

End of season.....



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

VEGETABLES

Sow outside

- * lettuce (sow hardy variety e.g. winter density or valor, for next spring)
- * parsley
- * spinach

Plant outside

- * spring cabbage
- * onion sets (plant 'japanese' or overwintering for June harvest)
- * garlic

FRUIT

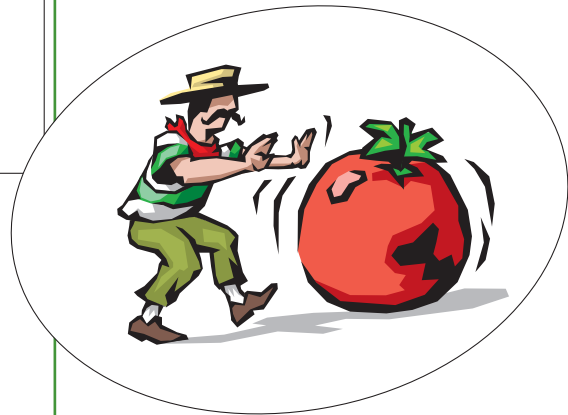
- * Prune mature plum trees after fruiting. Remove any branches infected by silver leaf fungus cutting several inches past any brown-stained wood. Burn prunings. Cut out broken or overcrowded branches.
- * Apple and pear trees can still be summer pruned.
- * Prune summer-fruiting raspberries. Cut down canes which have fruited, and support the best unfruited canes (thin if necessary). Autumn-fruiting varieties are pruned in February.
- * Finish planting summer-fruiting strawberry plants and remove those more than 3 years old. Strawberry runners in inconvenient locations should be removed and replanted elsewhere or discarded. Cut leaves, and stalks of remaining strawberry plants to 1 inch from ground.
- * Support the weight of ripening melons with nets or old tights.
- * Prune away the side shoots of currants. Thin gooseberry shoots.

Vegetable Harvest

You could be harvesting - globe artichokes, aubergine, broad beans, french beans, runner beans, swiss chard, beetroot, calabrese broccoli, summer cabbage, red cabbage, peppers, carrots, cauliflower, celery, cucumber, endive, kohlrabi, lettuce, courgettes, squash, pumpkins, onions, shallots, peas, mangetout, potatoes (maincrop), radish, spinach, sweet corn, tomatoes, turnips.

Fruit Harvest

You could be picking apples, pears, plums, peaches, nectarines, figs, strawberries, blackberries, raspberries, early melons, grapes.



Wearing organic cotton has never been easier

There are now over 80 organic cotton fashion labels in the UK alone, sold in 250 retail outlets, and as many online shops. This is five times more than in 2003. While baby clothing has always been the most popular segment of the organic cotton market, a wide range of products are now available, with thousands of items of clothing for the whole family, from denim jeans to woven shirts. Fabric by the meter, toys, bed linen, and even feminine hygiene products are also available. All of these can be found on PAN UK's new directory to organic cotton retailers on www.WearOrganic.org. The directory can be used to find the locations of stores selling organic cotton products, or to shop online by product category.

Buying organic cotton greatly benefits the lives of many cotton farmers and their families throughout the world, saving them from pesticide poisonings, and protecting our environment. It has never been easier to buy organic cotton.

PAN UK's new online directory of organic cotton retailers



Find retail stores in your area

Shop by product category

GENERAL TASKS

- * Lift maincrop potatoes - remove haulms (the above ground parts) several weeks before lifting if they have blight.
- * Cut down asparagus foliage and mulch the ground well.
- * Keep on top of weeding and make sure no weeds go to seed.
- * Fertilise tomatoes weekly.
- * Earth up celery to blanch the stems making them more tender.
- * Save seed from open-pollinated varieties.
- * Check the undersides of brassica leaves for the eggs or caterpillars of the cabbage white butterfly.
- * As ground becomes vacant it should be dug over and either manure incorporated or a green manure crop planted.
- * Support tall plants with stakes to protect from September winds.
- * Many bulbs can be planted now for flowering next spring, e.g. crocuses, daffodils, narcissi.
- * Sow grass to repair pathways.
- * Lay tomato plants down over straw and cover with cloches to speed ripening.
- * Remove any tomato foliage affected by blight and burn.

Leek Rust

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



Puccinia allii can also infect other plants in the same family (the allium family) such as garlic or onions.

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

- ◆ Good hygiene - make sure that any infected plant material is removed from your site rather than composted.
- ◆ Early action - if you spot an infection early enough remove infected plants (or infected areas of leaf) 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 help 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 using compost rather than a synthetic fertilizer should avoid this problem.
- ◆ Make sure you have enough potassium - if your soil is low in potassium add a supplement such as a seaweed dressing or an organic tomato fertilizer.
- ◆ Crop rotation - make sure leeks are planted far away from last years growing site.

Rusts also 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.

Green manure crops

Green manure crops can help your plot in many ways. They add organic carbon to the soil increasing its fertility. Nitrogen-fixing crops e.g. clover, vetch, will also add nitrogen to the soil.

Green manure crops also provide ground cover and their roots stabilise the soil. This reduces soil erosion during winter rains, particularly on hilly sites. Green manure crops with deep roots can also draw nutrients up to the surface from deep in the soil.

Clovers, rye grasses, winter tares, and fava beans can be sown in the autumn and grown over winter. They are then chopped down and incorporated into the soil in spring. The ground is left for 3 or 4 weeks to allow the incorporated plant material to rot before a new crop is planted. Green manure crops will rot quickly if the growth is still soft and not woody. If the crop is allowed to mature further and become woody, it can be composted in spring. Don't let any plants go to seed!

On plots with heavy ground which are difficult to dig in wet spring conditions it may be best to sow a quick-growing green manure crop such as fenugreek or buckwheat in late summer. These will be killed off by the first autumn/winter frosts and can be incorporated into soil during autumn cultivation.



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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