



March in the allotment

As the soil starts to warm up start sowing some hardy seeds.

VEGETABLES

SOW OUTDOORS

- * Beetroot
- * Broad beans
- * Brussels Sprouts (sow an early variety now to harvest in September e.g. Peer Gynt, Oliver)
- * Kohl rabi
- * Leeks
- * Lettuce (sow outdoors from mid-March)
- * Onions
- * Radish (sow summer varieties, such as French Breakfast, Sparkler, Scarlet Globe)
- * Shallots
- * Parsnip
- * Peas e.g. Feltham First, Meteor (sow now for a May/June crop)
- * Perpetual spinach
- * Early turnip e.g. Purple top milan

PLANT OUTDOORS

- * Jerusalem artichoke tubers
- * Chitted early potatoes
- * Onion sets
- * Shallot sets
- * Asparagus crowns

SOW OUTDOORS UNDER COVER

- * Summer cabbage e.g. varieties Greyhound, Hispi, Primo, Derby Day, Stonehead, Minicole, Winnigstadt
- * Carrots (sow short-rooted varieties now for a June/July crop e.g. Amsterdam Forcing, Early Nantes)
- * Peppers
- * Lettuce
- * Spinach (summer varieties e.g. King of Denmark, Medania)

SOW UNDER HEATED COVER

- * Aubergine
- * Celery and celeriac (sow now to plant out in May/June)
- * Greenhouse Cucumbers
- * Tomatoes (sow now to plant out in May)

HARVEST

Perpetual spinach (leaf beet), swiss chard, early sprouting broccoli, brussels sprouts, winter cauliflower, celeriac, chicory, endive, kale, leeks, parsnip, salsify, scorzonera, spinach, swede



Dump it safely!

New survey and updated website show improvements in facilities for disposing of garden pesticides.

Many gardeners inherit allotment sheds containing bottles of old pesticides. Others who used to use pesticides are deciding to garden without them. But how do they get rid of the unwanted pesticides without harming themselves or the environment?

Many local authorities have chemical safes at one or more of their household waste sites. A new survey by PAN UK shows that almost half the councils in the UK now provide such safes; only a third provided these facilities two years ago. Biggest improvements have been in Wales, the Midlands and the East of England.

Find the location of the pesticide disposal facilities closest to you on our updated website at -

www.pesticidedisposal.org

Pesticide Disposal Facilities in England, Scotland and Wales

This site provides a list of local council facilities for disposal of pesticide waste.

Civic Amenity Site facilities

Many councils have chemical safes at some or all of their household waste sites (also known as civic amenity sites or town dumps). These facilities are solely for residents of the local council. Residents should make sure pesticide waste is safely packaged (preferably in the original packaging) and the contents clearly labelled. They should present this to the site operator who will place the waste in a separate locked facility.

Collection Services

Other councils will collect pesticide waste from residential premises.

Other services

- Home
- About PAN UK
- Pesticide history
- PAN UK Journal
- Publications
- News service
- PAN projects
- Links
- Support PAN UK
- Home

PAN International Website
natural solutions

Email comments or feedback about the information listed in this pesticide disposal directory.

Click on an area of the map or the label for that area to see details of disposal sites in that area.

FRUIT

- * Finish planting bare-rooted fruit trees
- * Perpetual varieties of strawberry can be planted in March/April, such as aromel, rapella
- * Bare-rooted canes of raspberry, blackberry, hybrid berry, blackcurrant, gooseberry can still be planted
- * Grapes can still be planted
- * Plant rhubarb from crowns
- * Prune apple trees
- * 2 to 3 year old plum trees can be pruned similar to apple trees
- * Prune gooseberries, raspberries
- * Compost around the base of fruit trees, particularly young trees
- * Strawberries can be forced to flower by covering them with cloches. You may need to hand-pollinate forced strawberry plants coming into flower using a small paint brush

OTHER TASKS

- * Place growbags in the greenhouse to warm up.
- * Harvest the remainder of any winter-harvest crops and compost the debris.
- * If you plant asparagus crowns it is time to prepare the ground well. Dig the bed deeply incorporating plenty of compost and removing all perennial weeds. Asparagus needs good drainage so if you have a heavy clay soil you can include pea shingle to improve drainage and you may consider making a raised bed.
- * Warm up soil by covering with plastic, fleece or cloches. An extra one or two degrees could really help bring on a crop.
- * If you have already prepared some beds but are not planning on planting them until until May or June try plant a green manure crop such as mustard or tares. These can be incorporated into the ground 2 or 3 weeks before planting in May/June.



Rosemary beetle

These dark metallic green beetles have five purple strips on each wing case and are about 9mm long. They originated in Southern Europe and were first seen living outdoors in the UK at the RHS Garden Wisley, Surrey, in 1994. Although this population died out, beetles have been reported at a number of other places in south east England since 1998. The beetle has become established since then with sightings as far north as south east Yorkshire. The RHS continually monitor its progress and this can be viewed at www.rhs.org.uk/learning/research/projects/rosemarybeetlemap.asp



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The rosemary beetle attacks rosemary, lavender and thyme. Adult beetles live on these plants but are inactive from early to mid-summer. In late August and September the beetles resume feeding, mate and begin to lay eggs. Egg laying continues on warm winter days until spring. Eggs hatch within two weeks to give greyish white soft-bodied larvae which grow to 8mm in length. The larvae feed for approximately three weeks before entering the soil to pupate. The pupal stage lasts for a further two to three weeks before adults emerge.

Damage is done to the shoot tips and flower spikes but is only significant during a heavy infestation. The beetles can be controlled by regular inspection host plants, removing any beetles found.



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

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