

# WYKE REGIS HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY



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HQ & TRADING POST  
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Founded 1925  
Affiliated to the RHS & DFHS  
President Dr Brian Shaw

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Price  
10p

OPENING TIMES  
WEDNESDAY 2pm – 4pm  
SATURDAY 9.30am – 12.30pm

## APRIL 2018 NEWSLETTER

### PLUG PLANTS

#### The Plug Plants from Ball Colegrave have arrived !

Alternanthera Purple Knight 5 plugs £2.35		Calibrachoa F1 Kabloom 5 plugs £2.40		Cosmos Razzmatazz 5 plugs £1.95		Dianthus F1 Corona 10 plugs £1.75	
Dianthus F1 Sweet 5 plugs £2.25		Gazania F1 Daybreak 10 plugs £1.60		Lobelia String of Pearls 20 plugs £1.45		Lobelia trailing Regatta 20 plugs £1.45	
Nemesia Sundrops 10 plugs £1.70		Antirrhinum F1 Twinny 10 plugs £1.60		All beautifully grown, strong and healthy, uniform in size and consistent in quality. One can see why the reputation of Ball Colegrave stands so high in the trade.			

### SUMMER SHOW

#### WRHS Summer Show - Saturday 21st July

Schedules are in the Trading Post now, so plenty of time to start growing, sewing, knitting, painting or taking your camera out. Get the children involved! Open to everyone, including non-Members.

### CALENDAR PHOTO COMPETITION

While you are hard at work in your garden or allotment, don't forget the  
**WRHS Calendar Competition**  
which has become a regular feature of our Society life.

The 2018 WRHS Calendar was well received by the Members, and we hope to keep up the high standard for 2019.

Copies of the Competition Rules are available from the Trading Post or can be downloaded from the website.

### THIS & THAT

It's really great that more folk are starting to contribute to this newsletter. Our thanks to David Wood for his practical notes on avoiding plastic pollution, to Jo Morland for advice about hedgehogs, and to Rachel Waldock for information about the dreaded Fuchsia Gall Mite. Carrie Dalby has long been a major contributor - thank you all. The news sheet now runs to 6 pages, and this month the email version has two supplements - Summer Show Schedule & Entry Form, and Calendar Photo Competition Rules. Dave Best (Editor)

## DURSTON'S COMPOST

The first delivery from our new compost supplier, Durston's of Street, has arrived and is rapidly disappearing.

Arranging the initial supplies was not without difficulties, but the perseverance of the Purchasing Team prevailed.

The actual delivery, involving a large articulator in congested Rylands Lane, was a lively experience too !

**Currently in stock are:**

<b>40 litre Peat Free Compost</b>	<b>£3.30</b>
<b>40 litre Multipurpose Compost</b>	<b>£2.90</b>
<b>60 litre Multipurpose Compost</b>	<b>£3.40</b>
<b>40 litre Farmyard Manure</b>	<b>£2.70</b>

and we expect to take delivery of further products from Durston's in the near future.

**Also available in the yard are:**

<b>75 litre Ericaceous Compost - Oaktree</b>	<b>£4.15</b>
<b>33 litre Growbag - Oaktree</b>	<b>£1.50</b>
<b>15kg Grow Organic</b>	<b>£7.70</b>
<b>25 litre John Innes No.1</b>	<b>£5.30</b>
<b>6 litre Sharp Sand</b>	<b>£0.90</b>
<b>6 litre Potting Grit</b>	<b>£1.10</b>

### *LET'S GO PEAT FREE !*

Peat is a fossil ! It comes from peat bogs that have taken thousands of years to create and cannot be replaced. As gardeners, we have a duty to stop using it. Multi-purpose compost is 50% sedge peat and 25% moss peat - this is destroying the ancient peat bogs of Somerset and Ireland. Please try our Peat-free compost on sale at £3.30 for 40ltr. It is made from plants and wood chip that have been composted at a high temperature until well rotted and sterilised - **and it is renewable.**

It has a neutral pH, so can be used for any plants.

