



Newsletter

Welcome to the new-look FEDAGA Newsletter. We hope you like it.

This is the first edition of what we at FEDAGA hope will be a regular bulletin of news and opinion of interest to all in the Edinburgh allotment community. You are receiving it because you have signed up to our Mailing List.

Up until now the paper Newsletter has been printed and mailed out on a biannual basis. Due to escalating costs we have had to look again at how we communicate. The irregular e-mails sent out via the [website](#) have left a lot to be desired in terms of presentation. If you read them: congratulations on your perseverance!

Feedback is welcome. Contact FEDAGA at committee@fedaga.org.uk



The 7th Annual Bridgend Potato Day

Come along and celebrate all things Tattie with Bridgend Growing Communities.

On Sunday 24th February from 11am to 3pm there will be a wide variety of seed potatoes for sale, tips and advice on growing and cooking, refreshments and entertainment. Entrance is free - all welcome. [Find out more here.](#)

Seed Swap Sunday



After you've secured your tubers head over to [Gorgie City Farm](#) to participate in Seed Swap Sunday, The day will include a variety of stalls, talks and children's activities as well as the community seed-swap. Bring seeds to swap (in labelled envelopes, please) or make a 50p donation per packet. [Further details here.](#)

The number 38 bus runs between the two venues.

FEDAGA Seed Potatoes coming soon



Our Trading Secretary says that the seed potato order has unfortunately been delayed. It is hoped that it can be reorganised for Saturday 2nd March. Onion sets and hessian sacks will also be distributed to site representatives on that day. Those attending on behalf of their sites will be given more specific details nearer the time. Remember the FEDAGA Shop at Inverleith (West Gate) will be open every Sunday in March and April from 2 to 3.30pm for seed potatoes, onion sets, root trainers, fertilisers, lime, etc.

Want to appear on BBC TV Gardening Show?



The BBC are looking for couples who produce their own produce and are adept at converting it into delicious food. [Further details here.](#)

Growing new gardens in Edinburgh



Linda Arthur of Wester Hailes Health Agency.

Hundreds of residents living in tenements and high-rise tower blocks will be given access to their own community gardens at no cost, under a new project aimed at making better use of council land. Greenspace in the Calders, Dumbryden, Murrayburn and Hailesland neighbourhoods, owned by Edinburgh City Council, will be turned over for use as garden hubs and private plots as part of the Edible Estates scheme in partnership with the Wester Hailes Health Agency. Fifteen per cent of residents were door-knocked in both neighbourhoods during a study carried out by urban design agency Re:Solution last year to gauge interest for the initiative. Up to 120 households would benefit in the first year of the scheme. The majority of participating residents will be able to see their plot from their own house, with the aim to have the first gardens running later this year.

Linda Arthur, manager of Wester Hailes Health Agency, said residents had widely supported the chance to grow their own food: "People are going to be really hard up, those who are on benefits or low wages. There's a lot of land in a lot of areas, not just Wester Hailes, that is just being put out to grass. There's no biodiversity and it costs the council a lot of money to maintain. It would be using land not normally used and having sections for fruit and vegetables".

Milton Road Community Garden offers space to community groups



Milton Road Community Garden was started last year as a student initiative to establish a community garden at Edinburgh College. It aims to provide students, members of staff and the community around the College with easier access to fresh vegetables and fruits. As well as providing fresh vegetables and fruits, the aim is to encourage healthier life styles through developing new tastes, working in the outdoors and socialising with new people - and gaining new skills. The Milton Road Community Garden would like to offer their growing spaces to community groups. [Further details here.](#)

