

Having a plot at Croftburn allotments

Congratulations, you now have stewardship of a Croftburn allotment plot to grow your own vegetables, fruit and flowers.

What to do first? Please read the Rules and Constitution.

Next decide what you would like to grow. Consult your family on their preferences. Potatoes will fill your plot and be very productive but there are other options for you.

Consider what is expensive in the shops but easy to grow. Also read the information on the back of seed packets, it's there for a reason.

What layout would you like to make your plot? Take measurements and draw designs out on paper before taking a spade to the soil. It will save time later in the cultivation year. Make room for one or more compost bins.

How much time do you need to spend on your plot? It is recognised that you need to spend a minimum of two hours every week to keep your plot productive.

Growing something to eat should give you pleasure, your plot could be your hobby, or your life, in any sense it should lighten rather weigh down your life.

Good preparation of the soil will pay dividends when you start to grow crops. We are a new allotment site, so your plot may never have been cultivated and could have a clay sub soil. Try to remove as many of the annual and perennial weeds as you can. But don't throw these away. They can be added to your compost bin.

What condition is your soil? Is it acid or alkaline? There are soil tester kits in the cabin, feel free to use them to test your soil.

Also in the cabin are some communal tools. However you will want to buy some of your own. Don't scrimp on cost. Well-made tools will last far longer than pound shop purchases.

There is a reading list on our web page and all the books are available to borrow, free, from Glasgow Libraries. These books are crammed with information for experienced as well as new plot holders.

Also introduce yourself to other plot holders and ask their advice. Plot holders are always willing to share, or should that be dispense, advice!

You will learn by the traditional method, of trial and error. Not every sowing is a success, not every vegetable looks and tastes as expected. It will always be an ever learning circle.

A warm welcome from all plot holders at Croftburn and good growing.