



CALENDAR 2009





Snowy day on Sunnyside New looking towards Ivy House Lane



Sunnyside Allotment Society



January 2009

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
			1 New Year's Day	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11 Working Party
12	13	14 SAS Committee Meeting	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

JANUARY

VEGETABLE GARDEN

Plant: broad beans, early carrots, onions and shallots if soil is dry enough.

Harvest: celeriac, sprouting broccoli, sprouts.

Jobs:

- Turn compost heaps to increase decomposition;
- Dig over ground for frost to break down;
- When digging apply lime to the surface at 3oz per square yard (especially if you grew brassicas the year before);
- Clear spent crops from the vegetable garden;
- Net crops if not already done so to reduce pigeon damage to cabbages;
- Plan a rotation system for vegetable plots to ensure the same crops are not grown in the same beds year after year to help prevent disease build up;
- Regularly check stored vegetables and remove any rotting or mouldy specimens;
- Set potato tubers to chit (produce shoots) as soon as they arrive. Stand upright with rose end (with most shoots) upwards;
- Wash canes and supports;
- Use cloches to raise soil temperature.

FRUIT GARDEN

Plant: If conditions are right continue planting fruit trees and bushes.

Prune: Continue to prune apples and pears except in hard frost and established and newly planted bush fruit.

Jobs:

- Apply potash to strawberries, gooseberries, red and white currants;
- Mulch fruit trees, bushes and canes with organic matter;
- Inspect apples and pears for canker and treat where necessary;
- Check all tree stakes and ties for firmness;
- Inspect any stored fruit and remove any that are rotten;
- Place cloches over strawberry plants for an early crop;
- Remove big buds on blackcurrants.



General maintenance on a bright winter's day



Sunnyside Allotment Society



February 2009

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
						1 <i>Working Party</i>
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	

FEBRUARY

VEGETABLE GARDEN

Sow: seeds for early carrots, parsley, parsnips, fennel and summer cabbage.

Plant: autumn sown lettuce, shallots, garlic, broad beans, peas, snap peas, spinach and early potatoes in a warm sheltered spot; on heavy ground wait until March.

Harvest: purple sprouting, other brassicas and leeks.

Jobs:

- Continue to dig and cultivate ground;
- Cover empty beds with cloches or clear polythene to warm the soil ready for early sowings;
- Net crops to reduce pigeon damage to cabbages;
- Draw up earth to the hearts of young spring cabbage and apply fertiliser;
- Rake seed beds for first outdoor sowings and warm the soil with cloches.

FRUIT GARDEN

Plant: If conditions are right, continue planting fruit trees and bushes.

Prune: This is the last month to prune apple and pear trees. Prune newly planted and established stone fruits as growth begins - late February;

Prune outdoor vines, blackcurrants, gooseberries and raspberries. Use your prunings as cuttings;

Prune autumn fruiting raspberries to 6 inches from ground. Tip prune summer fruiting raspberries and cut down newly planted canes to 9 – 12 inches;

Do not let bush fruits or fruit trees crop in the first year – prune hard.

Jobs:

- Apply potash to apples, pears and plums;
- Apply Nitrogen to trees in grass early February, late February for those in cultivated land;
- Mulch young trees, bushes and cane fruit with manure or compost;
- Cover strawberries for an early crop - poly tunnel or cloche;
- Inspect apple and pears for canker treat if necessary;
- Check all tree stakes and ties.



Early potatoes in the ground



Sunnyside Allotment Society



March 2009

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
						1 <i>Working Party</i>
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11 <i>SAS Committee Meeting</i>	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29 BST starts
30	31					

MARCH

VEGETABLE GARDEN

Sow: leek seeds for transplanting in June. Start succession sowing of chervil and coriander outdoors.

Plant: Chit and then plant out early potatoes in the second half of the month. Plant shallots, onion sets, broad beans and second early peas. Plant out autumn sown onions.

Harvest: spring greens should be ready to harvest. Cut every other one to allow the remaining to bulk up. If you leave the stumps more 'greens' will grow from them. Continue to harvest purple sprouting broccoli and leeks.

Jobs:

- Hoe frequently for weed control and soil aeration;
- Add manure or fertiliser in final soil preparation;
- Divide overcrowded perennial herbs eg. chives and sow parsley seed;
- Clean and weed asparagus bed;
- Put supports in place for peas;
- Look out for signs of pests. Aphids are usually the first to appear.

FRUIT GARDEN

Plant: All planting of trees and bushes should be completed early in the month. Plant strawberry runners and outdoor vines.

