



TOP TIPS FOR PLANNING AN ALLOTMENT

- Clear and tidy the plot ready for growing
- Decide on an easy to access layout for your plot considering where you need paths, how many growing beds you want and allow space for somewhere to sit to enjoy your hard work.
- Consider whether you want to build raised beds or grow straight into the ground.

THE ALLOTMENT YEAR

February

Prepare beds for sowing, clear away any debris and dig over the plot with compost if possible.

March

Weed your plot. Cover beds with cloches or black plastic to warm the soil ready for sowing.

April

Start sowing seeds or planting young plants. You may need to protect these with fleece if the weather is still cold. Thin any seedlings of any crops that are beginning to grow. Sow potatoes if growing.

May

You can start enjoying the fruits of your labours this month - crops that should be ready to harvest include lettuce, spring onions, broccoli, cabbage, spinach, rhubarb, beetroot, radish and peas. Keep protecting plants from the weather and construct supports if growing taller plants such as runner beans.

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June

Keep on weeding and enjoying the fruits of your labour. Continue to sow fast-growing crops such as lettuce and spring onions. Protect any fruit from birds. Make sure you regularly water the crops and feed any tomatoes if growing.

July

Harvest and enjoy! Now is also the time to plant crops for winter harvest such as kale and spinach. Also keep sowing the fast-growing crops. Don't forget to water regularly.

August

Harvest and enjoy! Prune fruit trees if required. Watch out for any pests and diseases.

September

Lots of crops will be ready for harvesting. You can sow leafy veg such as spring cabbages and spinach, winter salads, broad beans and peas for earlier harvests next spring, onions, shallots and garlic, and quick growing crops such as turnips and radish.

October

It's time to harvest the last of the non-winter crops. While the plot is relatively empty, it's a great opportunity to improve the soil. Either sow a green manure, or spread a 5cm layer of well-rotted manure on top of it - worms will work it into the soil over the winter.

November

Prune any fruit trees ready for winter, cover over any crops that are winter harvesting, to protect them from the weather.

December

Take time to plan next years plot and make sure all your tools are clean and well stored, so they are ready for next year's growing season.

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