

SLUG PELLETT BAN

Slugs are one of our worst problems at the allotment...they devour juicy greens and strawberries in no time and it is a constant battle to stop them destroying our crops.

The sale of slug pellets containing Metaldehyde is banned from 1st July 2019 and left over stocks must be used up by Spring 2020. We now have in stock slug killer containing Ferric Phosphate, which is a substance certified for organic use. The new product is safe around children, pets and wildlife. If you still want any of the old stock... please ask in the shop – available at half price for a limited time only.

DEALING WITH THE SLIMY PROBLEM AS NATURE INTENDED

Before you resort to chemicals try working with nature:

- Encourage wildlife such as hedgehogs, frogs and toads. A small pond is a great addition to your plot.
- Plant strong smelling plants such as lavender, rosemary, garlic and basil around beds – slugs don't like these natural border controls!
- Use wool pellets, coffee grounds, sawdust or gypsum powder around your plants. Make woodchip paths between rows or beds.
- Plant sacrificial plants like lettuce around crops that slugs usually eat.
- Collect the slugs in beer traps or from under plank of wood and chuck them in the compost bin.
- Water the bases of plants only – dry areas make it harder for slugs to travel.



The paths

between allotments continue to be a problem. All paths should be maintained by individual plot-holders so that they are obstacle free and accessible. Surveys of the paths have been carried out on both sites. NNR stewards have notified their members and notification will be sent to Tomswood members soon. If you are not sure what you need to do about your path or what your responsibilities are, then please ask.

Plant Sale at Tomswood

This was a great success. Thank you to all who came along and bought plants, cakes & teas. We now have just over £200 to be spent on improving the communal garden and our future social events.



Thank you also to the people who came along to our Picnic Lunch on 15th June. It was a very pleasant gathering despite the cloudy weather.

Our next event is the visit on 29th June to **Paddock Allotments and Leisure Gardens**

The Greenhouse at New North Road still has plants for **SALE** Plot-holders from Tomswood are welcome as well. Open Sundays 10.00 - 12.00 and other times by arrangement.

Children's Corner

How about sowing some flowers that will attract bees that will help to pollinate the vegetables that your parents are growing?



Poached egg plant
Limnanthes douglasii



Nasturtium
Tropaeolum majus

If you prefer to grow some vegetables beans, radish and peas will grow well this month.



Rhubarb

VEGETABLE OF THE MONTH

The rhubarb is growing well right now. If you do not have any on your plot, dormant crowns can be planted from the autumn. Pot grown rhubarb can be planted at any time of year, but will need plenty of water during dry weather.

The plants should be spaced about 80 cm apart and new plants should not be picked in their first year but left to get established. Once you start harvesting from the second year, take care not to take too many of the stems, as this will weaken the plant. Pull the stems from the base by tugging gently.

The leaves of the plant are **toxic** but are great in your compost bin.

When the plant dies back in autumn, remove the dead leaves to expose the crown to frost - this will help break dormancy and ensure a good crop the next year.