Prune: Cut down newly planted redcurrant gooseberry bushes hard, by about half their length and blackcurrants to within 2 inches of the ground.

Jobs:

- Apply potash to cane fruits;
- Mulch young trees, bushes and cane fruit;
- Untie and retrain canes of blackberries and related fruits, which have been bundled together against winter damage, train on wires before bud burst;
- Apply nitrogen to blackcurrants;
- 2nd application of nitrogen to pears in grass;
- Remove the cover from forced rhubarb;
- If you have one, use a net for frost protection on early blooms on fruit trees.



Snow in April!



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April 2009

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10 Good Friday	11	12 Easter Sunday
13 Easter Monday	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

APRIL

VEGETABLE GARDEN

Sow: beetroot, early carrots, maincrop carrots, broad beans, early beetroot, turnips, spinach and parsnips in situ. Sow a seedbed of brassicas to provide transplants of sprouts, cauliflowers and cabbages for planting out in June/July. Start successional sowing of peas, lettuce and radish. Sow coriander and parsley and other annual herbs outdoors at the end of the month. Delay outdoor sowings of crops if soil is very wet.

Plant: Chit and plant out second early potatoes in the first half of the month and main crop potatoes in the second half. Plant up a new asparagus bed.

Harvest: Remaining brassicas and leeks.

Jobs:

- Control weeds in all areas. Hoe between rows during dry weather;
- Earth up early potatoes;
- Thin sowings in rows as soon as seedlings can be handled;
- Prepare site for runner beans and erect bean poles.

FRUIT GARDEN

Plant: Finish planting raspberries and cut back newly planted canes

Prune: gooseberries, red and white currants if they have been left unpruned through the winter because of likelihood of bird damage. Prune pyramid plums in their early years.

Jobs:

- Early flowering fruits may need protection against frost, protect using Hessian, double thickness nylon, uncover immediately after for pollination to take place;
- Check state of fruit netting and repair and supports;
- Don't use insecticides during flowering, may kill pollinating insects;
- Ventilate strawberries under cloches and add straw manure;
- Keep an eye out for pests.



Successful blue tit's nest in Birtchnell's Copse



Sunnyside Allotment Society



May 2009

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
				1	2	3
4 May Day	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13 SAS Committee Meeting	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25 Whitsun Bank Holiday	26	27	28	29	30	31

MAY

VEGETABLE GARDEN

Sow: maincrop beetroot and turnips. Sow short rows of lettuce, French beans, carrots etc fortnightly. Do outdoor sowings of French and runner beans, squash, cucumbers and pumpkins. Make sowings of cauliflower and purple sprouting broccoli for a winter harvest. Continue with successional sowings of spring lettuce, spring cabbage, salad onions and radishes and other salad crops. Herbs such as basil, coriander and parsley can also be extended with successional sowings.

Plant: out Brussels sprouts, cauliflowers, summer and winter cabbage. Plant out tomatoes, sweetcorn, celery, courgettes and pumpkins after frosts are passed.

Harvest: spring lettuce, spring cabbage, salad onions and radishes. Harvest the first broad beans, over wintered carrots and the first asparagus spears. Do not harvest asparagus from crowns less than three years old.

Jobs:

- Thin lettuce, carrot, & onion seedlings;
- Control slugs and snails;
- Weed control is very important. Competition for moisture and nutrients increases. Hoe between rows during dry weather;
- Earth up potatoes;
- Watch for the telltale holes of flea beetle attacks on brassica seedlings. Water well to help them grow out of the pest damage;
- Pinch out the tips of broad beans;
- Stake peas and beans.

FRUIT GARDEN

Prune: Remove unwanted shoots from raspberries. Shorten back leaders and side-shoots on over-vigorous restricted forms of apple and pear to weaken growth.

Jobs:

- Open one side of fruit cage to allow entry for pollinating insects;
- Protect blossoms from frosts;
- Mow grass around trees;
- Water well after flowering especially stone fruits;
- De-blossom newly planted trees; Never use insecticides during flowering, may kill pollinating insects;
- Start netting fruit at the first sign of ripening;
- Put straw around strawberries. Deter slugs;
- Hoe off or pull out raspberry suckers appearing between rows.



Family fun at our annual barbecue



Sunnyside Allotment Society



June 2009

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30				SAS Barbecue	

JUNE

VEGETABLE GARDEN

Sow: Early June outdoor sowings can still be done of marrows, courgettes and pumpkins. Continue with successional sowings of spring lettuce, spring cabbage, salad onions & radishes & other salad crops. Herbs such as basil, coriander and parsley can also be extended with successional sowings.

