of these by e-mail, please contact Mike Steward on ms120lavcot@yahoo.com.

COMMITTEE NEWS

The Working Party re-started work in August, they cut down trees and cleared concrete from vacant plots. Volunteers also stepped in to help clear the brook when it was flooding during a recent thunderstorm. The work of volunteers is vital to keep the grounds and boundaries clear. If you have any time to offer the Working Team please let Peter Bashford know. He can be found most Saturday mornings near the lawn mower shed.

Plot rents are due at the beginning of October and plot inspections have restarted to review the condition of plots before October.

I am sure all of you have noticed how beautifully cared for the main paths are looking lately. This is due to one stalwart volunteer who gives up his precious time to keep them well mowed. Please help him by doing the following: keep the edges of your plots neat and tidy, with no vegetation spilling over, make sure that no debris is left on the main paths, such as pieces of metal, string, wire, in fact anything that can get wrapped around rotor blades. Do not leave tools or equipment, in particular hoses laying across the paths. All these are an accident waiting to happen to either the expensive mower or a willing volunteer.

ANNUAL STOCKTAKING

Because of the COVID 19 pandemic and the problems of social distancing, this year's annual stocktaking is going to be planned differently.

The Trading Centre will remain open on Sunday September 27th and we are asking for volunteers to help stocktake during the day the following week, only having a few at a time so that social distancing can be observed and we can all remain safe. Please add your name to the list in the trading centre if you can help in any way.

TRADING CENTRE OPENING TIMES : SATURDAY & SUNDAY 10.30AM TO 12.15PM
CANTEEN 9.30AM TO 11.30

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JOBS TO DO IN SEPTEMBER

FRUIT CARE:

Cut out fruited canes of summer raspberries and tie in new canes that will fruit next year. Select strong, healthy canes and cut out weak, forked or misplaced ones.

Blackcurrants can be pruned once they have finished fruiting but wait until the leaves have fallen, sometimes it is better to prune the plants while dormant during the winter.

Continue to pick blackberries, they freeze well if the fruit is dry frozen first on trays then use boxes as this will help to keep the fruit intact. According to traditional folk lore you should stop picking the fruit on 30th September as on this day the devil flies over and claims any berries left for his own.

This is the last chance to plant out new strawberry beds as they need to get established before the cold sets in.

Remove apples, pears and plums infected with brown rot, the same advice for disposing of blighted matter i.e. tomato or potato debris applies.

Prune out any dead, dying or diseased shoots on fruit trees that are affected by diseases such as bacterial canker, cherry leaf scorch, powdery mildew or other problems that can overwinter or continue to worsen. Avoid pruning stone fruits (e.g. cherries or plums) once they are dropping their leaves, as this can make them vulnerable to silver leaf. Peaches and apricots can be sensitive to cold, so for this reason are best pruned in spring and summer.

By the end of September, start fixing **grease bands** around the trunks of fruit trees in order to deter the wingless female winter moths from climbing up the trunks to lay their eggs in the branches.

New trees can be planted once the autumn sets in. The soil will still be quite warm in September even if the weather is cool, and the roots of new plants will benefit from this. This is particularly important for peaches and nectarines.

VEGETABLE CARE:

Dig up potatoes before slug damage or blight becomes a problem. Leave them out to dry for two to three hours before storing. Only store sound tubers in paper sacks or boxes.

Remaining outdoor tomatoes should be picked by the end of the month and ripened indoors. The whole truss can be cut off to allow the fruits to ripen 'on the vine', perhaps under a cloche or on a windowsill. Any green fruits can be used in chutneys.

Because of the ban on blight control products it is even more important to do all we can to check this fungal condition. Outdoor tomatoes are more vulnerable than greenhouse ones. Be careful not to splash the plants when you water, it will make easier if the bottom leaves are removed first. Blighted potato haulms can be cut off and the tubers can still be harvested if you catch them quick enough. This qualifies as diseased material, seal in a plastic bag to minimise the spread of fungal spores, ideally this should be removed from the allotments but if this is not possible cover and burn when bonfires are allowed. **On no account compost.**

Harvest marrows, squashes and pumpkins, leaving them in the sun to dry and harden the skins off, then store in a cool, dry, dark place.



When asparagus foliage turns brown, it is time to cut it down. Take care of the spines, and give the plants a good mulch afterwards. Any new asparagus beds can be prepared at the same time, adding grit if your soil is poorly drained (e.g. heavy clay).

Plant overwintering onion sets in late Sept. Don't forget to use the **insect netting** which helps prevent the Allium Leaf Miner which has been devastating both leeks and onions.

Cover all brassicas with **bird netting**.

A BIG THANK YOU TO ALL OUR VOLUNTEERS

Thanks must go to everybody who have stepped up to the plate since the COVID 19 pandemic began. A lot of hard work has gone on behind the scenes from the committee in the absence of regular meetings; the opening of the Trading Centre along with some plants from the poly-tunnel and it was certainly good to see the canteen reopening last month (thanks to Victoria and her team). Praise to the men whose quick action prevented the hospital car park from flooding, especially Dave who worked up to his neck in dirty water to clear the debris from the stream during the recent storm. We owe them all a great debt for their efforts to carry on regardless of the unprecedented emergency situation we all find ourselves enduring.