Here's an opportunity to help with a Mycorrhizal Fungi study



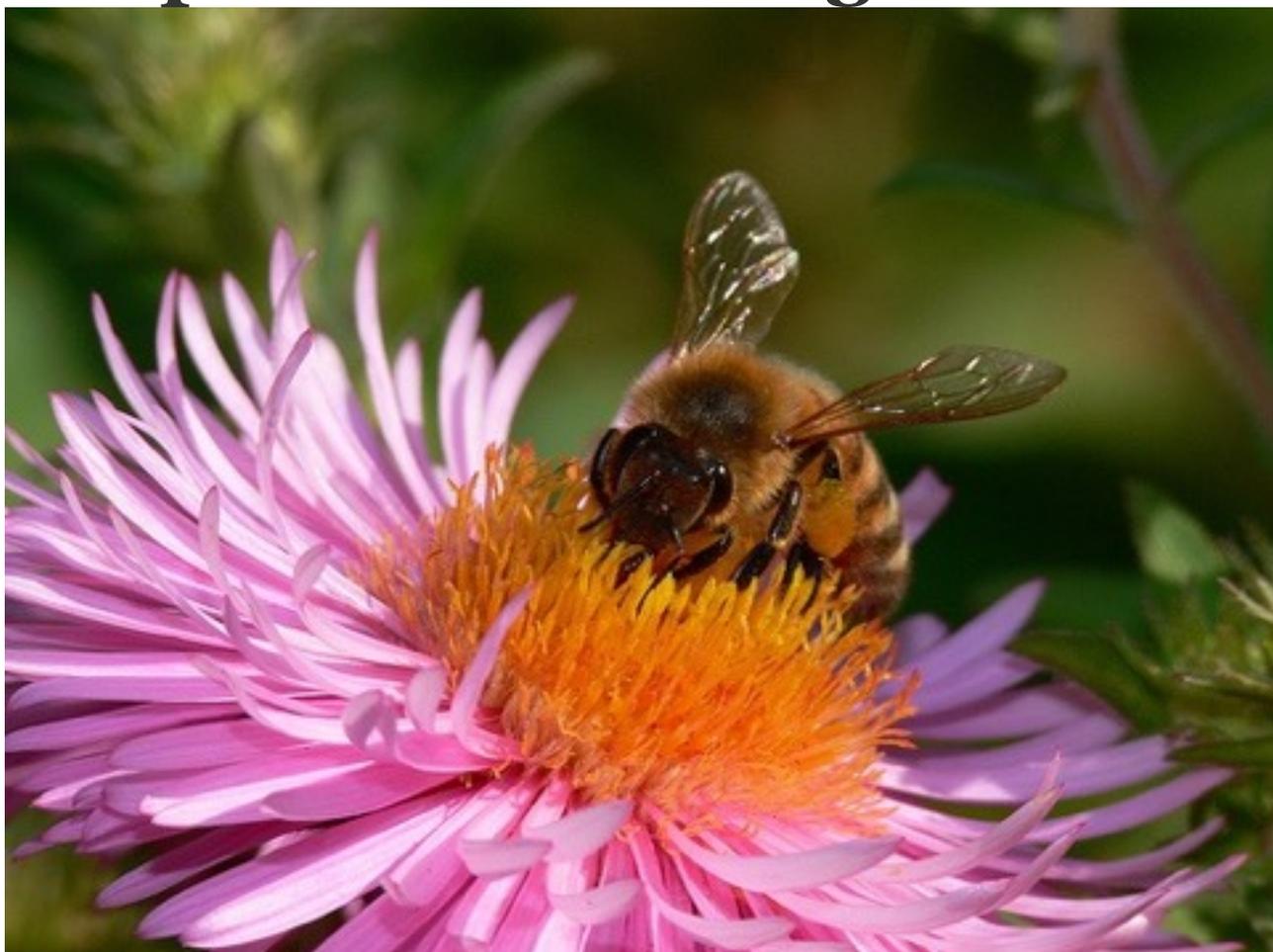
FEDAGA has been contacted by Malcolm Duff, a horticulture student at the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh who would like to ask 5 simple questions of our members to help him with his studies.

- 1 Do you use Mycorrhizal Fungi (Y/N)?
- 2 If the answer is No, then why not?

- 3 If the answer is Yes, where is it used, around trees, lawns, herbaceous borders?
- 4 How is it applied, bare-root gel, granules, soil drench?
- 5 Comments - did they see any dramatic change in the plant?

[Please reply directly to Malcolm here.](#) All information will be kept in strict confidence and will not be released to third parties without prior permission.

Keep Britain Buzzing



Gardeners won't need to be told twice how important bees are to pollination. The Soil Association has started a campaign, Keep Britain Buzzing, to ban neonicotinoid pesticides, promote bee-friendly organic farming and show that everyone can make a difference by simply changing their shopping habits. [Find out more here.](#)

There will be more about this in a future edition of the Newsletter.

All Together In The Park



All Together in the Park is a small local charity which puts on a Fair Day for the people in the Sighthill, Broomhouse and Parkhead areas of Edinburgh. The next event will be held on Saturday 1st June 2013 where one of the Zones will be focusing on the Environment and in particular "growing".

FEDAGA has been asked to help specifically with demonstrations on the day ie. planting techniques, pruning, fruit and veg tips and the like. Are you interested in helping to promote growing as a fun healthy activity which reaps the benefits of home-grown produce?

If so, please contact [Susan Dewhurst](#) to find out more.

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