Plant: Plant out tomatoes if not already done. Remove sideshoots on cordon types and train up canes or string. Plant out sprouts, sprouting broccoli, cauliflowers, marrows, tomatoes and leeks.

Harvest: spring lettuce, spring cabbage, salad onions and radishes. Asparagus can be cut until the end of this month and then left alone.

Jobs:

- Hoe between rows during dry weather;
- Support climbing French and runner beans;
- Pinch out the top of broad beans once the lowest flowers have set;
- Watch for the telltale holes of flea beetle attacks on brassica seedlings. Water well to help them grow out of the pest damage;
- Remember slugs are most active in the garden at night and especially after rainfall;
- Earth up late potatoes;
- Thin rows of plants when overcrowded.

FRUIT GARDEN

Prune: Once new raspberry canes produced, prune out old canes on new plantings. Summer prune gooseberries at the end of June. Begin summer pruning of apples and pears.

Harvest: Pick strawberries, raspberries, red and white currants, gooseberries, and cherries.

Jobs:

- Water fruit when necessary;
- Thin plums in two stages, early June and late June;
- Heavy set of apples, thin lightly, wait until after June drop for final thinning;
- Thin pears if heavy set;
- Continue to protect fruit against birds;
- Put straw down for strawberries, peg down runners for new plants;
- Continue to tie in new shoots of raspberries and spray with derris to control raspberry beetle;
- Train in new shoots of blackberries and hybrid berries;
- Thin gooseberries;
- Mulch raspberries and currants.



Paintings by visitors from local art classes



Sunnyside Allotment Society



July 2009

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15 <i>SAS Committee Meeting</i>	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

JULY

VEGETABLE GARDEN

Sow: spring cabbage, turnips, oriental vegetables, chicory and fennel beet, carrot and lettuce. Last chance to sow French and runner beans.

Plant: out broccoli, winter cabbage, leeks, sprouts and kale for winter use. When early crops are lifted and used replace with winter vegetables.

Harvest: courgettes before they become marrows. There's lots to harvest in the vegetable patch - spinach, peas, beets, carrots, salads, potatoes, etc. Over-wintered onions can be lifted and used. Start to harvest spring-planted garlic. Lift shallots.

Jobs:

- Water outdoor cucumbers, marrows, courgettes and beans;
- Continue to hoe off weeds in dry weather;
- Don't forget to 'stop' tomatoes, leaving one leaf above the fourth truss;
- Watch out for potato and tomato blight;
- Gently spray flowers of outdoor tomatoes with water to ensure a good set of fruit;
- Use derris to keep pests under control;
- Protect summer cauliflowers by bending leaves over the curd.

FRUIT GARDEN

Prune: Begin summer pruning of all trained forms by the end of the month but delay if wet. Continue pruning fan trained plums and cherries, and cherry trees. Spur prune gooseberries. Immediately raspberries have cropped prune out old canes and tie in new ones.

Harvest: Pick fruit when ready.

Jobs:

- Check tree ties for constriction;
- Complete thinning on apples and support heavily laden branches;
- Thin out plums bearing heavy crops;
- Remove mouldy or damaged strawberries to prevent the spread of botrytis (grey mould);
- Immediately after cropping of strawberries, remove foliage and straw, remove surplus runners, and all weeds, dispose of debris;
- Continue to peg down strawberry runners if new plants are needed;
- Train in new canes of blackberries, tip layering for new plants can be done at the end of the month.



Successful Open Day during National Allotments Week



Sunnyside Allotment Society



August 2009

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23 <i>SAS Open Day</i>
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31 <i>August Bank Holiday</i>						

AUGUST

VEGETABLE GARDEN

Sow: quick maturing salad crops such as summer lettuce, radish, rocket, sorrel, chicory and fennel. Sow green manures such as crimson clover and Italian ryegrass for digging in during the winter or spring. Continue to sow spring cabbage, turnips, Oriental vegetables and over-wintering onions.

Plant: Finish planting out winter brassicas and leeks;

Harvest: Lift onions, shallots and garlic when ready. Thick-necked onions should be used rather than stored. Regularly pick fast maturing vegetables such as French beans, runner beans, courgettes, cucumbers and tomatoes to encourage further cropping. Harvest sweetcorn as it becomes ripe. Finish harvesting second early potatoes especially if it turns wet, as slugs will become active.

