

### **Cultivation and Allotment Use**

The primary purpose of an allotment is for the cultivation and growing of vegetables, fruit, herbs and ornamental flowers (the “allowable crops”). Your allotment must be used for this purpose.

Plots must be fully cultivated and weed free. This is a basic requirement. The Council and the Haringey Allotment Forum have decided to be more definitive about what is acceptable as “fully cultivated”. Our agreed standards are as follows:

#### **Full cultivation, definitions and allowable crops**

The cultivated area is defined as being cultivated for the production of the “allowable crops” and will be a minimum of 75% of each individual plot. The 75% of each plot available for open cultivation should be fully cultivated within a complete growing season. This area includes compost bins, greenhouses, polytunnels, fruit cages, water butts and internal plot paths no more than 60cm or 2 foot wide.

The remaining 25% of any plot will include sheds, lawns, ponds, large uncultivated areas under fruit trees and any other ground not being used for cultivation e.g. wildlife areas. Conserving wildlife is an important function of allotments but an uncultivated area just left to go wild is not acceptable on any part of a plot. Internal plot paths will be included in this area if they are wider than 60cm or 2 foot in width unless required to be wider as a reasonable adjustment under the Equalities Act 2010.

Full cultivation is considered to mean at least one of the following:

1. The plot is in readiness for growing.
2. The plot is well stocked with growing produce relevant to the time of the year.
3. The plot is in the process of being prepared for the “allowable crops” or season.

#### **Uncultivated and neglected plots**

It is recognised that taking on an allotment can be a big commitment. You must keep the allotment in good cultivation, keep weeds under control and maintain the soil in a healthy and fertile state at all times. Any plot where ground is annually cleared of weeds but not used for crop production for a period of 6 months or more will be deemed to be un-cultivated.

One of the most difficult issues for the Council and Site Associations is issuing letters where plot holders have not achieved the cultivation standards. The Council and Site Associations do their utmost to apply the standards fairly and recognise that every tenant has his/her own personal circumstances that impact on and can influence their ability to attain the agreed standards. However, it is acknowledged that allotment sites have to be managed in a professional way and that every plot holder has to share that responsibility.

If you cannot commit the time necessary and you are struggling to keep your plot cultivated, talk to the Allotment Coordinator or Site Secretary or Site Association member or write to them at the earliest opportunity.

#### **Probationers**

On taking up a plot Probationers will be expected to commence cultivation of the plot immediately. You will be expected to have achieved at least 50% cultivation within the three month probation period subject to the size of the plot, the state of the plot taken over and weather conditions. During this period you must demonstrate continuous progress towards full cultivation as a condition of being given the tenancy at the end of the probation period.