



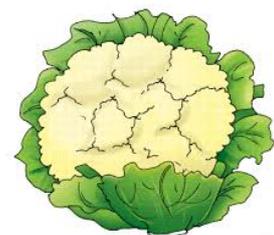
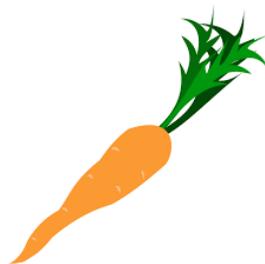
Welcome to Allotment Gardening

At Meadow Road and Lower Bury Lane Allotments, Epping

Owned and managed by Epping Town Council

info@eppingtowncouncil.gov.uk

Tel: 01992 579444





Welcome to Allotment Gardening

Many people find allotment gardening very therapeutic and sometimes people wait many years to receive a suitable plot. This short guide is designed to make your allotment experience helpful and rewarding.

Do's

- You can plant herbs, trees (see trees section) and flowers, as well as fruit and vegetables
- Please ensure the main gates are closed at all times
- You can bring your dog on site, as long as it is kept on a short lead at all times
- You can have a small lawned area as long as it's regularly mown
- You must cultivate and keep free from weeds at least 75% of your plot
- You must pay your allotment rent when you receive your invoice
- Please inform us if you think you may qualify for a discounted senior rate
- Please inform Epping Town Council if you change your address
- Paths surrounding your plot should be maintained. (Half the width of the path is yours and the other half is the neighbouring plot holders).
- For Meadow Road: You can use the main grassed central track for offloading (unless advised otherwise) but then your vehicle must be moved to the car park
- Ground planting is desirable and preferable to raised beds which detract from the openness of the site

Did you know?

Allotments were designed to help people grow food for their whole families.





Welcome to Allotment Gardening

Dont's

- Sub-letting of your plot is not permitted
 - You are not allowed to use your plot for any trade or business.
- It is for allotment gardening only
- Carpets must not be brought onto or used at the allotments
 - Please don't bring any rubbish (metal, timber, plastic, grass, etc) onto the allotment and any rubbish generated should be taken home with you
 - Communal pathways or roads must not be blocked
 - Please do not use a hosepipe or sprinkler, the exception being filing rainwater butts (rainwater butts are preferable)
 - As much as you may love your allotment plot, overnight stays are not permitted
 - Please do not cause nuisance to neighbouring plot holders or residents
 - You and your children are not permitted to go onto other plots without the plot holder's permission
 - Children must be supervised at all times, as there may be potential dangers
 - Please do not dig up paths between plots
 - Please do not let dogs stray onto other plots or paths (leads can be long)
 - Transfers of tenancies is not permitted. There is likely to be a waiting list for plots, so Epping Town Council will coordinate these
 - Please do not allow others to visit your plot without your supervision
 - No firearms on site
 - No children's play equipment is permitted on your plot or surroundings
 - No football or sports to be played on site, as this may damage much-cared for plots or buildings
 - No fences or barbed wire adjoining communal paths
 - No business/company advertisements on the allotment garden without permission





Welcome to Allotment Gardening

Fruit bushes and trees

- If you have fruit trees or bushes, you must maintain the area around them
- Fruit trees and bushes should be kept to a maximum height of 2m (6ft 6in)
- No fruit trees or bushes which take more than twelve months to mature, without prior consent

Sheds and greenhouses

- For all new sheds or greenhouses, you need to obtain written permission from Epping Town Council and we must know where the shed will be going on the plot due to neighbours' light and shading
- If a shed is permitted, the maximum size allowed is 6 ft by 4 ft, by 6 ft 6 in tall
- Sheds must be maintained to a serviceable and safe condition
- Sheds must be used for allotment tools and associated equipment only
- For security reasons, we would advise against windows in sheds.
- For new greenhouses: if permission is granted for a greenhouse, they must be made from plastic
- On occasion, Epping Town Council staff may request access to your shed or greenhouse and this must be granted

Timber and building materials

- Please do not prune or cut any communal trees without permission from Epping Town Council
- Gravel, sand, earth or clay must not be taken from the site itself

Bonfires

- Please be extremely considerate if lighting a bonfire. Think of safety, time of day and weather conditions on a warm day, should neighbours windows be open. Consider fellow plot holders and neighbouring residents





Welcome to Allotment Gardening

Vacating your plot

- If you make the decision to vacate your plot, please inform Epping Town Council in writing, either by letter or email
- When vacating your plot, please remove all belongings that you wish to keep and these need to be removed within two weeks. There should be no rubbish left behind. For any queries regarding what is termed 'rubbish', please contact Epping Town Council
- If rubbish is left behind, you may be charged for its removal
- Please leave your allotment plot in as good a condition as possible
- Please remember, tenancies are not transferable (see Dont's)

Animals

- You are not permitted to keep animals on this allotment site

Bees

- Bees are not permitted on this allotment site. Some people are allergic to bee stings or frightened of them





Welcome to Allotment Gardening

Advice and suggestions

- Composting is a great way to get rid of excess green waste. Compost bins are very welcome ✓
- Water butts are a great way of harvesting rainwater
You may want to consider a cut out lid (advice available) to deter pests
- You may wish to consider a gutter on your shed (if permitted) that flows directly into the butt
- You may wish to consider a wildlife friendly plot through your choice of planting. Eg Bug hotel
- Get to know your neighbours and fellow plot holders, as allotment gardening is a great community experience



• Good starter crops:

Beetroot, Broad beans, Chard, Climbing French beans, Leeks, Lettuce, Onions, Oriental vegetables, Radish, Runner beans, Spinach

- Most importantly, enjoy your time at the allotments!





Digging – A poem by Seamus Heaney

Between my finger and my thumb
The squat pen rests; snug as a gun.

Under my window, a clean rasping sound
When the spade sinks into gravelly ground:
My father, digging. I look down

Till his straining rump among the flowerbeds
Bends low, comes up twenty years away
Stooping in rhythm through potato drills
Where he was digging.

The coarse boot nestled on the lug, the shaft
Against the inside knee was levered firmly.
He rooted out tall tops, buried the bright edge deep
To scatter new potatoes that we picked,
Loving their cool hardness in our hands.

By God, the old man could handle a spade.
Just like his old man.

My grandfather cut more turf in a day
Than any other man on Toner's bog.
Once I carried him milk in a bottle
Corked sloppily with paper. He straightened up
To drink it, then fell to right away
Nicking and slicing neatly, heaving sods
Over his shoulder, going down and down
For the good turf. Digging.

The cold smell of potato mould, the squelch and slap
Of soggy peat, the curt cuts of an edge
Through living roots awaken in my head.
But I've no spade to follow men like them.

Between my finger and my thumb
The squat pen rests.
I'll dig with it

