

GARDENING JOBS-APRIL

19 May, 2020

April is a great month, days are longer and temperatures are more constant this means it's great for growing! Now is the time to sow, dig and enjoy your garden.

We've been watering like mad making sure everything has a good supply. The seeds sown in February and March have been pricked off and moved to the cold frame and we have been having to go out in the early hours of the morning to water the cold frame and open it up so they don't overheat while searching high and low for slugs and checking the traps, been having issues with slugs since January under cloches! so it's been a constant battle. In this April newsletter we will spark your inspiration and hopefully, get you out in your garden and growing.

1. WEEDS IN THE GARDEN.

Now is the time to keep those weeds in check, all dormant seeds in the soil will have started to germinate and grow. Even the perennial ones such as dandelion will be beginning to flower already. Dig it out with all the roots intact or keep some to grow- read the tips section



Tip !! You can use dandelion root for coffee, roast the root in your oven, cut up into small pieces and use as coffee also use the leaves as salad. This plant is extremely high in vitamins and minerals and is sadly overlooked. younger perennial weeds with a tap root are harder to get out whole so be very delicate digging up to ensure you have all the root.

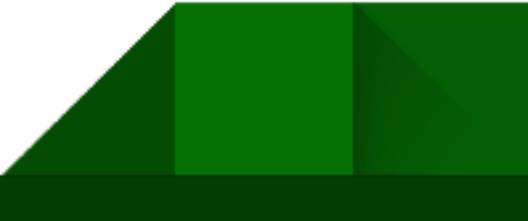
2. SOW MORE SEEDS!

When you grow vegetables is there ever a time you really stop doing this?

April is my favourite time to sow seeds. After spending all winter bulk buying squash, pumpkin, beans and courgette seeds now I can finally sow them, along with leafy salad seeds, herbs and flowers like marigolds, mesembryanthemums and Nigella.

Tips- we do videos on all things seeds and plants it's a new thing so you should check them out.

3. WILDLIFE NEEDS YOU. *This is a busy time for birds- the start of spring means the start of the nesting season. To help them along make sure you have a bird feeder with some seeds at the ready to help them power through.*



The bees are out and with them the wasps, there's not a lot out now for them to eat so help by placing out sugar water or honey. This keeps their energy levels up. To make some sugar water get a large pot, filled with one part water and two parts sugar.heat it up to dissolve the sugar into the water and ta-da you have the energy for the bees. if you're worried about frost then add some apple cider vinegar to it, about a tsp will stop it freezing.

Bug hotels.If you have spare wood lying about, cardboard, twigs, old bottles you can make a bug hotel! All you have to do is make a structure and fill it with bits of twigs, cones, canes to make a home for the bugs.



Tip- helping wildlife and enhancing biodiversity really improves your garden. If you attract birds then they can get the slugs, if you attract insects with a bug hotel you can get ladybirds and lacewings which all help you with the battle against greenfly.

4. DIG UP AND DIVIDE PERENNIALS,

If you have any in your garden such as hostas, helenium, daisies then now will be your last chance to dig them up and divide them. You know you need to divide them as when they age they get a 'hole' in the centre of them that looks like a bare patch in the middle of the plant.

To divide them, dig them out then get two forks to place back to back in the centre of the clump and push apart to separate. If you don't have the two forks then a spade to cut along the middle will work just fine or a handsaw.

5. FIGHTING SLUGS

As said this battle has been since January but only because we had cloches with broad beans growing in them. Some things that work pretty well to control them-

-
- Yeast traps or beer traps, What attracts slugs to beer traps is the yeast that's in it, instead of wasting good beer just use yeast. To activate it dissolve sugar into warm water then add the yeast. Put this mix into an old tin or cup and submerge into the soil at the target plants so the top is flush or just below the soil.
 - Ferric phosphate slug pellets. This is organic slug pellets it doesn't harm humans, pets or wildlife and is resistant to rain washing it away.
-