

A Sanctuary from Covid



Allotments have existed for hundreds of years but most present day sites can be traced back to the industrialisation of the 19th Century or the two World Wars of the 20th Century, with their numbers peaking at 1,400,000 in 1943. After the 1950s, as demand for land suitable for housing increased and people grew accustomed to convenience food, their popularity declined but this trend is now reversing. There have been allotments at Sandridge Road since the 1930s and we are now the largest site in St Albans growing everything from apples to artichokes.

Allotments offer the opportunity to live more sustainably in a way that connects us to nature and improves both our mental and physical well-being. During lockdown our plots have been a refuge for us in so many ways, enabling us to connect with others and produce fresh fruit and vegetables that are healthier, tastier and better for the Planet! This last year has brought new challenges but it has also brought our community together which is now stronger and more resilient than ever!



The UK insect population is in serious decline and as allotments are biodiverse hotspots they have a very important role to play in helping to reverse the trend. Companion planting encourages pollinating insects to our plots and can help our vegetables to become more resilient to unwanted visitors. No-Dig gardening and allotment growing is also increasing in popularity due to its many benefits such as preserving soil life and quality and reducing backache!



Growing on our Plot...

Tromboncino

A fun to grow ornamental climber. Delicious eaten small as a courgette and stores well as a squash.

Purple Teepee Dwarf Bean

A pretty flower and pretty purple beans! Can be picked young and eaten early in salads. Looks and tastes good.

Dahlia Honka

Simple starlike yellow flowers that can be grown in pots to attract bees. Good for cutting

Sweetcorn Moonshine

Extra sweet and juicy, we consider this to be the best variety to grow, can also be eaten raw.

Northern Lights Leeks

A British bred leek with beautiful blue green leaves which turn deep purple during winter. Great flavour too!

Yellow Ponderosa Tomato

A medium sized juicy beefsteak tomato that keeps until Christmas!

Nasturtiums Tom Thumb

Grown for at least 100 years, loved by pollinators, good in salads and brighten up the plot!

Swiss Chard

A must underrated and good alternative to bolt. Long lasting, slow to bolt and looks good in herbaceous borders.

Blackberry Cascade

This is a new one for us, a tumbling blackberry for growing in a hanging basket. Thornless and long cropping, what's not to like?!

Thank you to all our Sponsors and Supporters who have helped us on this amazing journey...



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