

# Hope allotments blog – May 2022



April started with a wintery flurry of snow and sleet and was very changeable with some nice sunny days and plenty of April showers. Later in the month it became very dry and we had to water all the plots which can be a bit of a chore as we are not allowed hoses or pumps after one of the allotment holders abused the provision of mains water. There's always one person who ruins it for everyone else! May continued to be very dry although it has meant that we have been able to get the plots ready for sowing and haven't been rained off for some time.



A huge thank you to the team from Levis who worked like Trojans building a glasshouse, relocating two poly tunnels to the new eco therapy area, building a shed, weeding, planting and painting and they all seemed to enjoy themselves!

## **Department of Environment, Food & Rural Affairs - Metaldehyde for use against slugs**

From 31 March 2022 Metaldehyde is no longer to be used as a control for slugs. Small quantities of the product for gardens should not be disposed of at home and can be disposed of through local authority waste facilities.

This decision takes into account advice from the UK Expert Committee on Pesticides (ECP) and the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) about the risks that Metaldehyde poses to birds and mammals

While slugs can cause significant damage to farmers' crops and gardeners' plants, pesticides containing ferric phosphate can provide effective control without carrying the same risks to wildlife as metaldehyde slug pellets.

Alternative methods of pest control also include cultural techniques like planting slug resistant crop varieties, selectively timing irrigation and harvest and sowing seeds more deeply into the soil.

### **The healing garden at the Catholic Cathedral in Northampton.**



We completed the healing garden in time for the opening date of Sunday 15 May and the ceremony went well despite light rain showers so if you're passing drop in and see it.

### **Looking forward to June:**

June is the end of spring leading into summer and although it can still be cold and wet there is the promise of good weather to come. Crops start becoming ready to use with broad beans and first early potatoes amongst the first to be harvested. Other stalwarts are Rhubarb and of course lettuce.

We are hoping to start our veg box scheme in collaboration with the Catholic Cathedral café which will act as the pick-up point. If you are interested please E-mail us at [gardening@northamptonhopecentre.org.uk](mailto:gardening@northamptonhopecentre.org.uk) for more details and prices.

We welcome Kezzabelle, the current Bard of Northampton to the team helping with on the eco-therapy project with Susana. See <https://www.kezzabelle.co.uk/>

### **Finally,**

Continuing with our explanations of plant names.

The name Edulis means edible and indicates a plant which is regularly used as food such as *Passiflora edulis* or passion fruit.



Have a happy gardening month and see you in June.

## **Joe - the Hope gardener**