

WYKE REGIS HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY



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

Founded 1925
Affiliated to the RHS & DFHS
President Mr Colin Giles

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

Price
10p

OPENING TIMES
WEDNESDAY 2pm – 6.30pm
SATURDAY 9.30am – 12.30pm

JULY 2017 NEWSLETTER

HORTICULTURAL TEAM NEWS

SLUGS !

Nemaslug is now in stock.

This is a natural, organic way to reduce the slugs in your soil. Nematodes occur naturally in all soil, but often not in sufficient quantities to control slug infestations.

They work by entering and feeding off the host slug, killing it.

They only affect slugs, so are completely safe.

Recent warm winters have produced more slugs than nature can manage. Nemaslug is a live culture that increases the quantity of nematodes in the soil for up to six weeks.

A second application may be required to address the cycle of hatching slugs.



One packet will treat 40m² and costs £12 (the very toxic blue slug pellets cost £6.40).



VINE WEEVIL

Nemasys is the natural way to control, vine weevil, especially in pots and planters.

These nematodes occur naturally in soil and compost. Vine weevils are those little white maggots eating the roots, causing your plants to wither and die.

The adult beetle is flightless and nocturnal: you can tell if you have them by the notches chewed out of the edges of leaves. The nematodes feed off the maggots, killing them.

One packet will treat 160 pots and costs £10.50.

You can safely eat fruit and veg treated with Nemasys, as they do not affect plants, nor are they dangerous to pets or children!

NEW LABELLING AT THE TRADING POST

The Trading Post uses an Electronic Point of Sale system on the till and most products carry a bar-code for this purpose. Putting price labels on plants has been a problem and caused delays at the till, but thanks to Dave's ingenuity, this may be solved. Plants owned by the Society now have bar-coded labels that state the price, e.g. Group A 40p, Group B 50p, etc.

Barcoding plants owned by Members and sold on their behalf will be more difficult, but we have a cunning plan !

It's still experimental, but here's how it works - the label shows the **price**, the seller's **Membership Number**, and a **barcode**.

The barcode identifies the price and the seller, so that the till can add up how much each Member has sold as it goes.

Some pots are too small for bar-coded labels (because the barcode reader cannot read round the curves!), so these will have T-labels instead.

If the experiment is successful, we shall barcode **all** Members' plants in future. We ask your forbearance as we experiment.

Your feedback would be appreciated.

The Horticultural Team horticulture@wrhs.org.uk

NEWS & EVENTS

The WRHS Summer Show

Saturday 15th July 2017

Many classes, not just in Horticulture. Schedule and Entry Form available at the Trading Post or the website <http://wrhs.org.uk/>

Donations of cakes & savouries would be appreciated.

SHOW VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

- Set up tables in the Scout Hut on Friday 14th at 3pm
- Kitchen / Café helpers (2 hour rota slots) on Saturday 15th
- Dismantle tables and clear up after 4pm on Saturday 15th

Email: enquiries@wrhs.org.uk

or speak to Rachel Waldock 01305 788705

WANTED!

Rhubarb...

Do you like pheasant? Have you any rhubarb?
A Member is willing to swap pheasant from his freezer for a supply of rhubarb!

If you are interested, please contact Carrie on generalsecretary@wrhs.org.uk

VOLUNTEERS' MEETING

Thank you for the good response to our plea for help in last month's Newsletter. There are many plans for the future of the Society and the Trading Post that we would like you to be involved in. There will be a meeting on

Tuesday 4th July at 7.30pm

in the Trading Post to explain the plans and discuss how to take them forward. Any members interested in volunteering are cordially invited to attend. Come along and see if there is something that you would like to help with.

Can you do basic examining of accounts ?

We are most grateful to Derick Howe, who for the past few years has acted as Independent Examiner of the Society's accounts.


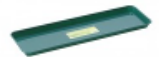

This will be the last year for which Derick will serve in this office.

Several of the General Committee members take on multiple jobs for the Society when important work needs to be done, but this is one task that no General Committee member can do - the Examiner **must be independent**, so we need a volunteer.

The plan is for the volunteer to sit in with Derick as he examines this year's accounts, to get the feel of the work.

If you have the necessary skills, please email either the Paul Clarke on treasurer@wrhs.org.uk or the Carrie Dalby on generalsecretary@wrhs.org.uk or leave a telephone message on 01305 759668

NEW PRODUCT LINES

Marker Pen Staedtler fine black £2.00 	Plant Ring Coated Steel 15cm £4.25 £2.50 	Plant Ring Coated Steel 23cm £4.75 £2.80 	Plant Clips Pack of 50 £2.75 £1.50 
Windowsill Tray Small £2.69 £1.55 	Hose Connector Waterstop £2.65 	Hose Connector Plain £2.25 	Raffia 50g bundle £2.49 £1.35 
Thermometer Wall £3.99 £2.15 	Thermometer Max/Min £17.25 £9.25 	3-Ply Jute Twine Natural 500g £4.99 £2.70 	3-Ply Jute Twine Green 500g £4.99 £2.70 
Q4 Tomato Feed 1 litre £7.25 £6.55 	Handy Tray Large £4.85 £2.80 	Indoor Water Can 0.7 litre £5.49 £4.45 	Flexi-Tub 26 litre £11.25 £6.10 

A RECIPE FOR JULY

Carrot and Courgette Muffins

Contributed by The Kitchen Gardener

Most people with vegetable gardens or allotments seem to have a glut of courgettes every year. There are many recipes for them, if you need inspiration for something different try the BBC Food website. These muffins are ideal for tea, lunch-boxes and picnics.

