



A more digestible Guide to Jobs to do on the
Allotment in June

Composited off the Internet
By Gareth Richards

Fruit & Vegetable Growing Guide for June

Flaming June should bring us a hot sunshine filled month with the risk of frost passed and those in more northerly parts should be able to catch up with those in the south. We're also moving towards the longest day, June 21st being the summer solstice so there is plenty of daylight to let you get on with things. There is a lot to do in June but the rewards for our efforts are coming in the harvest.

June is the last month for sowing many crops as we pass the longest day and head downhill again. Planting out from successional sowings in modules and pots is maximising the use of your space but you are probably wondering where to fit things in by now. Don't be too precious about rotational plans, plans are great until they bump head with reality

Sowing & Planting in June on the Vegetable Plot

Direct Sowing

In dry weather draw your drill and water it well prior to sowing and then just water with a fine rose after to settle the seeds in.

Successional sowing each fortnight of beetroot, French beans, early carrots, kohlrabi, early peas, lettuce, rocket, turnips, endive, radish, spring onions will give you a constant supply of salads and vegetables at their peak for your plate.

French and Runner Beans

Maincrop peas

Beetroot

Carrots

Turnips

Swedes

Cauliflowers

Chicory

Endive

Kohlrabi

Sweetcorn

Squash

Courgette and Marrows

For growing instructions for vegetables see Vegetable Growing Guides & Information

Planting Out

If you follow my method of starting brassicas in pots, especially if you have clubroot, then it's time to plant out.

Broccoli

Calabrese

Brussels sprouts

Summer cabbage

Pot grown runner and dwarf beans should be safe to plant out now as the danger of frost should be past. Outdoor tomatoes can also go into their final position. Don't just move them straight from the greenhouse or they'll be checked. Use a cold frame to condition them or move them back into the house at night for a few days before they go into the big wide world.

Your leeks may well be ready now, about pencil thickness. I like to plant mine as a follow on to the early potatoes which will be up by the end of the month. When transplanting leeks don't follow the old advice of chopping the top foliage and roots back, it doesn't do any good.

Cultivation, Pests & Problems

Most likely (hopefully!!) you'll need to water if the weather is dry and bright. Don't just lightly sprinkle each day, it helps pests like slugs and encourages shallow rooting. Water when the soil is dry a few inches below the surface (stick your finger in to see) thoroughly – about 10 litres per square metre. This should last at least a week of hot, dry weather.

Watch out for slugs & snails. Whether you use pellets, traps, biological controls or just pick them off doesn't matter as long as you keep on top of the problem

The butterflies are about now as well. Beautiful as they are, check the undersides of your brassica leaves for the yellow or white eggs that will hatch into caterpillars and devastate the plant. You can squash them, wipe or wash them off easily at this stage.

Fruit

If we do get a prolonged dry spell, don't forget that that fruit bushes and trees need watering. Swelling apples and currants need water as much as leafy vegetables. Once again, give a good soaking rather than little sprinkles that encourage surface rooting.

In June apples have the "June Drop" where the tree drops excess fruit. After this it is worth thinning out if the branches are still overcrowded. Tie in blackberry canes as they grow and check netting, fruit cages etc have no access for the birds.

When you've had the last rhubarb, give them a good feed by mulching with well-rotted manure mixed with compost or an artificial like growmore to enable them to build strength for next year.

In the Greenhouse / Polytunnel

Keep pinching off the side shoots with your tomatoes and keep an eye out for pests such as aphids, whitefly, red spider mite.

If you are subject to attack by these pests it is worth checking out biological controls as these are perfectly safe to use and, used correctly, more effective than traditional chemical controls. Many of the chemical controls of the past are no longer available anyway so the organic alternatives are now the mainstream choice.

Growing in a Polytunnel in June

What to sow, plant and harvest from your polytunnel in June

June is one of my favourite months in the tunnel or greenhouse. The majority of crops are planted by now and the responsibility of watering your seedlings every day is nearly over. You can enjoy tending your crops and observe how they develop. There is also a relatively decent range of crops ready to harvest.

Sowing in the polytunnel

Direct sowing into beds in the polytunnel

In June your tunnel or greenhouse is most likely to be full of crops and there is no space for sowing crops direct. Generally you'll be much better off raising plants in modular trays as you gain at least four weeks of valuable growing space.

Planting into beds in the polytunnel

You can still plant out all your summer crops such as tomatoes, peppers, chillies, aubergines, basil, courgettes, cucumbers, melons, and sweetcorn especially if you have well-established plants. Even if it is on the late side for some of these crops, you will still get a decent yield from them.

Sowing into modules/pots (18–20°C)

You can still sow a range of vegetables into modular trays. There will always be crops harvested, beds cleared and space available. So even if your tunnel or greenhouse is full at present there will be space in four to six weeks when your new transplants are ready to plant.

For planting inside

Basil (Sweet Genovese) – 4 seeds per cell

Chinese cabbage (Yuki F1) – 1 seed per cell

Courgette (Defender F1) – 1 seed per 7cm pot

Cucumber (Passandra F1 & Styx F1) – 1 seed per 7cm pot

Coriander, Dill and Chervil – 5 seeds per cell each

French beans (climbing and dwarf) – 5 seeds per 9cm pot

Florence fennel (Rondo F1) – 1 seed per cell

Lettuce (various types) – 1 to 3 seeds per cell

Pak Choi (Joi Choi) – 1 seed per cell

Parsley (curly and flat leaf) – 4 seeds per cell

Scallions (Ishikura Bunching) – 10 seeds per cell

Harvesting from the polytunnel

In June you will get a lot of produce from your tunnel or greenhouse:

Beetroot, cabbage, carrots, chervil, coriander, courgette, dill, French beans, kohlrabi, lettuce, peas, potatoes, radish, salads (any), scallions, spinach, strawberries, turnips.

