

SNAPE GARDENING CLUB - NEWS



ISSUE NO 35 | MAY 2025 |

What a beautiful start to May and to be surrounded by everything "Spring".....it certainly cheers the soul. The longer days are bringing the marvel of pottering in the evening and the soil is warming and everything is growing in abundance. This month there are some pointers for deterring the bugs and ensuring that our watering schedules are being optimised.....the jobs for the month list gives you all the pointers you need.....there are some suggested days out.....and a pictorial journey of all our Spring sights.....happy reading everyone x

WHAT'S INSIDE THIS MONTH'S ISSUE.....

- SPRINGING AROUND
- PROPAGATION QUIZ
- JOBS TO DO

PLUS SO MUCH MORE...



BE WATER WISE.....Our local reservoirs are almost 15% lower than average & if historical meteorological patterns follow the trend, then this Summer will be a scorcher, & with the dry Spring the gardens are already being supplemented.....

so let's be water wise!

Water early to mid morning to reduce evaporation

Water deeply so that it soaks to the roots. Leaves may wilt, but the plant stands a much better chance of survival if the roots are watered well.....the take up is by the root NOT the leaves!

In the flower/perennial garden – Start with 1st year perennials to help with their root development, any plant that appears to be struggling comes next & then the remainder.

Watering in an evening can encourage the slugs & snails to come out to feast!

MULCH
MULCH
MULCH



On the veg patch - Prioritise your watering – seeds, then seedlings, then salad crops (to reduce the risk of them bolting) then the remainder of the plot.

Get your waterbutt ready!

Use greywater from the house.....collect & use within 24 hours!

Know your soil type – A heavier clay soil will drain more slowly than a sandy soil.



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Send us a photo, recommend a place to visit or have a query we'll do our best to help.....

- GIVE IT A TRY -

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Do you know the answer?

Fill in the blanks to reveal different methods of propagation...

- a) S_M_ R__E
C__T__G?
- b) L_Y_R__G?
- c) D_V_S__N?
- d) S__I__ _R__T_N_
- d) T__N S__L__?

(answers on the next page)



NEXT CLUB MEETING – WED MAY 21ST 7.30 pm

The wonderful Joe Lofthouse, edibles & nursery leader at RHS Harlow Carr, returns to talk about **“improving your fruit & veg growing”**.....a talk for novices to show standard.....send your questions to David for an experts advice on the night!

BIG CONGRATULATIONS to club member Nick Imeson who achieved a 2 star award in the creative border category at the Harrogate Spring Flower Show.....well done Nick



Remember folks.....“NEVER CAST A CLOUT UNTIL MAY IS OUT”

The forecast for the next week shows that some chilly spells and frosty nights could be coming our way.....don't be fooled by this hot start we've had.....make sure you have some protection ready if the weather charts



cool!

DAYS OUT AND ABOUT IN MAY.....

1. Something a little different at Shandy Hall, Thirsk Bank YO61 4AD.....open from 18.30-20.00 an evening opening due to the garden attracting over 450 species of moth!! 16th May
2. The azaleas & rhododendrons are spectacular up at The Hutts Himalayan Gardens, Grewelthorpe
3. Harlow Carr are showing trilliums and bluebells in the woodland areas and drumstick primulas, anemones and rhododendrons on the terraces.....**Dont forget the club RHS membership card available via David.**



As April bows out with a sunny smile & May takes centre stage with a flourish, the garden centre is packed with all the season has to offer. Our benches become increasingly vibrant & eye-catching as each week we welcome back our favourite bedding & perennial plants & say "hello" to some newcomers too. May's palette of colour & fragrance could make you feel quite giddy, but for down to earth growers we have plenty of vegetable & herb plants as well as cucumbers, peppers & tomatoes. It's not too late to plant Summer-flowering bulbs such as begonias and dahlias or to get those seed potatoes in. For those inclined to a bit of instant gardening we will have plenty of lovely planted hanging baskets too.



News Flash!

We are excited to announce that from 10th May we will be stocking Dalefoot's organic, peat-free **Wool Compost for Potting and Lakeland Gold.**

- Wool Compost is a blend of bracken, comfrey and sheep's wool, from the Lake District. Bracken provides naturally high levels of potash, essential for fruiting and flowering, and significant levels of iron and magnesium to nourish strong healthy plants. Comfrey is also packed with nutrients, providing high levels of potassium, phosphorus and nitrogen. Sheep's wool ensures good water retention, due to its natural hydroscopic properties, and naturally high levels of nitrogen. As proteins in the wool break down, nitrogen is gradually released, acting as a slow-release fertiliser.
- Lakeland Gold is described as a 'clay-buster' and is a wonderful product for top dressing and Spring and Autumn mulching and also for planting out trees, shrubs, perennials and vegetables. It conditions soil, breaks down clay and feeds naturally for two years.

Dead head Spring bulbs
– let the foliage die back
& then apply liquid feed.

Ventilate the greenhouse
& damp down the floor on
hot days.

Harden off ½ hardy plants – put
them out in the day & bring them in
at night for about 10 days.

Start regular
container feeding –
every 2 weeks with a
balanced liquid feed.

**Tie in
clematis...sweet
peas & climbing
roses.**

**Trim spent aubretia
flowers to encourage an
new flowers.**

Cut back flowered
choisya shoots to
promote an Autumnal
flush.

Trim lavender –
cutting off old
flowers & 1"
(2.5cms) of current
growth (not into old
wood)

Look out for black spot on roses
and spray if affected.

Harvest asparagus spears.

APRIL JOBS TO DO.....

Protect against carrot fly –
either by netting or have a
read of the companion
planting article.

**Hang pheromone
traps in apple &
stone fruit trees to
reduce the risk of
moth attack.**

Get
supports
in for
pea
plants.

Thin out direct sown
veggies.

**Remove pond weed and
thin out pondside
perennials.**

Weed and feed the lawn.

COMPANION PLANTING..... This is the method of planting
different species together to benefit each other in a diverse & healthy
garden ecosystem.

BENEFITS:- PEST CONTROL...POLLINATOR

ATTRACTION...IMPROVE SOIL HEALTH...DISEASE

RESISTANCE...ENHANCED GROWTH

Here's a quick guide to giving it a go.....

BRASSICAS

Nasturtium
& Mint

Nasturtiums are used
as a sacrificial crop,
cabbage white
butterflies lay eggs &
keep caterpillars away
from brassicas.

CARROTS

Spring onions,
Chives & Mint

Chives, mint, garlic,
deter aphids, flea
beetles, whitefly &
blackfly. Spring onions
deter carrot fly &
carrots deter onion fly!

ROSES

Mint, Garlic
and Salvias

Basil deters aphids &
improves the tomato
flavour!

TOMATOES

Basil &
French
Marigolds

SOFTWOOD CUTTINGS

**The cutting is taken from the
new, soft, green growth of
plants.**

Trim below a leaf node taking a
cutting 5-10cms long
Remove the lower leaves, pinch
out the soft tip.

Insert the cutting into the pot,
filled with compost upto the 1st
pair of leaves.

Label & water the pot.

Cover with a plastic bag (not
touching the cutting) & uncover
for at least 10 minutes a
week.

Place in good light (not direct
sun).

Keep compost moist & it should
root within 2-4 weeks.

Works well for- penstemon,
pelargonium, hydrangea,
lavender, and others!



It's time to sit back and wander through the wonderful collection of Spring photographs that you have shared for us all to enjoy..... there are so many.....part 2 next month!.....thank you x