There are a also few bags of pure peat still left, reduced to £2 a bag to clear. **We will not be re-ordering this.**

## MEMBERSHIP

**If you haven't already renewed your subscription, remember it's due on 1st April.**

*Still only £5 !*

Any subscriptions not renewed by 30th June will be deemed expired and removed from our records.

**Why not pay by Standing Order through your Bank? Forms are available at the Trading Post.**

**If you already pay by Standing Order, please check that the payment date is 1st April  
- not on the anniversary of the day you joined the Society.**

The imminent General Data Protection Regulation is causing much unneeded work and grief to certain members of the WRHS General Committee, and is requiring WRHS Members to fill out and sign various silly forms.

Please be patient, write clearly, and give thanks that you don't have to process the data for 500+ Members.

**The Society holds only a minimal set of your personal data, without which it cannot operate.**

Please be assured that your personal data will be stored in accordance with statutory requirements and will **not** be shared with anyone.

**Our main method of communicating with Members is through the Newsletter sent once a month via email.**

We rarely send any other emails, so you will not be swamped with junk mail.

## SEED POTATOES

**At only £1.40/kg most of our seed potatoes are almost gone.**

**Do remember to keep notes of how you get on with your chosen varieties, so we can all compare notes.**



**Pentland Javelin** First Early **Almost Gone !**  
A superb tasting variety which takes a week or two longer than other first earlies to mature. Can be left in the ground longer to produce larger, more floury potatoes.



**Red Duke of York** First Early **Low Stock**  
Red Duke of York is a sport of the Duke of York variety and both looks better and cooks better. The variety was introduced to the UK in 1942. The red skin retains its colour during cooking.



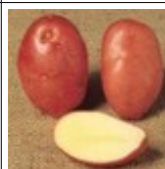
**Rocket** First Early **Low Stock**  
Probably the earliest of all varieties, but not the tastiest. The flavour can be enhanced by generous use of salt, butter and fresh mint.



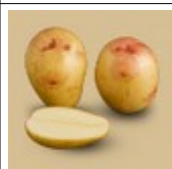
**Estima** Second Early **Almost Gone !**  
A reliable, high yielding variety, with good resistance to , drought, slugs and scab. Perhaps better classified as an early main-crop than a second early.



**Marfona** Second Early  
A slightly waxy variety with moderate resistance to blight and scab. Its full flavour makes it good for baking, boiling, or mashing.



**Desiree** Main crop **Almost Gone !**  
A versatile variety bred from Urgenta x Depesche. Good baked, roasted, boiled, mashed, or chipped. Can be treated as an early main crop if desired.



**King Edward** Main crop **Almost Gone !**  
Introduced in 1902, and still widely grown for its excellent taste, good keeping properties and above average disease resistance.



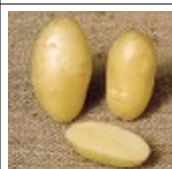
**Picasso** Main crop **Almost Gone !**  
A modern, disease resistant variety, with a mild flavour and good firm texture, suitable for a wide range of uses.



**Sarpo Mira** Main crop **Low Stock**  
Good resistance to wireworms, slugs, viruses, and drought. Gives good yields of red-skinned, floury tubers, ideal for mash, chips and roasting.



**International Kidney** Salad variety **Almost Gone !**  
Known as Jersey Royals when grown on Jersey. Excellent, distinctive flavour when picked early and boiled with the very thin skin left on.



**Nicola** Salad variety **Low Stock**  
Excellent flavour, served hot or cold. Reasonably good disease resistance overall, but susceptible to blight.



**Pink Fir Apple** Salad variety **Almost Gone !**  
Long, knobbly shaped variety, so scrub with a brush before cooking, and eat with the skins on. Expose harvested crop to the sun for a couple of days and they will store for two or three months.

## HANGERS' HEROES PUMPKIN COMPETITION



**Three competitions this year:**

Open - Heaviest Pumpkin  
Junior (16 or under) - Heaviest Pumpkin  
Open - Best Carved Pumpkin

Prizes sponsored by the  
[Marquis of Granby Restaurant](#)

Weigh-In at the Harvest Supper  
on Saturday 27th October from 5pm



















Entry fee of £2.50 includes 4 seeds of the required variety "Dills Atlantic Giant" or 1 plant thereof.

