

autumn leaves falling.....

Its time to prepare your garden for winter. As you finish harvesting it is important not to leave the ground bare as heavy rain can leach valuable nutrients and erode soils. Covering the ground with fallen leaves will protect the soil and provide nutrients for next years crops.

VEGETABLES

Sow outside

Broad beans can be sown now to give an early spring crop. Some hardy varieties of peas, such as Felthan First and Meteor, can still be sown.

Plant outside

Garlic cloves can be planted. Varieties such as Thermidrome and Printantor do well in the UK.

Harvest

You could be harvesting the following: jerusalem artichokes, perpetual spinach, brussels sprouts, winter cabbage, savoy cabbage, red cabbage, carrots, cauliflower, celeriac, celery, chicory (non-forcing and forcing varieties), endive, kale, kohlrabi, leeks, lettuce, parsnip pumpkins, radish, salsify, scorzonera, spinach, swede, turnips.

FRUIT

Fruit Harvest

You could be picking apples, pears, autumn-fruiting raspberries

Fruit Planting and Pruning

- * Plant rhubarb crowns
- * Cut down canes of autumn-fruiting raspberries which have finished fruited. Burn them to prevent any fungal diseases from spreading.
- * Prepare the ground for planting fruit bushes and trees. It is easiest to prepare the ground before it rains too heavily and the ground is too heavy to dig. You also can plant bare-rooted fruit trees and bushes this month.
- * Check that young trees are well supported with stakes.
- * Prune young apple and pear trees.

How should we grow our food? - an open lecture

Should we fly fresh vegetables thousands of miles across the world? Will high-tech foods improve our diets? With increasing pressure on land what priorities should we give to different land uses? Is the way we produce food responsible for the rise in obesity and other food-related health problems?

Tim Lang will deliver this year's Rachel Carson Memorial Lecture on 6 December at the School of Oriental and African

Studies in London. Tim is Professor of Food Policy at City University in London. First to coin the term 'food miles' he has been at the centre of food policy debates for over two decades.

The ticket price of £22 includes the lecture, organic drinks and food. For more information see www.pan-uk.org To buy tickets contact Ed at 020 7065 0905 or email admin@pan-uk.org



To receive Gardening Tips send your email addresss to roslynmckendry@pan-uk.org. These can also be downloaded free from our website at www.pan-uk.org/gardening.htm

2007

Rachel Carson
Memorial Lecture

FOOD SECURITY OR FOOD DEMOCRACY?

Awkward questions in food policy

Tim Lang

Professor of Food Policy at City University

and

BREAKING THE SILENCE

A theatre piece on the life of Rachel Carson

by **Liz Rothschild**

PESTICIDE
ACTION
NETWORK UK

THE EVENING OF
THURSDAY 6TH DECEMBER
2007
IN THE BRUNEL GALLERY,
SCHOOL OF ORIENTAL AND
AFRICAN STUDIES, LONDON

the event includes
a buffet
organic drinks
music

GENERAL TASKS

- * Cover bare ground with leaves, weed cloth, straw or similar.
- * Don't dig the soil when it is wet and sticks to boots and tools.
- * It is too late to plant most green manure crops except for winter rye.
- * Prepare a container for making leaf mould. Trace out a square on the ground (about 2 feet by 2 feet) and hammer four wooden posts in the ground, one in each corner of the square. Wrap chicken wire around the sides attaching the wire to the posts making a container. Fallen leaves can be collected and stored in this. After 18 months or so they will have broken down to make leaf mould, an excellent soil supplement.
- * Cover compost bins to keep the rain out and heat in.
- * Reduce ventilation in the greenhouse.
- * Insulate the greenhouse and worm bin ... try bubble wrap.
- * Set up water butts to collect rain from greenhouse/shed roofs.
- * Remove yellowing leaves from winter brassicas. These are not useful to the plant and will encourage botrytis to develop.
- * Check stored crops removing any showing the first signs of rot.
- * Make preparations for next year by ordering new seeds, repairing and cleaning out sheds and greenhouses.
- * Protect the curds of cauliflowers to keep them white and delay their opening by bending or tying the inner leaves over them.
- * Net brussels sprouts, broccoli and other winter brassicas to protect them from pigeon damage.



Leek Rust

This is a common disease of leeks. Mild infections do little damage but severe infections may kill plants. Infections are clearly visible on leaves as orange or brown pustules which may be round or elongated. They are caused by the fungus *Puccinia allii* (also known as *Puccinia porri*). Pustules contain millions of spores which spread easily by wind to neighbouring plants. Warm and humid conditions encourage the fungus to spread.

The incidence and spread of rust on leeks can be reduced by a number of straightforward measures

- ◆ Good hygiene on your plot - make sure that any infected plant material is removed from your site rather than composted.
- ◆ Early action - if you spot an infection remove infected material from your plot (make sure you wash your hands and anything else that might have been in contact with the infected plant tissue).
- ◆ Spacing - increasing spacing between leeks will allow better air flow and keep humidity from building up.
- ◆ Improve drainage on your site - this will keep humidity down.
- ◆ Variety selection - although all leeks can be infected with *Puccinia allii* some varieties have partial resistance, such as Ardea, Porvite, Splendid, Walton Mammoth.
- ◆ Avoid excessive nitrogen inputs - lush growth caused by excessive nitrogen is more susceptible to rust infection. Complex organic material, such as compost, releases nitrogen slowly over a long period and so it is better to use compost than a synthetic fertilizer.
- ◆ Make sure you have enough potassium - low potassium soils can be supplemented a seaweed dressing or an organic tomato fertilizer.
- ◆ Crop rotation - make sure leeks are planted as far away from last years growing site as possible.

Puccinia allii can infect other plants in the same family (the allium family) such as garlic or onions. Rusts affect other plants such as beans, plums and some ornamentals (e.g. hollyhocks, iris). However, these are caused by different types of fungus and will not spread to leeks, onions or garlic.



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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