Ingredients

1 free-range egg
20g courgette, trimmed & grated
20g carrot, peeled, grated
1 heaped tablespoon raisins
2 tablespoon milk
1 tablespoon sunflower oil
75g plain flour
15g light soft brown sugar
1 teaspoon baking powder

Method

- 1 Preheat the oven to 220°C (450°F or Gas 7).
- 2 Line a nine-hole mini-muffin tray with muffin cases.
- 3 Beat the egg in a bowl, then stir in the grated courgette, grated carrot, raisins, milk and sunflower oil.
- 4 In a separate bowl, mix together the flour, sugar and baking powder.
- 5 Gradually stir the wet mixture into the dry mixture until sticky and well combined.
- 6 Divide the mixture among the muffin cases.
- 7 Bake in the oven for 12 to 15 minutes, until a skewer inserted into the centre of the muffins comes out clean.
- 8 Remove the muffins from the tray and set aside to cool on a wire rack.



HORTICULTURAL NOTES

COMPOSTING!

Now is a good time to make compost! As we harvest our produce and chop off the unwanted leaves, dead-head and Chelsea chop along the borders, there is plenty of greenery to save. Mix them well with lawn clippings and add a little soil to provide the bacteria. Sprinkle an accelerator between the layers and water well. **Accelerator?** Nitrogen...Hoof and Horn or Compost-maker...assists the rotting process. Cover it to keep it warm, but keep adding to the pile.

Lots of lovely plants at the Horti !



But plants need feed

YOUR PLANTS ARE HUNGRY!

To produce the profusion of leaves, flowers and fruits, your plants need food. What to give them?
























Nitrogen makes leaves, **Phosphorus** makes roots and flowers and **Potassium** (K) improves fruit and general plant health.

Check the N:P:K ratios to help you decide which fertiliser to use.

Growmore has an N:P:K of 7:7:7, so is a good "all round" plant food. Blood, Fish and Bone at 3:9:3 promotes roots and flowers, but less foliage. Hoof & Horn is 23:0:0 and Pelleted Chicken Manure is 4:2:1, so both are ideal for brassicas - cabbages and lettuce. Tomato Feed is 4:5:8 to enhance the fruit.

Regardless of the name on the label,
be it Rose Feed, Container Feed or Tomato Feed,
if it has the ratio you require, then it is the fertiliser for you.

WHAT TO DO THIS MONTH

-  Hoe surface weeds regularly before they become established. Deep rooted weeds should be dug out.
-  Watering should be done late in the day for best effect. Pay particular attention to newly planted shrubs.
-  Keep tubs and hanging baskets from drying out. Give liquid feed as necessary.
-  Perform regular dead-heading, to keep flowering plants in bloom longer.
-  Mulching, a few inches deep, on borders retains moisture and suppresses weeds.
-  Check clematis for signs of wilt.
-  Pick courgettes before they become marrows !
-  Treat apple scab.
-  Clear algae, blanket weeds and debris from ponds, taking care not to trap any pond-life.
-  Keep ponds topped up; if using tap-water, leave it to stand in a bucket or butt for a few days get rid of the chlorine.
-  Mow lawns at least once a week.
-  Give lawns a fast-acting summer feed, particularly if you forgot to give a spring feed.
-  Harvest apricots, peaches and nectarines - if you're lucky enough to be able to grow them !
-  Divide clumps of bearded iris.
-  Shade greenhouses to keep them cool and prevent scorch. The Trading Post has shade netting and paint.
-  Most perennial weeds are best dealt with in summer, while actively growing.
Small areas can be dug out; larger patches, or places where digging is difficult, should be treated with weedkiller.
-  Late-flowering border perennials in poor soil should be given a quick-acting feed before they bloom.
-  Scarlet lily beetle larvae can strip lily plants in days, so check regularly.
-  Vine weevils, greenfly & blackfly are all active at this time of year. Check plants and treat as necessary.
-  Dry weather favours powdery mildew on clematis, roses and Lonicera - be vigilant.
-  Sow spring cabbage, turnips, Oriental vegetables, chicory, fennel, autumn & winter salads.
-  Plant out leeks and brassicas for winter crops.
-  There is still just time to plant French beans and runner beans. The Trading Post has several varieties of each.



Remember to keep notes throughout the year - which varieties you plant, and when, and how well (or badly !) they fare. Take a few photos to go with your notes. If we all pool our experiences, we can all help each other. Local knowledge is worth more than the generalisations you can get from gardening books!

If you grow any food crops, please take part in research by Jill Edmonson of the University of Sheffield. See www.myharvest.org.uk or get more information from the Trading Post.

Remember to pick up your free copy of the July edition of Country Gardener and the Wyke Register from the Trading Post

WRHS WEBSITE

Alas, I have no progress to report on solving the problems with the new website. Unfortunately, my time has been fully occupied with tasks such as the annual stock-take, fixing problems with our ordering system and email accounts, as well as keeping up with all the day-to-day IT support tasks.

The new website wrhs.org.uk works correctly with the **Firefox** web browser running under various operating systems, but some browser / operating system combinations can't get past the front page. My thanks to Members who emailed webmaster@wrhs.org.uk to report problems. I hope to make time to tackle the browser access problem as soon as possible.

In the meantime, you may find it worthwhile to install **Firefox**, which is free of charge, and is available for MS Windows operating systems, and also, of course, for Linux.

Dave Best, webmaster (slightly short on mastery !)