

Welcome Letter for New Plot Tenants

Welcome to Mesnes Park Allotments. Here are a few suggestions that may help you during your first year.

Most of us are given plots that are often overgrown. This can be a daunting sight and its easy to lose your initial enthusiasm if after a month of hard

work it still looks as if there is still masses to do and the weeds have started to return to the ground you have just cleared!

Try these simple tips:

Cover as much of your plot as you can with tarpaulin sheets or ground cover sheets from Wilco's, B&Q or eBay. This will start to supress the weeds until you have a chance to start clearing, digging and planting.

Don't try to do too much, too soon. Choose an area that you can comfortably deal with, that fits in with the time that you can spend on your plot. e.g. 6 foot x 6 foot. Dig this over and remove any weeds, roots and stones. Then cover it again with a ground sheet to stop the weeds reseeding it.

Next time you come do the same to another 6 foot by 6 foot patch and so on, until your plot is cleared.

It's always good to see something growing, so you don't have to clear all of your site before planting. You can be harvesting lettuce, potatoes, early beans and peas from the first areas that you cleared well before you have finished clearing the final patch.

At the end of the season when you have picked most of your crops, cover any empty areas with the cover sheets again. This will help keep the weeds at bay.

There are many sites on Google that help explain when to sow different seeds, when to thin/prune, when to harvest. They often show you what to do during each month. e.g. John Harrison's newsletter at www.allotment-garden.org but there are many more!

Good luck and don't be afraid to ask any of us for advice.

Pete Robinson
Chairman