

# HAHA

**Hungerford Allotment Holders Association**

Fact Sheet

**No 3**

## Guidelines and Information

### Caring for your allotment

The main requirement of your tenancy agreement is to keep your plot tidy by removing litter and rubbish, and controlling weeds regularly so they do not seed and cause problems for other gardeners. If you cannot manage to cultivate your entire plot, it is acceptable, as a temporary measure, to mulch part of it with plastic sheeting, geotextile membrane, organic mulch or cardboard to keep the weeds down (please make sure you weight them down adequately). Avoid use of carpet, especially rubber-backed, as the backing can rot down releasing harmful chemicals into the soil, causing pollution.

### What can you grow?

You can grow vegetables, flowers and fruit on your plot. You cannot plant trees (including fruit trees) on either site. However, it may be possible to grow step-over, cordon or espalier fruit trees in pots on your plot subject to the HAHA Committee's prior written approval.

### Gardening organically

If you would like local help or advice please contact the Hungerford Environmental Action Team (HEAT) [heat@hungerford.co.uk](mailto:heat@hungerford.co.uk). Nationally you can also join the Henry Doubleday Research Association [www.gardenorganic.org.uk](http://www.gardenorganic.org.uk) which is a national charity for organic growing and a mine of information.

### Pesticides and fertilisers

You can use pesticides and fertilisers on your plot but please use carefully.

Any chemicals must be legally approved for domestic use in the UK. You must also adhere to any regulations that cover their storage and use. For this reason please keep chemicals securely at home rather than on your plot or in the communal storage areas. You must also ensure that you do not harm or damage crops on neighbouring plots

### Water

On the Fairfield site rain water is collected in water butts for use throughout the year. At Marsh Lane a temporary water supply has been established, prior to the drilling of a permanent borehole supply.



Because water is such a precious commodity on both Hungerford sites, please use it sparingly and consider the needs of other allotment holders when watering your plot.

### Pets and livestock

You cannot keep any animals or livestock on your plot and pets, such as dogs, may not be brought on site. The only exception to this would be guide dogs.

## Friends and families

You are welcome to invite friends and family, including children, to visit your plot. Please remember that as the allotment holder, you are responsible for their behaviour whilst on site. Children must be supervised at all times.

## Sheds, greenhouses and polytunnels

A series of shared sheds are available for allotment holders to use at the Fairfield site and a communal container is available at Marsh Lane.



The leases for both sites prohibit the erection of any other structures. In the context of an allotment this relates specifically to sheds, greenhouses and polytunnels over 1m high.

Temporary, movable items such as bean poles, netting supports, compost heaps, cloches, cold frames, raised beds, benches, bins, water butts and portable tool stores can be used on site provided they are removed when you hand back your plot.

## Disposal of rubbish

It is your responsibility to remove all the non-compostable rubbish from your plot and the allotment site.

## Burning rubbish

Under the Environmental Protection Act 1990, it is an offence to emit smoke, fumes or gases which are a nuisance and smoke from bonfires can annoy neighbours and fellow plot holders.

At Fairfield only communal fires are allowed, organised through the Site Steward. At Marsh Lane please pick a time when the wind is not blowing in the direction of any neighbours. Do not burn green or damp materials or household rubbish as this will cause smoke. Never use petrol, methylated spirits or similar to light a fire.

Never leave a fire unattended and make sure you have some means of controlling it.

## Paths

HAHA is responsible for maintaining the hard surfaced paths at the Fairfield site.

At present the paths at the Marsh Lane site are rough, stony and uneven. Work to correct this will take place over winter. HAHA will be responsible for providing grass seed and maintaining the main central drive and perimeter strips, whilst allotment holders will be responsible for maintaining the minor paths adjacent to their plot. A communal mower will be available for the use of plot holders.

## Hedges, fencing and gates

Allotment holders must not remove, damage or prune any hedges or fences on allotment sites. If you believe a hedge is overgrown and should be cut back, please contact HAHA who will arrange for any necessary work to be done.

Fences have been erected at both Hungerford allotment sites. At the Fairfield site this is primarily for security, whilst the fencing at Marsh Lane is primarily rabbit and deer fencing. Please keep gates closed at all times and locked when the sites are unoccupied.

## Repairs and Enquiries

Have you spotted a damaged fence, leaking water tap or had difficulty opening the lock to a site? If so, please contact a HAHA committee member or the Site Steward at Fairfield to let us know and we will arrange the repair. You can email us at:

[chairman@haha-hungerford.org.uk](mailto:chairman@haha-hungerford.org.uk)  
[secretary@haha-hungerford.org.uk](mailto:secretary@haha-hungerford.org.uk)

or phone numbers as per the notice boards.