

THE 'DO'S AND DON'TS' OF ALLOTMENT GARDENING

As strange as it might seem, allotments are subject to their own legislation which dictates how they must be used and looked after. The purpose of this document is to provide a plain English interpretation of the legislation, but does not replace your Tenancy Agreement. Persistently breaking any of the rules may result in you being sent a Notice to Quit your allotment plot.

Do

- You must cultivate and keep clear of long grass and weeds at least 75% of your plot.
- The path on the right-hand side of your plot when viewed from the haulingway must be maintained in good order and kept to an optimum width of 600mm/24 inches.
- You must ensure that your plot has a number which is clearly visible from the haulingway.
- If your plot has a shed on it, you must maintain it in a serviceable and safe condition.
- You can bring your dog to the site as long as it is kept on a lead or confined to your plot at all times.
- When entering and leaving the allotment site, please ensure that the gate is locked behind you.
- The main purpose of having an allotment plot is to grow vegetables and fruit, but you may grow herbs and flowers as well.
- If you have fruit bushes/trees you must maintain the area around them in good order.
- You need to apply to the Association for permission to erect a shed, greenhouse, polytunnel, permanent fruit cage or similar structure.
(https://www.hwdaa.co.uk/structure_application.htm).
- You can have a small lawn as long as it is regularly mowed.
- If you build a pond, it must be clearly visible and safe for people and animals.

- You are responsible for cutting the inside of any hedge adjacent to your plot.
- You must pay your annual rent within 40 days of receiving the invoice.
- You may qualify for a 50% reduction in plot rent if you are in receipt of Council tax reduction or Housing benefit. To be considered for a reduction, you must apply to the Treasurer each year by 1st August. (https://www.hwdaa.co.uk/rent_discounts.htm).
- Please inform the Association if you change your home or email address. (<https://www.hwdaa.co.uk/contact.htm>).
- Always inform your site rep if you have any problems or will be unable to garden your plot for some time due to ill health or similar reason.
- If you suffer an injury on the allotment site, do report it to your site rep or by completing the injury report available from the website.
- If you vacate your plot, you must pay any outstanding rent owed.
- If you vacate your plot, you must remove all your belongings within two weeks.

Don't

You are not allowed to do any of the following:

- Sub-let all or any part of your plot or give it to another person..
- Use your plot for trade or business.
- Use the water troughs for washing vegetables, flower pots, dirty hands/wellies etc.
- Use a hosepipe or sprinkler to water crops. In exceptional circumstances (eg. incapacity), you may apply for permission to fill a tank on your plot using a hosepipe.
- Bring carpet to use, or leave, on your plot (e.g. as ground cover, path surface).
- Bring any form of rubbish onto the site. If you do you will be charged for its removal.
- Let your dog stray onto or foul other plots, paths or the haulingway.
- Block communal pathways/haulingways - including with deliveries of manure.
- Have any form of bonfire, which includes using an incinerator, between 1 April and 30 October. If you have a bonfire at another time of the year, it must not cause a nuisance to other tenants, nearby properties, roads or pathways and must be extinguished when you leave the plot. (See Bonfires & Incinerators).
- Dig up paths between plots.
- Move the position of your shed, unless you have permission from the Association.
- Tell other people the gate code to your allotment site so that they have free access.
- Go onto other plots without the permission of the tenant concerned. This includes allowing your children to stray onto other plots.
- Allow children to play on the haulingway, or with water tanks or taps.

- Stay overnight on your plot or the allotment site. **For safety reasons, access to your allotment site from 1 hour after sunset to 1 hour before sunrise is actively discouraged.**
- Bring any form of firearm, air weapon or similar onto allotment sites.
- Keep cockerels, pigs, sheep or horses on an allotment plot. You may keep hens, rabbits or bees providing you have the permission of the Association.
- Cause a nuisance to other allotment users or household neighbours by using bad or racist language, getting drunk, playing loud music etc.
- Use any form of verbal or physical harassment or violence on the allotment site.
- It is illegal to harm badgers or interfere with their setts. The following is taken from the Government website on Wildlife Habitat and Conservation:
 - You must not:
 - intentionally capture, kill or injure a badger
 - damage, destroy or block access to their setts
 - disturb badgers in setts
 - treat a badger cruelly
 - deliberately send or intentionally allow a dog into a sett
- Cage traps should not be used on the allotment sites

Cultivation requirements made clear

- From the start date of your tenancy agreement, you have a three month period in which formal notice for non-cultivation cannot be issued. After that time you will receive a Notice to Remedy if at least 75% of your plot is not at a good level of cultivation.
- Good cultivation involves a regular amount of work and means having crops planted or the ground cleared and weed-free ready for planting. Covering large parts of the plot with black plastic or similar does not count as 'cultivation'.
- You should not allow your plot in whole or part to become covered with weeds/rough grass which run to seed and spread.
- If you grow fruit trees/bushes/plants they must be dwarf stock and the area round them must be maintained to a high standard and not allowed to become overgrown and covered with weeds/grass.
- All the Association's allotment plots are subject to inspections during the main growing season and tenants who fail maintain these standards will be issued with a Notice to Remedy.
- If you fail to improve the condition of your plot following receipt of a Notice to Remedy; receive three Notices to Remedy within three years; or fail to pay your rent within 40 days of receiving an invoice - you will be issued with a Notice to Quit. If you manage to remedy the condition of plot within the Notice period, the Notice to Quit will be cancelled (except after receipt of three Notices to Remedy within three years).

Please remember - Your **Site Rep** is your first point of contact for any questions. If he or she is unable to advise you, they will refer you to an appropriate member of the Committee.