

WYKE REGIS HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY



HQ & TRADING POST
RYLANDS LANE
WYKE REGIS
WEYMOUTH DT4 9PY

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

Telephone: 01305 759668
email: enquiries@wrhs.org.uk or newsletter@wrhs.org.uk
website: <http://wrhs.org.uk/>

Price
10p

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

MARCH 2018 NEWSLETTER

SUMMER SHOW

The Summer Show will take place on Saturday 21st July this year.

Schedules will be available later this month.

Many of the usual classes will be there, including growing the heaviest crop of potatoes in a bucket.

The £2 entry fee includes a standard bucket and a selected 'Estima' seed potato - at the Trading Post now.

There's plenty of time to think about your handicrafts and choose the varieties of fruit and veg ... so start now!

ALLOTMENT SURVEY

The University of Sheffield is carrying out research into the uses of allotments and are looking for allotment holders to keep a diary for a year. They are studying what is grown, use of pesticides and how much time people devote to their hobby.

If you would like to take part, please email mcdobson1@shef.ac.uk or have a look at myharvest.org.uk/2017/12/calling-all-growers.

CHANGE OF COMPOST SUPPLIER

We are changing our compost supplier to **Durston's of Street**. The first delivery is expected shortly.

The price of peat-based composts is rising this year and we encourage our Members to reduce their dependence on peat.

A peat-free compost will be available made from natural composted materials.

Peat resources worldwide are being depleted and are not renewable - please consider the alternatives.

40 litre Peat Free Compost £3.30

40 litre Multipurpose Compost £2.90

60 litre Multipurpose Compost £3.40

MEMBERSHIP

All subscriptions are due for renewal on 1st April but can be renewed now.

It is 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.**

When you renew your Membership, you will be asked to check that we have your correct contact details, including your email address, in order to update our files.

Your Data will be stored in accordance with statutory requirements and **not** shared with anyone.

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

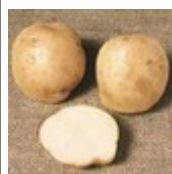
We do not normally send any other emails, except in rare cases of urgent information.

SEED POTATOES

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

You can buy just one, or a bag full!

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



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



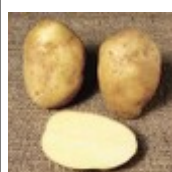
Estima Second Early **Almost Gone !**
A reliable, high yielding variety, with good resistance to , drought, slugs and scab. Perhaps better classified as an early main-crop than a second early.



Kestrel Second Early **Almost Gone !**
Bred from Solanum vernei x Cara, Kestrel offers good slug resistance, and produces consistently large potatoes of excellent flavour.



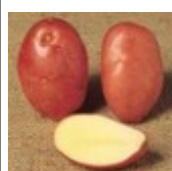
Marfona Second Early
A slightly waxy variety with moderate resistance to blight and scab. Its full flavour makes it good for baking, boiling, or mashing.



Wilja Second Early **Almost Gone !**
Yields potatoes of consistent size and excellent flavour. Good resistance to everything except eelworm.



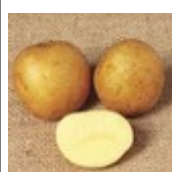
Cara Main crop **Almost Gone !**
Good disease resistance to blight, drought, slugs and scab, giving a high yield of fair sized potatoes. Not strongly flavoured.



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.



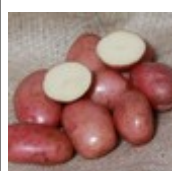
King Edward Main crop **Almost Gone !**
Introduced in 1902, and still widely grown for its excellent taste, good keeping properties and above average disease resistance.



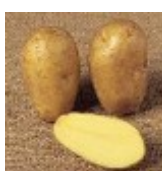
Maris Piper Main crop **SOLD OUT !**
Gives high yields of medium sized tubers, which keep very well. Excellent for baking, frying and boiling.



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



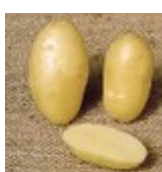
Sarpo Mira Main crop **Low Stock**
Good resistance to wireworms, slugs, viruses, and drought. Gives good yields of red-skinned, floury tubers, ideal for mash, chips and roasting.



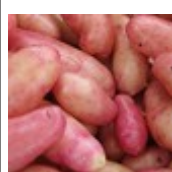
Charlotte Salad variety **SOLD OUT !**
Excellent flavour and boil without falling apart. Average resistance to blight and unlikely to be affected by scab or slugs.



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.



NEW TO WRHS THIS YEAR !
Lots of Members are trying this one.
It looks rather fun.

SEEDS TO SOW NOW ... & OTHER ITEMS

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		Onion Set Stuttgart 200g 80p One bag left!		Onion Set Red Karmen 200g 80p	
Onion Set Stuton Globe 200g 80p		Brokali Atlantis F1 £2.30 £2.07		Brussels Sprout Flower Sprout £2.50 £2.25		Cabbage Kalibos £1.60 £1.44	
Chilli Long Slim £1.45 £1.31		Celariac Asterix F1 £1.80 £1.62		Beetroot Mixed £1.80 £1.62		Pour & Feed 1 litre £2.26 £1.45	
Cabbage Collars Pack of 30 £3.16 £2.45		Orchid Feed 2 drip bottles £1.40 95p		12 Fibre Pots 8cm round £1.75		Spray Pump 5 litre £8.10	

HEDGEHOGS



This cold weather will keep hedgehogs asleep for some time yet. Please defer tidying your garden until the weather warms up enough for them to come out of hibernation naturally. Having been asleep for months, they will not be able to withstand very cold temperatures, so must not be woken.

