



Horsforth Community Garden Newsletter Spring 2025

One of the important jobs in the spring is to feed the soil in the raised beds so that we are able to grow crops successfully this year. The compost bins were filled with garden material during last summer and in the autumn we layered them with fresh manure, which has all rotted down nicely to produce a valuable mulch. We also have mushroom compost and leaf mould and are planning to collect compost made from the contents of Leeds brown bins. Feeding the soil with organic matter is the most important thing we can do as gardeners. A healthy soil produces healthy crops, higher in nutrition and more able to withstand predators.

Now that the spring is here we can begin to sow vegetable seeds for the summer. This year some of vegetables we plan to grow are: Broad Beans, Courgettes, Cabbage, Sweetcorn and Lettuces



WHAT TO DO IN THE GARDEN IN SPRING

If you do not have a greenhouse or windowsill then now is the time to sow outdoor half hardy and hardy annuals, herbs, salads and wildflowers.

Protect tender plants and blossom from late frosts by covering with a fleece, a cloche, bark or straw

Keep weeds under control so that they do not swamp your seedlings



WELLNESS SUMMIT
JUNE 15, 3PM

GARDENING WITH NATURE

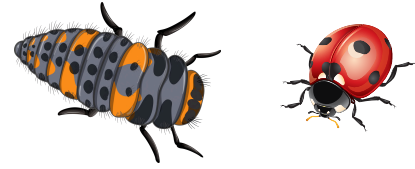


APHIDS: There are many types of aphids but generally they are the little greenflies and black flies which smother both your vegetables and your garden flowers.

They suck the sap from the plants and cause the plant to weaken, become distorted and sticky. In our Community Garden we do not advocate using insecticides, instead try squashing them between your fingers or using companion plants.

REMEMBER They are part of the food chain for many other species such as the ladybird and the blue tit.

GARDEN WILDLIFE



The little chap you see here is a Ladybird larva. You will find it crawling in amongst your plants from March to September and it is definitely a good friend and ally because it loves to feast on greenflies and blackflies.

DO NOT SQUASH IT

WAYS TO ENCOURAGE WILDLIFE IN YOUR GARDEN IN THE SPRING

Sow annuals and half hardy border plants and grow perennials and herbs that will attract the bees, hoverflies, beetles, wasps, moths and butterflies.

Some suggestions for you: Marigolds, Cosmos, Night Scented Stock, Cornflower, Nigella (Love in a Mist) Marjoram, Thyme, ornamental onions, Chives, Lavender.

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO HEEL IT IN?

If you have a bare rooted plant that cannot be planted in your garden immediately, then take off the outer packaging and soak the roots in water for a one to two hours.

Create a V shaped trench in the soil large enough for the plant to sit in the ground comfortably.

Cover the roots with enough soil to keep them moist and very gently use your heel to press down to firm up the soil around the plant.

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Garden News: In January we were delighted to be awarded the Heart of Horsforth Award Horsforth Town Council for our work in the Garden.

Come and see us at 10.30 on 22nd March The Lord Mayor of Leeds will come and officially open the gardens.

Join us in the Garden: Weather permitting we meet every Thursday afternoon from 1.30pm to work in the Garden. If you would like to join us you would be very welcome.