Jobs:

- Water beans, peas and tomatoes regularly;
- Take cuttings of rosemary, bay and hyssop;
- Cut back flowered herbs such as marjoram to encourage a second flush;
- As early crops are used dig and refertilise the ground for replanting;
- Earth up kale, leeks etc;
- Remove tops of outdoor tomatoes once the 4th truss of flowers has formed and liquid feed weekly;
- Gather herbs for drying.

FRUIT GARDEN

Prune: Continue to prune restricted forms of apples and pears. Begin pruning over-vigorous trees. Prune plums and damsons after fruiting. Continue to prune and tie in raspberries. Reduce raspberry canes to 5 a plant. Pinch back gooseberries. Prune blackcurrants after harvest, cutting out some of the older fruited shoots entirely. Prune fruited canes of loganberries at soil level.

Harvest: Pick fruit as soon as it is ready.

Jobs:

- Support heavily laden branches;
- Protect fruit against birds;
- Prepare new strawberry beds, and plant out rooted runners;
- Continue to train in blackberries.



Riot of September colour



Sunnyside Allotment Society



September 2009

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16 <i>SAS Committee Meeting</i>	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

SEPTEMBER

VEGETABLE GARDEN

Sow: spinach and lettuce for harvesting in spring. This is the last month in the year to sow radish. Sow green manures for digging in during the winter or spring. Sow main crop or Japanese onions seeds.

Plant: over-wintering onion sets in late September.

Harvest: Keep picking runner beans to prevent a decline in the yield. Harvest sweetcorn. Cut globe artichoke heads for use in the kitchen. Pick remaining outdoor tomatoes by the end of the month to ripen indoors. Dig potatoes to prevent slug damage.

Jobs:

- Keep up with watering winter squash and pumpkins to prevent a check in growth;
- Remove and bin blight infected tomato and potato plants;
- Cover leafy vegetable crops such as cabbages and Brussels sprouts with bird-proof netting to keep off the pigeons;
- Leave the roots of pea and bean plants in the soil to increase fertility;
- Trim parsley to encourage fresh shoots;
- Earth up celery, leeks and winter greens;
- Stake plants of Brussels sprouts and sprouting broccoli exposed to wind.

FRUIT GARDEN

Plant: Continue to plant strawberries.

Prune: Complete summer pruning of apples and pears. Prune plums and damsons immediately after cropping. Complete the pruning and tying in of summer fruiting gooseberries. Prune blackcurrants. Take cuttings from healthy plants. Cut off old canes of blackberries and hybrid berries after fruiting and tie in the new.

Harvest: Pick perpetual strawberries, autumn fruiting raspas, blackberries, blueberries, plums, damsons, and early and mid season apples, pears. When the fruit is ripe, apple pips are black.

Jobs:

- Order new fruit trees and bushes.;
- Prepare for fruit storage, clean wooden trays and boxes;
- On outdoor vines protect ripening fruit from birds by covering by netting, fold back leaves to also assist ripening;
- Remove any damaged or mouldy grapes; check 2 or 3 times a week.



Autumnal colours



Sunnyside Allotment Society



October 2009

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	BST ends

OCTOBER

VEGETABLE GARDEN

Sow: over-wintering broad beans *in situ* in mild regions and carrots and peas in cold frames. After clearing the ground sow green manures such as field beans, winter tares and Italian ryegrass to prevent autumn weeds establishing and to act as a soil improver.

Plant: Continue to plant winter lettuce and spring cabbage. Plant hardy garlic.

Harvest: outdoor tomatoes which have failed to ripen, pick them and place on trays and put in a dark place with a ripe apple or red tomato to speed up the ripening process. Lift potatoes by mid-October. Harvest pumpkins and squashes when ripe.

Jobs:

- Remove all plant debris from the allotment. Refrain from composting diseased material;
- Continue to earth up celery and leeks;
- Protect cauliflowers by bending a leaf over the curd;
- Hoe between vegetables and check for slug damage and disease;
- Cut down tall stems of Jerusalem artichokes as they yellow.

FRUIT GARDEN

Plant: Complete the planting of strawberries by mid October, tidy up beds and remove leaves from perpetual strawberries. Order new fruit trees, prepare ground for planting and begin planting immediately after leaf fall.

Prune: Remove broken branches from stone fruits and protect the wounds. Prune blackcurrants if not already done and take cuttings from healthy plants. Prune gooseberries, red and white currants at leaf fall, if bird damage is likely then leave the plants until spring, take cuttings. Finish pruning blackberries and hybrid berries. Now is the time for root pruning.

