

# Hackney Allotment Society

[www.hackneyallotments.org.uk](http://www.hackneyallotments.org.uk)

## Summer Newsletter 2007



Six new plots at Spring Hill have been created with the arrival of new fencing and a boundary change.

### NEW PLOTS AT SPRING HILL

Communal work day at the site, marking out the new plots.

## WAITING LIST MEMBERS....

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We currently have a waiting list of 247. The average time to wait for a plot is 3/4 years. The next lucky recipient is number 977 (depending on choice of site). The top 25 waiting list numbers are listed on the website. As the preference for plots in N16 is higher than in E5 sites, let Sue the Secretary know if you wish to change or extend your preferences [suecarling@waitrose.com](mailto:suecarling@waitrose.com)

Plots are very much in demand and if you really don't have the time or commitment to work your plot, please be fair to those on the waiting list.



*If you receive this by post it means we either don't have an email address for you or there was a failed delivery to the email address you have provided. Please email [secretary@hackneyallotments.org.uk](mailto:secretary@hackneyallotments.org.uk) with your up to date details to help us save on postage*

## SITE VISITS

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Site visits will take place in July this summer. Plots will be judged on creativity, variety of crops, most improved and productivity. All members are invited to attend the site visits, which start at 6.30pm on **Wednesday 4th July**. Please contact your site rep for an approximate arrival time at your site. Prizes will be announced at the AGM.

## OPEN DAYS

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We hope to hold open days at each site this July. Please watch the website for further details or contact your local site rep, details overleaf. One date for your diary;

**Aden Terrace SUNDAY 8th JULY 11am til 4pm**

## THE USE OF PESTICIDES

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Pesticides stand out as one of the major developments of the twentieth century. During the past twenty years, however, concern has arisen as

to the extent their presence in the environment poses a threat to wildlife and mankind.

Unfortunately, pesticides are poisons and can be particularly dangerous when misused. Fishkills, reproductive failure in birds, and acute illnesses in people have all been attributed to exposure to or ingestion of pesticides, usually as a result of misapplication or careless disposal of unused pesticides and pesticide containers.

Once applied to cropland, a number of things may happen to a pesticide. It may be taken up by plants or ingested by animals, insects, worms, or microorganisms in the soil. It may move downward in the soil and either adhere to particles or dissolve.

The pesticide which is on the leaves, skin, or other surface right after application is the deposit. Sometimes the deposit can be easily seen, as with dusts or wettable powders. At other times it cannot be seen with the naked eye. If the pesticide deposit remains on the surface for a period of time, it is called a residue. Some pesticides leave little or no residue. Heat, light, moisture, soil organisms, and other chemical reactions in the environment quickly break them down. Other pesticides are not quickly broken down. They leave a residue on the crop or in the environment for weeks, months, or years. Depending on how and where it is used, each pesticide will vary in how long a residue remains on the crop or surface. Therefore, information on residues is required on each crop the pesticide is applied to. Unfortunately, a pesticide may drift over from a nearby field and leave a residue on a crop or surface.

### RHS view

The RHS believes that garden chemicals should not be considered in isolation when tackling pests, diseases and weeds. Other approaches, involving cultivation practices, cultivar selection and encouraging or introducing natural enemies, should be considered as alternatives wherever possible before the use of chemical pesticides.

### The Garden Organic Charter

Garden Organic, formerly the HDRA, has adopted the following charter:

The whole environment is much more than the sum of its individual parts

The organic approach to gardening and farming recognises that the whole environment in which plants grow is much more than the sum of its

individual parts, and that all living things are inter-related and inter-dependent.

**Organic growing involves**

- Treating the soil and growing environment as a resource to be husbanded for future generations, rather than mined for short term gain.
- Providing plants with a balanced food supply by feeding the many soil living creatures that live with composts, manures and other organic materials.
- Choosing renewable resources, thereby creating a sustainable future.
- Reducing pollution of the environment, by recycling garden, household and other wastes, rather than dumping or burning them.
- Combating pests and diseases without using pesticides that may prove harmful to human health and that of domestic and wild animals.

- Encouraging and protecting wildlife, by creating suitable habitats and by minimizing use of harmful pesticides.
- Creating a safe and pleasant environment in which to work and play.
- Moving with the times - taking new scientific discoveries and ideas into account, as well as the best traditional knowledge.
- Using good horticultural practices.
- Recognising the importance of genetic diversity and hence the preservation of threatened plant varieties.
- The whole garden - flowers, trees, shrubs and lawns, as well as vegetables, fruit and herbs.

*Spring Lane and Springdale Road are the only organic sites in Hackney. All plot holders need to agree to conversion, please contact your site rep if you would like to abolish pesticides from your site.*

**Hackney Allotment Society committee**

<b>Chair</b>	Maggie Wilkinson	7249 5492	chair@hackneyallotments.org.uk
<b>Secretary</b>	Sue Carling	7254 8351	secretary@hackneyallotments.org.uk
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