

North Hainault Allotment Holders Association & Protection Society Ltd

Members' Newsletter

February 2017

Previous newsletters and more articles can be found on our websites:
nhaha.org.uk
AND nnr-allotments.org.uk



The hedgehog population across the UK has halved over the past 15 years. The findings of a study carried out in 1995 put hedgehog numbers at 1.55 million. There are now believed to be less than 1,000,000 hedgehogs left in the UK. Hedgehogs love to use piles of leaves or loose twigs as nesting places because they keep them dry and warm. If you have areas like this on your plot, take care when you clear them in case you have a hibernating hedgehog. The use of slug pellets can also be hazardous to hedgehogs as slugs are one of their main foods.

Second Prize Photo
by Gemma Boyd



TRADING HUTS OPEN

Sundays 10am to 12 noon

We have a lot of new products including seed potatoes, onion sets, shallots, green manure seeds and bags of manure.

Second-hand gardening books and magazines for sale at 'giveaway' prices



Join Allotment Friends on Facebook

This is a closed group that has been newly created just for tenants of NAHAHA

CARPET

The main committee have discussed the problem of carpet on our sites. Our lease from the council states that:

"carpet should not be used on plots or paths for the control of weeds"

You **must not** bring 'new' carpet onto the site and you **should** remove any carpet that is already on your plot as soon as you can.

In December we removed two skips of rubbish from the Tomswood Hill site, much of which was carpet that new tenants had removed from their plots!!

NEW NORTH ROAD GREENHOUSE

Work is starting in the NNR Greenhouse. Do any members have suggestions about what we should grow this year?

REMINDER:

THE WATER SUPPLY TO THE TANKS WILL REMAIN TURNED OFF DURING THE WINTER.

COMPOSTING

To make good compost you need to get the mix of materials right. Too much green stuff will produce wet slimy compost and too much dry brown material will not rot. Aim at a 50-50 mix of green and brown material.

Green Materials

Green weeds, fruit & vegetable peelings, banana skins, fresh grass mowings, coffee grounds, tea bags and manure.

Brown Materials

Dried leaves, hay, straw, sawdust, wood chips, shrub and tree prunings, damp cardboard, egg boxes and fallen leaves.

Don't compost

Animal products, cooked food, diseased plants, seedy weeds, couch grass or bindweed.

Ideally you should turn your compost heap about once a month to introduce air and to mix 'newer' and drier materials into the heap. To speed up your compost you can add a margarine-tubful of composting worms (from a fishing tackle shop) or a compost activator.



VEGETABLE GROWING MONTH BY MONTH

The down-to-earth guide that takes you through the vegetable year

JOHN HARRISON



Many of you have asked for a month by month guide for sowing and planting. The above book looks good. Available from Amazon for £5.99.

Contact the Committee

Email: tomswood_stewards@nhaha.org.uk
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Volunteers Needed

Can you spare some time to help?



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