

Spring 2017

Welcome

SDCC Inaugural Allotment Newsletter

South Dublin County Council welcomes you to our first allotments newsletter. It will be a bi-monthly communicate to keep you updated and connected with news, tips

& photos of our shared interest in growing, promoting & fostering thriving allotment environments in South Dublin.

Using allotments to dispose of domestic refuse, household waste, wooden frames, broken toys and appliances is not permitted, it is neither acceptable nor in the spirit of the allotment community.



The benefit of our allotments can be seen and recognised in the faces of the diverse group of people who rent and use them. These include men and women who are still working, retired, unemployed, disabled, young, those going through trauma in their lives, people from most corners of Ireland and many different parts of the world.

South Dublin County Council has plans to provide more allotment sites in Corkagh Park, Tymon Park and in Lucan, which will deal with the waiting list for sites. In the meantime, an audit of the existing sites and the waiting list is being conducted to determine the future sites that will be needed and what facilities should be provided in them.

The partnership with the South Dublin Allotments Association (SDAA) has been of crucial significance in understanding the reality and requirements of the allotment holders. It was also a partnership that, with the support of the EU LEADER programme, secured funding for the Friarstown allotments extension a few years ago. Let your voice be heard through the SDAA.

Friarstown Enhanced

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You will have noticed the recently planted hedging: Beech, Whitethorn, Holly, Weigelia, Alder, Hazel & some Crab Apple, Oak, Scots Pine, Blackthorn & Birch.



This is all thanks to your very own local, South Dublin Allotment Association's sterling efforts in securing welcome funding to encourage biodiversity at South Dublin's prime allotment site situated in Friarstown.



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Composting

A valuable asset

All green waste is recyclable and can be composted. It takes a bit of effort, but if you are "one of the ones" who buys seed compost every year, then here is the alternative. Build yourself a compost heap!



Use the old bucket method, take all the weeds and place them in a bucket, half filled with water, cover and leave for a few weeks, they will break down and the resulting liquid (somewhat smelly) can be diluted and used as a liquid feed.

Alternate between green & brown waste, put in a layer of green which are all allotment plants, its best to chop up the thick brassica stalks to about 2 inch, then alternate with a layer of

brown waste. Brown waste is leaves, straw, twigs, bark, newspaper (tear into strips). Control the moisture in the heap, cover with an old carpet - too much water will result in a soggy smelly mess.

Keep it moist, don't let the heap dry out. Turn the heap regularly. The success will be on returning what was green waste material to the soil as nutrients and if you are really successful, after sifting the material can be used as top grade seed compost.



Instructions:

Four posts, at least 1.5 m. place them 1 m. apart & ram into the soil.

Nail several timbers horizontally to the uprights - leave alternate spaces between the timbers, across the back, right & left sides to the height of the upright and nail some timbers half way up on the open side of the heap.



Laugh a Little

*Why do potatoes make good detectives?
Because they keep their eyes peeled.*

*What do you call a stolen potato?
A hot potato?*

We'll be back in May'17, send us your news!

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