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roslynmckendry@pan-uk.org

June in the allotment

VEGETABLES

SOW OUTDOORS

- | | |
|--|--|
| * French beans | * Runner beans |
| * Beetroot | * Carrots |
| * Cauliflower | * Chicory |
| * Endive | * Kohlrabi |
| * Lettuce | * Peas |
| * Radish | * Swede |
| * Sweetcorn | * Turnip |
| * Squash
(courgettes,
varieties
marrows,
pumpkins) | * Cucumber
(outdoors
including gherkins) |



Beetroot, french beans, carrots, kohlrabi, peas, lettuce, endive, radish should be sown at intervals throughout the summer months to provide a constant supply.

PLANT OUT OUTDOORS

- | | |
|----------------------|------------------------------|
| * Broccoli/calabrese | * Brussels Sprouts |
| * Runner beans | * Summer cabbage/red cabbage |
| * Celery/celeriac | * Leek |
| * Tomato | |



PLANT OUT IN GREENHOUSE

- * Peppers

FRUIT

- * Make sure fruit canes and trees are watered while fruit is swelling.
- * Most losses of soft fruit are due to birds. Canes/bushes can be covered with nets to prevent this.
- * Thin out plums and apples in June. This prevents weak branches from breaking. In addition, a heavy crop in one year can result in a very light or non-existent crop the following year. This pattern of biennial bearing can become established and difficult to break. Thinning out the growing fruit prevents this. Plums should be thinned to about 3-4 inches apart and apples to about 4-6 inches apart. Fruit trees naturally shed some fruit during the 'June drop' so wait until this has happened before thinning.
- * Put up pheromone traps for codling moth. These disrupt mating preventing the moths from laying eggs in your apples.

Pesticide exposure increases risk of Parkinson's disease

Researcher from the University of Aberdeen have warned that exposure to pesticides may cause Parkinson's disease. In a large study involving almost 3,000 people from 5 European countries the researchers questioned 767 people with the disease and 1989 healthy volunteers. People with Parkinson's were more likely to have used pesticides regularly. Users with low exposure, such as amateur gardeners, had a 9% higher risk of developing the disease than non-users, while users with high exposure, such as farmers, were 43% more likely.

Higher risks are associated with a family history of Parkinson's and with being knocked unconscious. However, these are generally unavoidable whereas exposure to pesticides can be reduced.

Professor Coggon who chairs the committee which advises the British government on pesticide matters admitted 'It is possible that just one or two are causing it, but slipped through the regulatory net'.

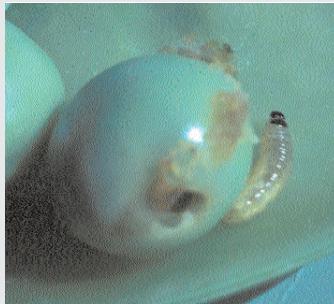
The results were reported in the 26 May 2005 edition of New Scientist.

OTHER TASKS

- * Water during extended dry periods.
- * Don't overwater vegetable transplants while they are getting established. Encourage them to grow deep roots so they will need to be watered less during the driest periods of the summer
- * Mulch bare ground with a generous layer of organic matter. This reduces evaporation from the soil keeping it moist for longer.
- * Apply compost around asparagus plants.
- * Keep hoeing or hand-pulling weeds.
- * Cabbage white butterflies will start laying eggs on brassica plants. Cover brassica beds completely with horticultural fleece making sure the butterflies can't fly under the edges. Alternatively (or as well), check plants for the characteristic small yellow eggs found on the undersides of their leaves. Squash any you find.
- * Birds, particularly wood pigeons, love to eat the leaves of young brassica plants. Place stakes around the edges of the brassica bed. Stretch netting over the bed and hook it over the stakes.

Pea Moth

The pea moth, *Cydia nigricana*, is 6mm long with a 12mm wingspan. It is an olive brown colour with black and white bars on the front edge of its forewings and long antennae. Between 5 and 11 days after adult moths emerge they lay flat transparent/white eggs (size of a pinhead) on the leaves, pods, flowers or stems of pea plants. After 1 to 3 weeks (depending on temperature) minute yellowish/white caterpillars with dark heads emerge. These migrate to and bore into young pea pods. Larval development lasts from 18 to 30 days after which the fully grown caterpillars (12mm) bore back out through pod walls and drop to the ground to spin cocoons containing particles of soil. They hibernate over the winter in these cocoons.



Pea moth larva and damage to the seed. Photo: A.L. Antonelli

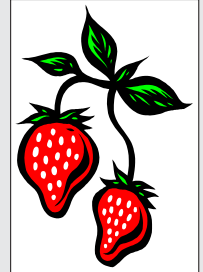
There is one generation per year. Overwintering pea moths pupate inside cocoons and emerge to look for pea crops from the end of May to the end of July coinciding with flowering time. Each caterpillar can damage up to 6 seeds although usually damage only 1 or 2. They chew irregularly shaped holes in the peas contaminating them with frass (insect faeces). Attacked pods may yellow and ripen prematurely but damage is generally not detected until the pea pods are shelled revealing the frass, silk and sometimes the larva also. Damage is easily distinguished from that of the pea weevil, which makes smooth, round holes in peas. Pea moths attack field and garden peas along with sweet peas and vetch. Damage from pea moth is a big problem for commercial growers but gardeners can easily discard the damaged peas when shelling pods.

Levels of infestation can be minimised by

- * planting early or late to miss the flight period of the pea moth and don't delay harvesting peas.
- * cover peas with horticultural fleece to keep moths off the growing crop.
- * pea moth pheromone traps interfere with normal mating signals reducing their ability to mate successfully (available from suppliers such as defenders www.defenders.co.uk or 01233 813121).
- * if infestation is severe avoid planting any pea moth hosts (including sweet peas and vetch) for a couple of years. This is much more difficult on an allotment where neighboring ploholders are likely to grow peas.

RAISING NEW STRAWBERRY PLANTS

Select healthy disease-free strawberry plants. Snip off runners that have new plants growing at their ends. Place these young plants on moist



compost and peg down the runner next to the new plant using a hairpin.

Keep the compost moist and the new plants will have rooted in a month or two.



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 9084
roslynmckendry@pan-uk.org
<http://www.pan-uk.org>