Entry Forms and seeds will be available from the Trading Post very soon; plants will come later.



# SEEDS TO SOW NOW

Dwarf French Bean Tendergreen 50g 50p		Dwarf French Bean Purple Teepee 50g 90p		Dwarf French Bean Sprite 50g 60p		Dwarf French Bean Masterpiece 50g 65p	
Climbing French Bean Blue Lake 50g 65p		Climbing French Bean Cosse Violette 50g 90p		Climbing French Bean Cobra 50g £2.20		Broad Bean De Monica 100g £1.15	
Broad Bean Sutton Dwarf 100g 80p		Broad Bean Masterpiece Green Longshaft 100g 80p		Broad Bean Crimson Flowered 100g 70p		Runner Bean Moonlight 50g £1.45	
Runner Bean Firestorm 50g £1.20		Runner Bean White Lady 100g £1.45		Runner Bean Painted Lady 50g 65p		Runner Bean Painted Lady 100g £1.20	
Runner Bean Scarlet Emperor 50g 50p		Runner Bean Scarlet Emperor 100g 95p		Runner Bean Enorma 100g £1.10		Pea Hurst Green Shaft 100g 60p	
Pea Delikett 100g £1.05		Pea Onward 100g 60p		Pea Meteor 50g 25p		Pea Oregon Sugar Pod 50g 45p	
Pea Kelvedon Wonder 50g 40p		Pea Kelvedon Wonder 100g 70p		Beetroot Mixed <del>£1.80</del> £1.62		Onion Set Red Karmen 200g 80p	
Celariac Asterix F1 <del>£1.80</del> £1.62		Brokali Atlantis F1 <del>£2.30</del> £2.07		Brussels Sprout Flower Sprout <del>£2.50</del> £2.25		Cabbage Kalibos <del>£1.60</del> £1.44	

# PLASTIC POLLUTION

I'm trying to phase out or re-use plastic in my gardening, rather than add to the mountain of plastic which we are accumulating, and which won't break down for centuries. This time of year certain seeds develop better in individual plugs or modules. Instead of buying any more plastic module trays, I notice that the Trading Post sells fibre module trays as well as larger fibre based pots, which all decompose naturally. I shall be moving over to these modules.

I now know why teabags weren't decomposing in my compost bin. **Most teabags contain micro plastics.** So my plants were absorbing them in compost and so was I, in my cups of tea.

A tip for all cafés, like in the Trading Post - PG tips say they now have no plastic in their tea bags.

*David Wood - Whitehead Drive*

## HEDGEHOGS - THE GARDENER'S FRIENDS

Now that the (slightly) warmer weather and longer days have arrived, hedgehogs are out and about at night.



Caterpillars, grubs and beetles form more than half of their natural diet, followed by worms and slugs.

To encourage them to visit your garden or allotment, set aside a rough corner with long grass, compost heap and log pile.

This provides hedgehogs with daytime shelter, places to nest and forage.

As creatures of habit, once they are attracted to your patch, you will have a nightly visitor to deal with your pests as well.

Please always put out a shallow dish of water, and if you have a pond, make sure that there is a means for animals to climb out again – a sloping bank, rocks or piece of wood.

Visit <https://www.hedgehogstreet.org> for ideas on how you can help hedgehogs to thrive.

*Remember - a hedgehog about in daylight needs help*

If you have any queries or you find a hog out in the day, contact :

Hedgehog Friendly Portland 01305 860461 email: [portlandhedgehog@jomorland.f9.co.uk](mailto:portlandhedgehog@jomorland.f9.co.uk)

## FUCHSIA GALL MITE



### Control

Cut off infested shoot tips, bag and burn cuttings at the first sign of infestation. **Disinfect secateurs and wash hands immediately** - human activity is a major cause of the spread of Fuchsia Gall Mite in the UK. Prune **severely** in Autumn, even to soil level, and burn cuttings.

