

A.W.S.L.G. TRADING CENTRE NEWS
ADDISCOMBE, WOODSIDE & SHIRLEY LEISURE GARDENS LTD
GLENTHORNE AVENUE, CROYDON. CR0 7EZ.
www.awslg.org.uk

**BLIGHT AND HOW
TO DEAL WITH IT**

Blight has been reported in many areas of the site, it is very important to do all we can to check this fungal condition. It is imperative that you deal with it immediately.

Blight is caused by the fungus *Phytophthora infestans*. This produces sporangia which are spread by infected plants during favourable conditions of high humidity. Potatoes are usually infected before tomatoes. Potato blight can be limited by earthing up around the stem. Early harvested potatoes are more likely to escape infection. Destroy all potatoes left in the soil, and any waste from storage, before the following spring. The initial symptom of blight on potatoes is a rapidly spreading, watery rot of leaves which soon collapse, shrivel, and turn brown. During humid conditions, a fine white fungal growth may be seen around the edge of the lesions on the underside of the leaves. Brown lesions may develop on the stems. If allowed to spread unchecked, the disease will reach the tubers. Affected tubers have a reddish-brown decay below the skin, firm at first but soon developing into a soft rot as the tissues are invaded by bacteria. Early attacks of blight may not be visible on tubers, but any infected tubers will rot in store. The symptoms on tomato leaves and stems are like those on potatoes. Brown patches may appear on green fruit, while more mature fruits will decay rapidly. For potatoes ensure the tops of plants are removed and destroyed before lifting the tubers. Do not save the seed of infected tomato plants.

Removal: Diseased material should be deeply buried (below the depth of cultivation) or consigned to the local council green waste collection. Remove any debris from your plot and the allotment site in a sealed bin bag. **UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES COMPOST.**

Remember not to plant either tomatoes or potatoes in the same place, ideally for as long as four years. Visit the [British Potato Variety Database](#) for more information on blight resistant cultivars currently thought to show good resistance to the disease.

Developed for Professional growers but providing useful information for gardeners try the [BlightSpy](#) website.

Newsletter

September 2021

ANNUAL STOCKTAKING

This year's annual stocktaking is going to be planned the same as last year as we would rather err on the side of caution while the Covid 19 cases remain high.

The Trading Centre will remain open on Sunday September 26th and we are asking for volunteers to help stocktake during the day the following week, only having a few at a time so that we can all remain safe. Please add your name to the list in the trading centre if you can help in any way.

MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING

Saturday 25th September 10am -12 noon

Come and join us at this fund-raising event for a very worthwhile cause.

The canteen will be serving teas, coffees and sumptuous cakes.



**A BIG THANK YOU TO
ALL OUR VOLUNTEERS**

Thanks must go to everyone who gave their time so generously to make our 100 years centenary celebrations such a great success. I am sure the committee of 1921 would have been proud of all the achievements thus far and of the heroic efforts that went into the bank holiday weekend events.

We were lucky that our weather remained dry albeit rather chilly for August. We managed to have enough food despite the shortages in the supermarkets although it did depend on numerous trips to Tesco's.

Congratulations to all who entered the annual show and well done to all the prize winners.

Best of all, despite a pandemic, unlike last year when we faced another lockdown, we were able to come together as a community. Hopefully we can look to the future with optimism together.

TRADING CENTRE OPENING TIMES - SATURDAY & SUNDAY 10.30AM TO 12.15PM
SAT 2.30PM TO 4.15PM CANTEEN OPEN FROM 10AM TO 11.30AM

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.

Harvest top fruit such as apples and pears. Look for fruit falling under the tree (windfalls) to indicate which apples are ready, but also assess taste and texture to determine whether they are ready for harvesting. Begin harvesting quinces and medlars.

Order cold stored strawberry runners for delivery in winter.

Order new fruit trees, canes and bushes.

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.



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 September. 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***.

Celery can be earthed-up for the final time this month, leaving just a tuft of foliage sticking out of the trench or collar in order to blanch the stems.

Control against bacterial canker at the end of the month.

SPRING BULBS FOR SALE

We have a lovely selection of colourful tulips, daffodils and narcissi (including mini-varieties), and crocuses.

Plant spring-flowering bulbs, such as daffodils, crocus and hyacinths, preferably by the end of September, but don't plant tulips until November. This is later than most bulbs but a late planting can help reduce problems with the disease tulip fire this is a fungal disease of tulips caused by *Botrytis tulipae*, which produces brown spots and twisted, withered and distorted leaves.

Plant hardy summer-flowering bulbs, such as lilies, alliums and crocosmia, in September and October.