If you are lucky enough and live in a favourable area you may already get some tomatoes and cucumbers. Unfortunately my tomatoes only start to ripen from July onwards.

General greenhouse/polytunnel maintenance

Water more frequently and more heavily now, probably about two to three times per week.

Ventilate as much as possible.

Weekly maintenance for summer crops: side-shooting and training tomatoes, cucumbers and melons. You should also remove the lower discoloured or diseased leaves.

Keep a watch out for pests, especially whitefly on tomatoes, aphids on salads and fleabeetle on brassica salads.

Spray aphid susceptible plants with a garlic or seaweed spray every seven to ten days.

Remove weeds as they would compete with your plants.

Prick out and pot on plants as necessary.

How to Contact the Editor

If you have comments or you know I have given wrong advice then please contact me by email at

info@yeovil-allotments-association.co.uk

If you have something to contribute or have a say on allotment life, then please use my email to send your contributions.

I am going to process the magazine issue once a month, so if there are comments you would like to make they can be answered in future editions.

I would like to add that most of the articles are taken off the web and some well known gardening and allotments magazines have been read in the making of our magazine content.

We also have our own website at :

www.yeovil-allotments-association.co.uk

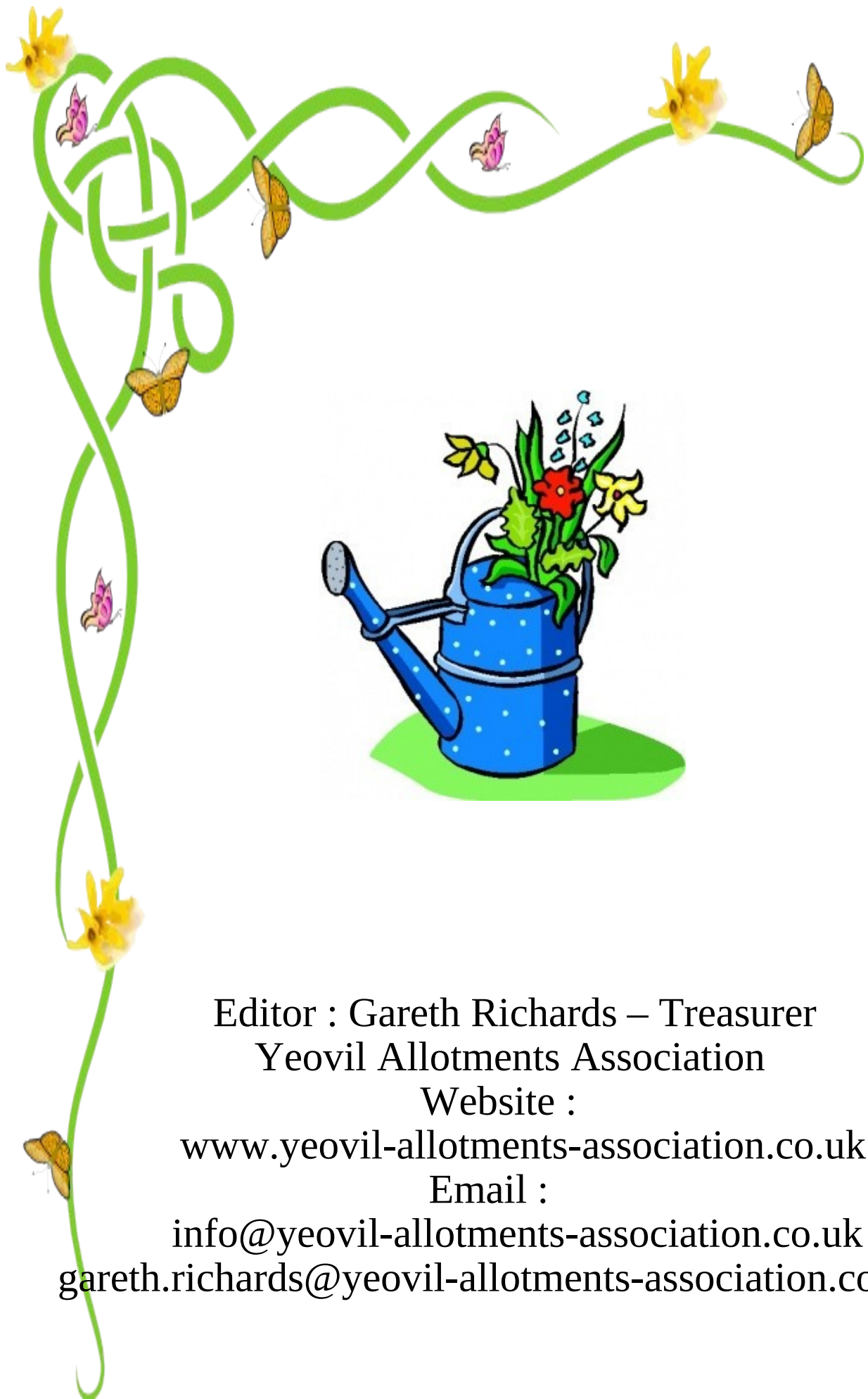
where you can find this magazine as well as a catalogue

Happy Allotmenting and best wishes,

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