

# Time for harvest



## VEGETABLES

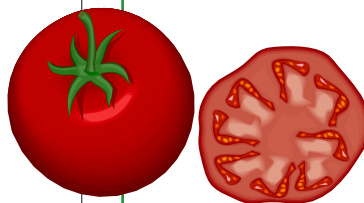
### SOW OUTDOORS

There are still quite a few seeds which can be sown. Try

- \* lettuce (sow hardy variety e.g. winter density, for next spring)
- \* japanese onions (sow seed to harvest early next summer - sets are planted later)
- \* parsley (protect from carrot root fly - see March 2004 tips)
- \* spring cabbage
- \* chinese cabbage
- \* endive
- \* kohlrabi
- \* winter radish
- \* spinach
- \* turnip

### VEGETABLE HARVEST

Your allotment should be at its peak with plenty of fresh produce to pick. Some of the things you might be harvesting include globe artichokes, aubergine, broad beans, french beans, runner beans, swiss chard, beetroot, calabrese broccoli, summer cabbage, peppers, cauliflower, cucumber, kohlrabi, lettuce, courgette, squash, onions, shallots, peas, potatoes (second earlies), radish, spinach, sweet corn, tomatoes, turnips.



### PLANT OUT OUTDOORS

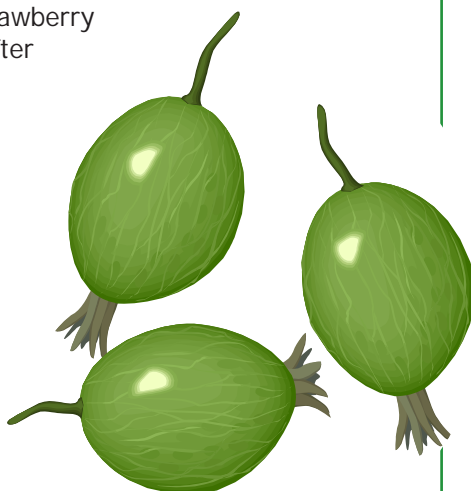
- \* savoy cabbage
- \* kale

## FRUIT TASKS

- \* Keep fruit trees and cane well watered while their fruit is swelling.
- \* Prune mature plum trees after fruiting. Remove any branches infected by silver leaf fungus (see August 2004 for details) cutting several inches past any brown-stained wood and burn prunings. Also prune any broken or overcrowded branches.
- \* Finish summer pruning apple trees.
- \* Cut out old canes from raspberry plants after fruiting.
- \* Summer prune gooseberries and redcurrants.
- \* Plant new strawberry plants and remove those more than 3 years old. Cut leaves, and stalk of remaining strawberry plants to about 1 inch from ground after fruiting. Use runners for propagation and cut off unwanted runners.
- \* Support the weight of ripening melons with nets or old tights.
- \* Support the branches of fruit trees heavily laden with fruit.

### FRUIT HARVEST

You could be picking apples, pears, strawberries, blackberries, raspberries, gooseberries, peaches, apricots, cherries, melons, plums, redcurrants.



To receive Gardening Tips send your email address to [roslynmckendry@pan-uk.org](mailto:roslynmckendry@pan-uk.org). These can also be downloaded free from our website at [www.pan-uk.org/gardening.htm](http://www.pan-uk.org/gardening.htm)

### Home and garden pest control

A new database provides information on the safest ways to deal with common home and garden pests. Basic facts about the pests are accompanied by information on how to prevent, eliminate or reduce infestations. A selection of companies selling relevant products is also provided. You can find the database at [www.pan-uk.org/saferpestcontrol.htm](http://www.pan-uk.org/saferpestcontrol.htm)

