

East Reading Horticultural Society

NEWSLETTER

June 2020

Trading shed: Sat, Sun, Mon (Tue if Mon is a bank holiday) 09:30 to 11:00.

Wed evenings - April and May only - 18:30 to 19:30. Mobile number: 0738 463 2903.

Note: Shed helpers are not all young, big and strong so, if you need to get heavy items, please try to bring someone with you to help you with the lifting.

Web: www.erhs.org.uk

Facebook Group: "East Reading Horticultural Society"

Editor: Tel: 07794 233361, Email: ERHS@hotmail.co.uk

{Get your newsletter early (and in colour): ask to be added to the ERHS email list.}



1. PROGRAMME EVENTS



SATURDAY 6TH JUNE 2020

The Hidcote Manor trip has been cancelled. We intend to rearrange the two missed talks once things return to normality!

SATURDAY 12TH SEPTEMBER 2020 ERHS Autumn Show

104 days to go from 1st June.

Of course, we cannot be sure that the September show will be able to take place.

However, it won't do any harm to keep growing, cooking, photographing, etc. in hope!

The show schedule is available now in the shed, or you can email ERHS@hotmail.co.uk to request a copy. It is also on our web site to download.

2. TRADING MATTERS



Re-opening of the trading shed

The committee are very pleased to announce that the trading shed will be open for business during June using a revised timetable with an old fashioned payment system. CHEQUES ONLY PLEASE.

The shed steward will be there to total your goods and collect your cheque and will be seated at a table outside the shed. Please note that members will be able to use a wheelbarrow to collect their compost and take to their cars. There will be hand sanitiser spray available for each customer to use on handles.

June opening dates and times:

Wednesday evenings 6:30 to 7:30 pm
on 3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th

Saturday mornings 9:30 to 11:00 am
on 6th, 13th, 20th, 27th

Members can visit the shed, one at a time, using the small door as the entrance, to select and collect their goods and take them to the double doors to pay for them. At the moment, payment can only be made using a cheque.

We hope that members will take the opportunity to revisit 'an old friend' and we look forward to seeing you soon.

The committee send their good wishes to every member.

3. MISCELLANEA

Next Committee Meeting: Monday 10th August 2020. The June meeting has been cancelled.

New Membership Cards:

We are hoping to get the new cards during the first week in June so that copies should be available in the trading shed by Saturday 6th.

Soon after, they will be issued to distributors for delivery and collections of subscriptions, along with the usual bundle of paper copies of the newsletter. If you normally renew your membership via a local Distributor, please have your money (£3) ready.

IMPORTANT: If you are a distributor and cannot collect the subscriptions or deliver the newsletters, perhaps because you are shielding or self-isolating, please let Malcolm Iosson know a.s.a.p. on (0118) 986 1909.

Useful links (spotted by Ann Leslie, to whom thanks)

Compost - Many of you may be thinking of making your own compost. Here is a short Youtube guide by RHS's Rebecca Beavan.
<https://www.rhs.org.uk/videos/advice/making-compost>

How to plant a hanging basket - Sarah Raven from BBC's Gardener's World, gives a step-by-step Youtube guide in making your own personalised beautiful summer basket
<https://www.gardenersworld.com/how-to-grow-plants/how-to-plant-up-a-hanging-basket/> .

How does your garden grow?

With lockdown, many members may be proud about their results in the garden. If you have any photos you would like to share, please email them to ERHS@hotmail.co.uk and I'll try to add some to future newsletters or publish them on our web site. (Ed.)

Things to do this month



Outdoor plants

Remove all dead flower heads carefully from rhododendrons, and feed with an ericaceous plant food such as sequestered iron. Keep container grown plants well-watered.

Sow seeds of winter and spring bedding plants such as forget-me-nots, wallflowers, Brompton stocks and winter pansies.

Plant out summer bedding plants, ensuring the plants are well watered in, and kept moist during dry weather.

Remove dead and fading roses to encourage them to produce more flowers - bush, climbing roses and modern shrub roses should flower again this season. Feed them with a rose food at the manufacturer's recommended rates.

Tie in climbing and rambling roses as near to horizontal as possible. This restricts sap flow, stimulating more side shoots to along the stems, and producing many more flowers.

Water and feed all plants growing in pots and containers regularly - rain is never enough. Stand pots and containers in saucers during long periods of dry weather, as this will form a reservoir and help save water.

Fruit & vegetables

Tie in sweet peas as they grow to ensure they don't flop and break their stems. Feed them with liquid seaweed every 14 days to encourage good growth and remove all dead flower heads to keep the plants flowering.

Plant out frost-tender vegetables, including outdoor tomatoes and cucumbers. Keep young plants well-watered and watch out for any signs of slug damage.

Prune plums, peaches, nectarines and fruiting cherries. Pruning this month limits the risk of silver leaf and bacterial canker.

Continue pulling sticks of rhubarb until the end of the month, then let the plants grow naturally to recover their strength. Giving them a feed of Vitax Q4 or a mulch of manure will ensure a good crop next year.

Put straw or strawberry mats around strawberry plants, to help stop soil splashing onto the fruits. Now is also the time to cover crops with netting to reduce any bird damage.

Plant out runner bean plants or direct sow seed. Put up the support canes before planting and protect young plants from slug damage.

Fruit trees naturally shed surplus fruit this month, hence the term 'June drop'. Unless the crop is sparse, it helps to carefully thin fruits even further, so that the remaining ones grow larger and are of better quality.

Plant out young sweetcorn plants - these are best grown in blocks rather than a single row. Space plants 45cm (18") apart, keep them well-watered and feed regularly with liquid seaweed.

Transplant leeks and late Brussels sprouts to their permanent positions, for harvesting from January to March. Water and feed them regularly.

4. WANTED/FOR SALE/FREE

Members' advertisements are free of charge. Just telephone or email the editor (see newsletter heading.) [The copy deadline for the next newsletter is Sunday 28th June.](#)

Free to collector: Monkey Puzzle Tree. 60cm high, 90cm wide. Please call Helen (0118) 926 1537.

Free to collector: (Mum has given up gardening.) The following things may be of use to members:

Green plastic composting bin. Bulb planter. Two half-moon **hanging baskets** (type that are screwed to a wall/fence.) Seven **fleece hoops**. Kingfisher upright tomato/potato **grow-bag** (fill with your own compost.) 6m x 4m multi-purpose **garden netting**. 2m x 4m garden pond/crop **protection mesh**. Gardening **kneeler/seat**.

Please call Jacquie on 0781 736 7789.

Unless otherwise stated, where items are free, a donation to the Air Ambulance (when you next visit the trading shed) would be appreciated.