

JUNE

A month for monitoring and watching but a very busy one!

- PRUNE** the following shrubs after flowering: ribes, lilac, spirea, broom, philadelphus, weigela. Cut oriental poppies back hard. Deadhead roses, and in fact all spent flowers to prolong show of blooms.
- SOW** hardy annuals/perennials/biennials, such as wallflowers, pansies, bellis daisies, lupins, aquilegias, foxgloves. Continue to direct-sow annuals, beans, peas and salads (see 'Catch Crop' and 'Successional Sowing' below). A tip – pour boiling water over parsley seeds to promote germination.
- PLANT** when hardened off, tender bedding is ready for planting. Plant sweetcorn in blocks to ensure free passage of air between plants and help pollination. Also plant cabbages, dahlias and summer bulbs.
- FEED** tomatoes weekly, checking to remove side shoots. Water them regularly to prevent blossom-end rot, which is caused by calcium deficiency. Calcium is very likely present in your soil but the plants need consistent watering for its transmission to the fruit: this applies to many plants that produce fruits.
- PROTECT** strawberries with mats or straw, taking the opportunity to layer runners. Cover soft fruits with horticultural fleece or netting which is pinned down.
- MAINTENANCE** Stake plants, position plant supports, trellis and obelisks. Mow lawns weekly. Apply greenhouse shading to clean glass if not already done, and open greenhouse vents and windows as required.

GARDEN GUIDANCE

CATCH CROP – the answer to bald patches where your planting and crops have come to their natural end – about now - and to increase garden production: fork over the area, removing the plants, level the ground and sow quick-maturing crops such as spring onions, radish, lettuce and French beans.

SUCCESSIONAL SOWING - Some vegetables and soft and salad produce cannot be stored for later use, and to provide a continuing supply, it is necessary to sow short rows every few weeks. Use a mix of early and late maturing varieties to give a long harvesting period from a single sowing.

WATERING - Only water new plantings, unless of course we are in a drought.

JUNIORS' JOBS FOR JUNE

Do you have a spare one metre square patch where a **pollinator patch** can be created? Packets of poppy, allium and marigolds, and anything else you might have taken as seeds, will provide interest and excitement when, having planted them out, watered them, and watched them grow; you will see the bees, moths, butterflies, flies and other insects taking nectar. Add a shallow, flat dish of water for them to drink but not so deep that they drown!