## GENERAL TASKS

- \* Pinch out the growing tips of tomatoes after fourth truss has set. Pinch out sideshoots. Continue to train cordon varieties and fertilise weekly.
- \* Remember to thin seedlings sown earlier to the correct distance apart.
- \* Water during dry spells and remember to top up the frog pond.
- \* Keep on top of weeding and make sure no weeds go to seed.
- \* Check the undersides of brassica leaves for eggs and caterpillars of the cabbage white butterfly. Squash them before they eat your cabbages.
- \* Earth up potatoes to prevent any blight spores reaching the tubers.
- \* Cut and dry herbs by hanging them upside down in a dry room. This way you will have plenty through the winter months.
- \* Remove any carrots showing signs of carrot root fly attack.
- \* Harvested onions should be left out to dry during dry periods.
- \* Plant green manures on ground that becomes vacant. Rape and mustard sown in August can be dug into the soil in the autumn. Remember that these are brassica crops and may be susceptible to the same diseases as other brassicas.
- \* Pinch off the growing tips of runner beans once they have reached the tops of their supports.
- \* Broccoli require plenty of water when their heads are forming.
- \* Celery require lots of water.



### Rabbits (*Oryctolagus cuniculus*)

Since the devastation caused by the myxomatosis virus in the 1950s the UK rabbit population has bounced back. Rabbit numbers are now around 40% of pre-myxomatosis levels and increasing. They once again pose an economic threat to agriculture in the UK.

Not confined to farms, both young and adult rabbits can cause a lot of damage in private gardens and allotments. They are active throughout the year although most damage is done in spring and summer. Some ornamental plants are less attractive to them but they will feed on almost any crop plants. Young shoots and plants are eaten to ground level and the leaves on established plants are eaten. They will also eat flowers, seeds, and roots. In severe winters when food is scarce they may even strip the bark off trees. If the bark is gnawed all the way around this will kill the tree. A single rabbit can eat 0.5kg (1lb) vegetation a day.

Rabbits can be very hard to exclude from a plot or garden as they can squeeze through very small gaps. If their head can fit the rest of their body will follow. They are also good burrowers.

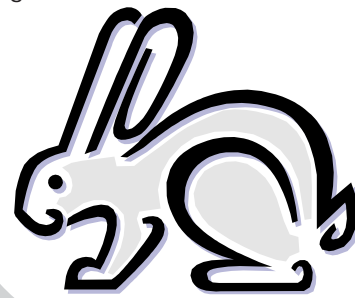
In areas where the rabbit population is high

- \* Erect a rabbit-proof fence out of wire mesh. A maximum mesh size of 2.5 to 3cm will stop young rabbits getting through. The fence should be 3ft to 4ft high with an additional 1ft below ground to stop them burrowing under. The wire mesh should be supported at regular intervals by posts. It can help to cover the fence with black plastic to keep your crops out of sight although rabbits do have a good sense of smell so a visual break alone will not suffice. Inspect the fence at regular intervals mending any holes. Erecting a rabbit-proof fence is a mammoth effort but once erected it should last for many years.

In areas where the rabbit population is low

- \* Protect the lower 2ft to 3ft of individual vulnerable plants with wire mesh.
- \* Surround plants with spiky plant clippings to deter grazing.

These methods are much less effective than fencing. Frightening methods such as sound, lights, or noise are not generally found to be effective.



## PESTICIDE ACTION NETWORK UK

Pesticide Action Network UK (PAN UK) is an independent non-profit organisation working nationally and globally with individuals and organisations who share our concerns. PAN UK projects enable us to work effectively towards specific targets to enable us to:

- ❖ Eliminate the hazards of pesticides
- ❖ Reduce dependence on pesticides
- ❖ Promote alternatives to pesticides

To receive monthly gardening tips send email address to:

Roslyn McKendry  
Pesticide Action Network UK  
Development House  
56-64 Leonard Street,  
London EC2A 4JX, UK.  
tel: +44 (0)20 7065 0905  
fax: +44 (0)20 7065 0907  
roslynmckendry@pan-uk.org  
<http://www.pan-uk.org>