



Gnosall Allotments & Garden Association Newsletter

Issue 45

August 2021

NEWS UPDATE

This year has been the best in our memory for shed sales, and we have kept re-stocking so we still have enough of everything to keep supplying members through the winter.

Our trial stock of peat free compost sold quickly so we will continue to stock it. It would be good to hear from members about how well it replaces the peat-based composts; my trials have so far given smaller and slower growing plants, so perhaps I need to change my growing condition- any advice would be welcome.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

In October (provisional date October 13th) we will be holding our Annual General Meeting, where we report on how we have done this year and elect a new committee. Several of the committee have served since we restarted the association over 12 years ago and have indicated they will be standing down or no longer wanting to remain in their office on the committee.

It is essential that we find some new committee members so that GAGA can continue operating.

There is a real danger that we will have to wind up the association without some new faces coming forward to help.

SHED UPDATE

As we come to the end of the growing season, we are finding that members want to make less purchases from the shed. In August we will open twice - Sunday 8th August and Sunday 22nd August.

After that we will continue to sell products on demand. Just ask any member of the committee or email

lynwhittick@live.co.uk or
simonwhittick@gmail.com
or phone 01785 823466.

They will then arrange for collection or delivery of the items you want. You can find a full list of what we sell and our prices on our website:

<https://gnosallallotments.org.uk/>

WHY WE SELL IT

This time I will look at the range of fertilizers we sell and try and explain their purpose. But first it is necessary to explain what they do.

Just as we need various foods and vitamins, plants need chemicals which help the plant grow.

Most fertilisers are based on the three major plant nutrients:

Nitrogen (N): For green leafy growth

Phosphorus (P): For healthy root and shoot growth

Potassium (K): For flowering, fruiting and general hardiness

The proportion of these three chemicals are indicated by a number N-P-K showing the proportion of each.

In the past gardeners would control which they used by using simple fertilizers containing only one of the se constituents- so we have:

N- Ammonium sulphate

P- Superphosphate

K- Potassium sulphate

For less expert gardeners the producers have made up blends suitable for particular products, so we have

Potato fertilizer

Onion fertilizer

Rose fertilizer

Tomato feed

For general use there is a choice of chemical, including growmore and slow release granules- especially good for pots and hanging baskets and natural fertilizers (blood, fish & bone or chicken pellets).

THINGS TO DO THIS MONTH

August is a month to enjoy the fruits of your labour. Harvest crops to ensure that they keep coming. Dead head flowers and water if the weather is dry.

Finish summer pruning fruit bushes.

Sow green manure in empty spaces on the vegetable plot.

EQUIPMENT FOR HIRE

This season we are offering our hire equipment **free of charge** (except for petrol charge). As well as the powered tools, we have recently added a spreader for lawn feed.

Petrol rotavator - for cultivating/"digging" ground

Petrol strimmer- for cutting back long grass and overgrown areas

Electric rake/scarifier - for removing thatch, moss and weeds from lawns.

If you need more information about how and why you would use any of this equipment, talk to Ray Finney or any other committee member.

DISCOUNT OFFER FOR MEMBERS

Have you taken advantage of the discount offered at Swan Pit Nursery yet. GAGA members can get 10% discount on all purchases. Just show your membership card when you pay.

COMMITTEE

Simon Whittick .. 51 Chairman

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Email simonwhittick@gmail.com

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Ian Smith Q Treasurer

Sallyann Brannon 51

Liz Gardner

The committee is keen to help all members and keep you informed on what is happening. If you have any questions, please do contact us by phone/e-mail.

AUTUMN LAWN MAINTENANCE

It is good practice to prepare your lawn for winter. This is normally done in September but if there has been a long dry spell it is worth waiting until there has been sufficient rain to encourage grass growth.

If moss is a problem, then treat with a moss killer and after it is dead remove it along with any thatch by raking. GAGA has an electric lawn rake which may be borrowed. Don't put the raking's on the compost heap but add it to the brown bin.

It is also a good idea to improve drainage and this can be done by inserting a garden fork into the ground and waggling it to form a series of holes. These can then be filled with a sand and loam dressing. Feeding the lawn will also help prepare it for winter. It is important that any feed used is formulated for autumn use and is high in phosphates and potash. Do not use a spring or summer fertiliser as these are high in nitrogen resulting in soft growth, which may be damaged by frost.

It is also important to remove any leaves from the grass as this can smother the grass and may provide cover for garden pests

Remember: we sell Autumn lawn feed in the shed- £3.25 for 3kg.

That will be enough for approximately 100 square metres.

GAGA ONLINE

Have you visited our FACEBOOK site or our website where you can find our latest news and information?

<https://www.facebook.com/gnosallallotmentsandgardens>

<https://gnosallallotments.org.uk>

They contain information on current events, shed opening times, prices and useful safety information.