Chemical control is not currently an option for domestic gardeners.

In 2007, Fuchsia Gall Mite was found on the UK mainland. It is now a serious problem for fuchsia growers in southern England, and is spreading northwards.

### What is Fuchsia Gall Mite?

Fuchsia Gall Mite is a microscopic sap-sucking mite specific to fuchsias. It can cause extensive galling and distortion ruining the appearance of fuchsias. Although the mites are too small to be seen without a microscope, the galled tissues they create are distinctive and easily recognised.

### QUICK FACTS

<b>Common name</b>	Fuchsia Gall Mite
<b>Scientific name</b>	<i>Aculops fuchsiae</i>
<b>Plants affected</b>	Garden and greenhouse fuchsias
<b>Most active</b>	May to September
<b>Main symptoms</b>	Shoot tips swollen and grossly distorted. Yellowish green or reddish discolouration. Flowers deformed, or fail to develop

All fuchsias can become infested, but species and cultivars vary in susceptibility to this pest. The most susceptible species include *Fuchsia arborescens*, *F. magellanica*, and *F. procumbens*

Further information:

<https://planthealthportal.defra.gov.uk/assets/factsheets/fuchsiaGallMite12.pdf>

<http://www.thebfs.org.uk/textfiles/fuchsia-gallmite.pdf>



## WHAT TO DO THIS MONTH

- Keep weeds under control !!!
- Protect fruit blossom from late frosts.
- Tie in climbing and rambling roses.
- Sow hardy annuals, herbs and wild flower seed outdoors.
- Start to feed citrus plants.
- Increase the water given to house plants.
- Feed hungry shrubs and roses.
- Sow new lawns or repair bare patches.
- Prune fig trees.
- Divide bamboos and water lilies.
- Plant pot-grown fruit trees and bushes.
- Chit and plant out second early potatoes in the first half of the month, maincrop potatoes in the second half.
- Seed to sow outdoors: beetroot, carrot, Swiss chard, summer cauliflower, kohlrabi, lettuce, leeks, radish, turnip, spring & pickling onions, peas, perpetual spinach.
- Seed to sow indoors: marrow, courgette, pumpkin, squash, sweet pepper, tomato, cucumber, aubergine, celery, celeriac, globe artichoke, salads.
- Dwarf French beans and sweet corn can be sown outside under cloches or fleece towards the end of April.
- Sow a seedbed of sprouting broccoli, cauliflower & cabbage for planting out in June or July.
- Plant out pot-grown broad beans.
- Plant shallots, onion sets, garlic, Jerusalem artichoke tubers, asparagus crowns.
- Pot up tomato seedlings when they develop true leaves above the rounded seed leaves.

### COMPANION PLANTING

Controlling insects without using chemicals can be achieved by  
**'Companion Planting'**

Try sowing Nasturtium seeds between cabbages  
White Butterflies prefer them !

Mint between Tomatoes deters aphids.

Black fly that invade Broad Beans do **not** like Summer Savoury.

Sow Sweet Peas with your Runner Beans  
to encourage bees to pollinate the flowers.

## PLANT POT RECYCLING

### WANTED - BELFAST SINK

Plastic plant-pots must be washed and sterilised if they are to be reused.

The Trading Post needs to acquire and install a large, deep sink to wash plant pots in.

Do you have a Belfast sink that you no longer need and that we could have?

Contact [generalsecretary@wrhs.org.uk](mailto:generalsecretary@wrhs.org.uk)

Please return any plant pots that you no longer need, so we can re-use them.



### ALTERNATIVES TO PLASTIC

The Society is leading the way in replacing plastic wherever possible. Do you have any ideas for us to take this further?

We currently sell seeds and fertilisers in plastic bags, so we are actively looking for alternatives.

Have you any experience of using foil-lined bags? How strong are they?

Do try to re-use plastic products rather than throw them away.

We are looking for clay pots at a reasonable price to sell to you.

### Have you tried our Vitapots?

Made from cardboard

- no need to re-pot,

just plant the whole thing!

