

Out With The Old, In With The Green Manure

It's that time of year when everything you've grown on your allotment is either eaten, frozen, pickled or so oversized that only the compost heap seems the right place for it. Some things have worked out; my carrots have been sweet and have largely escaped the pests and my french beans have been prolific, but I've had some disasters; cauliflowers that have turned seemingly overnight from promising, white golf balls, to yellowing, pockmarked footballs and not a single edible radish. The brilliant thing about allotment gardening is you can just chalk it down to experience and start again.

In the coming weeks, I'll be removing all of my old crops and piling them onto the compost heap. Chopping them up really helps the crops to decompose and I try to do this especially to woody stalks - I'm looking at you cauliflowers. If any are diseased - blight has swept across our allotment site this year - I'll be disposing of them at the tip.

I always give my beds a quick fork over and try to remove as many weeds as I can because I feel like it gives me a bit of a head start for the new season and then it's time to replenish. Beds which I intend to use later in the season for crops like courgettes, will be covered with a thick layer of pure manure. As well as being nutrient rich - courgettes are hungry beasts - the manure helps to keep the soil moist and suppresses weeds. For the other beds, I'm going to sow green manure. Last year I had great success with Caliente Mustard which you can sow for over-wintering until mid-October. It replenishes nutrients and best of all has biofumigant properties which means the gases it produces when chopped and dug back into the soil, help suppress soil borne pests and diseases - take that blight!

-Helen Butt, Holgate

Ending Your Tenancy

Should you need to end your tenancy with us please let us know in writing, you can send this by post or email, whichever you prefer. As per the tenancy agreement we need 30 days notice to end your tenancy so if you're moving house do let us know before you go so that your plot isn't standing vacant for too long! We do not grant rent rebates for tenancies that end during the year. If you know that you are not going to renew your tenancy come January you can let us know in advance and we can sort out all of the paperwork ahead of time.

Keep In Touch!

If you change your contact details please don't forget to let us know! Just drop us a quick note and we can update your records so that we don't lose touch.

If you didn't receive any emails from us this year, then we do not have your email address on file, so let us know so we can keep you up to date with important notices throughout the year.