As the Spring warms up, slugs and snails will become active and the hedgehogs will wake up. You can help them by putting out tinned cat or dog food and shallow dishes of clean water.

Please do not use metaldehyde slug pellets
try beer traps instead.

A hedgehog about in daylight needs attention.

Put it in a high-sided box with a towel or straw and **seek advice:**

Hayley's Hedgehog Rescue 07411 379208

Hedgehog Friendly Portland 01305 860461 email: portlandhedgehog@jomorland.f9.co.uk

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

PLANT HEALTH

The present icy weather will help to kill off several pests and diseases: recent mild winters have encouraged slugs and snails to proliferate.

When the weather is warmer, herbaceous plants will start back into life. Remove all old stems and dead leaves that will be harbouring pests.

Rotation of crops in the vegetable garden is advisable, because some undesirable insects and pathogens remain in the soil. These are often specific to one type of plant, so by not planting their favourite food for a couple of years, you can break the cycle.

Companion planting with species that pests do not like is another useful way to manage your garden, without the use of pesticides.

Healthy plants have greater resistance to infection, so feed and mulch now.

Use a fertiliser that is high in nitrogen to encourage green growth, gradually changing to higher potash and phosphate content as the need demands.

There are several organic fertilisers available from the Trading Post, as well as inorganic.

The Society promotes an organic ethos where possible.

PLUG PLANTS

Last year, the Plug Plants we ordered from Ball Colegrave were exceedingly popular with Members, who immediately recognised the excellent quality, and quickly snapped them up.

We anticipate the this year's supply will be in equally great demand.

Ball Colegrave is probably the leading UK grower of plug plants, and well respected in the trade.

We hope to have plants on sale, as plugs, from Saturday 24th March.

Some plugs will be grown on by the Society, to be sold as good sized plants, later in the year.

WHAT TO DO THIS MONTH

- Plant onions, shallots and garlic sets. Plant Jerusalem artichoke tubers, and asparagus crowns
- Chit early and maincrop potatoes. The Trading Post has rapidly diminishing stocks of seed potatoes.
- On light soil, as soon as the weather is suitable, you can plant broad beans, carrots, parsnips, beetroot, onions, lettuce, radish, peas, spinach, summer cabbage, salad leaves, leeks, Swiss chard, kohlrabi, turnip & summer cauliflower.
- Sow greenhouse tomato seeds now for an early crop.
- Sow seed indoors: sweet peppers, tomatoes, cucumbers, aubergines, celery, salads and globe artichokes.
- Protect new spring shoots from slugs
- Plant summer-flowering bulbs
- Plant fruit trees and bushes, especially bare-rooted.
- Plant hedges in prepared deep trenches.
- Add to your collection of primroses and snowdrops - sold at the Trading Post.
- Warm up by turning your compost heap! Compost accelerators on sale in the Trading Post.
- Leave out natural fibres and feathers for nesting birds to collect. Groom your dog!
- Lift and divide overgrown clumps of perennials
- Top dress containers with fresh compost
- Cut back Cornus (dogwood) and Salix (willow) grown for colourful winter stems
- Hoe and mulch weeds to keep them under control early
- Prune bush and climbing roses

PESTILENT PLASTICS !



A regular feature of BBC's 'Gardeners World' in 2018 will be Monty Don's campaign to reduce plastics' use in his garden.

With perfect timing, I welcome the news that WRHS is also reviewing its use of plastics. I note that the Trading Post is already phasing out plastic twine for natural jute around its bags of sand and grit.

As a coastal community we see plastic waste on the shore daily.



It won't decompose any time soon, and we can't send our plastic waste to China any more, but if we all make an effort, WRHS can play a prominent part in our local councillor's campaign to reduce plastic use in Wyke Regis.

David Wood (WRHS member, Whitehead Drive)



What about all those dead plastic plant pots lurking in your shed ?

Black plastic pots are said to be non-recyclable.

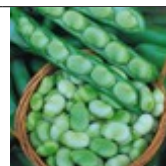
The **Pot to Product** organisation **was** collecting used plant plastic pots via participating garden centres, and recycling the material into new products. Alas, the price of plastic has dropped so much that it now costs too much to collect. We can still reuse **unbroken** plastic pots. When the market recovers, we hope to handle scrap pots also. Watch this newsletter for further information.

**Dwarf French Bean
Purple Teepee
50g 90p**



REBAGGED PEAS & BEANS

are very popular with WRHS Members - we buy seeds in bulk sacks and sell them in convenient amounts at very good prices. We are in the process of trying to source suitably stout paper envelopes to replace the plastic bags which we currently use.



**Broad Bean
Masterpiece
Green Longshaft
100g 80p**