

Time for harvest

Timings are for the south. Crops will be 2 to 3 weeks later in the north.

VEGETABLES

SOW OUTDOORS

There are still quite a few seeds which can be sown. Try

- * lettuce (sow hardy variety e.g. winter density, for next spring)
- * japanese onions (sow seed to harvest early next summer)
- * parsley (protect from carrot root fly)
- * spring cabbage
- * chinese cabbage
- * endive
- * kohlrabi
- * winter radish
- * spinach
- * turnip



PLANT OUT OUTDOORS

- * savoy cabbage
- * kale

FRUIT TASKS

- * Keep fruit trees and canes well watered while their fruit is swelling.
- * Prune mature plum trees after fruiting. Remove and burn branches infected by silver leaf fungus (see over) cutting several inches past any stained wood. Prune broken or overcrowded branches.
- * Finish summer pruning apple trees.
- * Cut out old canes from raspberry plants after fruiting.
- * Summer prune gooseberries and redcurrants.
- * Plant new strawberry plants and remove those more than 3 years old. Cut leaves, and stalk of remaining plants to 1 inch from ground after fruiting. Runners can be used for propagation or discarded.
- * Support the weight of ripening melons with nets or old tights.
- * Support the branches of fruit trees heavily laden with fruit.



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

VEGETABLE HARVEST

Globe artichokes, aubergine, broad beans, french beans, runner beans, swiss chard, beetroot, calabrese broccoli, summer cabbage, peppers, cauliflower, cucumber, kohlrabi, lettuce, courgette, squash, onions, shallots, peas, potatoes (second earlies), radish, spinach, sweet corn, tomatoes, turnips.

FRUIT HARVEST

Apples, pears, strawberries, blackberries, raspberries, gooseberries, peaches, apricots, cherries, melons, plums, redcurrants.

Support organic cotton farmers in Africa

The Pesticide Action Network UK works with partner organisations in Senegal (Yakaar Niani Wulli and Enda Pronat) to help Senegalese farmers to grow cotton and food crops organically. Farmers receive advice on managing pests without synthetic chemicals and receive help to market their products.

Typically the farmers have grown cotton for export and have grown food crops for their own tables. This has made their incomes vulnerable to the rapidly fluctuating price of cotton on the global market. To provide more financial stability farmers now seek to market their organic food crops and to find direct markets for their organic cotton.

You can help these farming families by buying their fairtrade organic cotton products (a designer range of soft toys, handbags, cushion covers) at <http://ynw.jarinio.sn/>

Read more about the farmers at <http://www.yaniwulli.org>



GENERAL TASKS

- * Pinch out the growing tips of tomatoes after fourth truss has set. Pinch out sideshoots. Continue to train cordon varieties and fertilise weekly.
- * Remember to thin seedlings sown earlier to the correct distance apart.
- * Water during dry spells and remember to top up the frog pond.
- * Keep on top of weeding and make sure no weeds go to seed.
- * Check the undersides of brassica leaves for eggs and caterpillars of the cabbage white butterfly. Squash them before they eat your cabbages.
- * Earth up potatoes to prevent any blight spores reaching the tubers.
- * Cut and dry herbs by hanging them upside down in a dry room. This way you will have plenty through the winter months.
- * Remove any carrots showing signs of carrot root fly attack.
- * Harvested onions should be left out to dry during dry periods.
- * Plant green manures on ground that becomes vacant. Rape and mustard sown in August can be dug into the soil in the autumn. Remember that these are brassica crops and may be susceptible to the same diseases as other brassicas.
- * Pinch off the growing tips of runner beans once they have reached the tops of their supports.
- * Broccoli require plenty of water when their heads are forming.
- * Celery require lots of water.

Cabbage white butterfly

The juvenile caterpillar stage of the cabbage white butterfly affects all varieties of brassicas, not just cabbages. They eat the leaves causing holes which increase in size as the leaves grow. The caterpillars are very common and are often found along with their excrement on home-grown or allotment-grown brassicas.

Two different species of cabbage white butterfly exist, the large cabbage white (*Pieris brassicae*) and the small cabbage white (*Pieris rapae*). They overwinter as pupae with adult butterflies emerging to mate in spring. Male butterflies have a single dark spot on their mid-wing while females have two spots.

The females lay yellowish eggs on the undersides of plants of the crucifer (mustard) family, particularly favouring cabbage and broccoli. Some other plants such as nasturtiums are also affected. The eggs hatch to give caterpillars which tend to stay on the undersides of leaves. Caterpillars of the large cabbage white are yellow with black markings. Their bodies are hairy and grow up to 40mm long feeding mainly on the outer leaves of brassicas. Caterpillars of the small cabbage white are pale green and grow up to 25mm long preferring to eat the inner leaves.

Both species have two generations each year with caterpillars occurring from spring to early autumn. The caterpillars pupate on the host plant or on nearby fences, walls etc.

The most effective ways to reduce damage from cabbage whites is to

- * Regularly monitor the undersides of the leaves of brassica plants picking off and crushing eggs and young caterpillars
- * Cover brassica beds with horticultural fleece
- * Sprays made from the bacterium *Bacillus thuringiensis*. are effective but are not currently available to UK gardeners.

Other caterpillars can also damage brassica plants. In particular, damage from caterpillars of the cabbage moth (*Mamestra brassica*) is common.



large cabbage white butterfly



caterpillar of large cabbage white



eggs of large cabbage white

Silver leaf fungus

Plums (and other stone fruit) are susceptible to attack by the fungus *Chondrostereum purpureum* (*Stereum purpureum*). The fungus enters through open wounds caused by pruning or damage to branches. Once the fungus enters the tree a toxin enters its vascular system staining the wood brown and causing leaves to turn pale and silvery.

In summertime, spores of this fungus are generally dormant and trees more able to resist attack. So it is good to prune your plum trees in the summer after you have harvested your plums.



**PESTICIDE
ACTION
NETWORK UK**

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

To receive monthly gardening tips send email address to:

Roslyn McKendry
Pesticide Action Network UK
Development House
56-64 Leonard Street,
London EC2A 4JX, UK.
tel: +44 (0)20 7065 0905
fax: +44 (0)20 7065 0907
roslynmckendry@pan-uk.org
<http://www.pan-uk.org>