Harvest: Pick any ripe fruit.

Jobs:

- Store fruit in sound condition, bring down temperature by ventilating at night;
- Wrap apples separately to store, but pears should not be wrapped at all;
- Lift and divide old crowns of rhubarb;
- Take cuttings of blackcurrants (this year's shoots), red and white currants and gooseberries;
- Prepare ground for new fruit trees and bushes.



Bountiful harvest



Sunnyside Allotment Society



November 2009

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11 <i>SAS Committee Meeting</i>	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28 <i>SAS AGM</i>	29
30						

NOVEMBER

VEGETABLE GARDEN

Sow: broad beans for an early crop.

Plant: garlic cloves in modules or outdoors in final position.

Harvest: Remember to pick sprouts from the bottom up and remove any dead or yellow leaves. Harvest leeks and cauliflower. Lift and store root crops such as carrots, beetroot, turnips and swedes.

Jobs:

- Collect stakes and bean poles, wash and store for next year;
- Cover brassicas with netting if pigeons are a problem;
- Dig over unused soil. Manure if necessary;
- Remove all remaining plant debris from the vegetable patch or allotment. Bin or burn any diseased material;
- Collect dead roots for composting;
- Cover crowns of globe artichokes with thick layers of straw to protect from frost.

FRUIT GARDEN

Plant: cane, bush and top fruit trees ordered last month and prune after planting. If the planting site is not ready when bare-root plants arrive, heel them in to a spare piece of ground to keep the roots from drying out.

Prune: Root prune over vigorous trees after leaf fall. Complete pruning blackberries and hybrid berries. Complete pruning of raspberries, check supports and wires and ensure canes are securely tied. Prune currants and gooseberries, take cuttings from healthy bushes. Immediately after leaf fall prune established apples and pears. Do not prune plum trees.

Harvest: Complete picking of all but the very late apples and pears.

Jobs:

- Collect and dispose of fallen apples and pears affected with brown rot. Pick off any affected fruit that remains on the tree;
- Ensure the fruit cage is closed and the netting is in good order;
- Only store unblemished fruit to prevent rotting in storage and regularly check stores and remove rotting and mouldy specimens;
- Trap winter moths by placing grease bands around fruit trees;
- Mulch young trees;
- Weed strawberries.



A wintry walk along 'A Road'



Sunnyside Allotment Society



December 2009

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			
Bank holiday			New Year's Eve			

DECEMBER

VEGETABLE GARDEN

Sow: Sow some broad beans in a sheltered spot.

Harvest: Continue to harvest winter vegetables.

Jobs:

- Dig over ground i.e. vegetable plots, and incorporate plenty of well rotted compost, allow the frost to break the soil down;
- Check vegetables in storage and discard anything rotten;
- Dig ground when frost free but do not add fertiliser;
- Continue earthing up leeks and celery;
- Firm the roots of brassicas crops that may have been lifted by frosts;
- Plan your crop rotations for the coming year;
- If you have not already done so order your seeds and seed potatoes.

FRUIT GARDEN

Plant: fruit trees and bushes into well prepared ground. Fruit trees that arrive and cannot be planted directly should be heeled in, in a sheltered spot at a 45 degree angle away from the wind.

Prune: Prune gooseberries, redcurrants and white currants now by reducing the main leaders by half and side shoots to 2". Prune apples and pears in frost free periods. Finish any root pruning. Prune to ground level autumn fruiting raspberries.

Jobs:

- Check all stakes and ties and 'firm in' any loose plants;
- Apply tar oil winter wash if you haven't already;
- Lift and divide overgrown crowns of rhubarb;
- Mature rhubarb crowns can be covered with a forcing pot;
- Winter feed trees and bushes with slow acting fertilizers such as bonemeal and manures.

Xmas Drinks

Christmas Eve

Christmas Day

Boxing Day



This year our calendar focuses on monthly tasks for both the vegetable and the fruit garden. These tips are very brief, but more information can be easily found on the internet, in basic gardening books and in magazines. The timing of tasks obviously depends very much on our local weather conditions and the ability to work the soil. We hope new gardeners especially will find this useful.

We would like to thank all those who have provided photographs which we have used in this calendar.

The picture on the front cover is a water colour of the tea area painted by Sarah Moruzzi, the art teacher whose classes visit us in the summer. She has kindly donated the original to the Sunnyside Allotment Society for fund raising.



Christmas drinks 2008

To find out more about Sunnyside Allotment Society, visit our website:
www.sunnysideallotments.org.uk