

autumn leaves falling.....

It's time to prepare for winter. After harvest don't leave ground bare as rain can leach valuable nutrients and erode soils. Cover bare ground with fallen leaves to protect it and provide nutrients for next year.

VEGETABLES

Sow outside

Broad beans can be sown now to give an early spring crop. Some hardy varieties of peas, such as Felthan First and Meteor, can still be sown.

Plant outside

Garlic cloves can be planted. Varieties such as Thermidrome and Printantor do well in the UK.

Harvest

You could be harvesting the following: jerusalem artichokes, perpetual spinach, brussels sprouts, winter cabbage, savoy cabbage, red cabbage, carrots, cauliflower, celeriac, celery, chicory (non-forcing and forcing varieties), endive, kale, kohlrabi, leeks, lettuce, parsnip pumpkins, radish, salsify, scorzonera, spinach, swede, turnips.

FRUIT

Fruit Harvest

You could be picking apples, pears, autumn-fruiting raspberries

Fruit Planting and Pruning

- * Plant rhubarb crowns
- * Cut down canes of autumn-fruiting raspberries which have finished fruiting. Burn them to prevent any fungal diseases from spreading.
- * Prepare the ground for planting fruit bushes and trees. It is easiest to prepare the ground before it rains too heavily and the ground is too heavy to dig. You also can plant bare-rooted



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Human pesticide poisoning data at odds with World Health Organisation

The World Health Organisation (WHO) carries out what is probably the most respected and well-used classification of pesticides across the world. It is based on acute toxicity and, unsurprisingly, relies heavily on laboratory studies of the effect of individual pesticide active ingredients on rats. However, within agriculture, pesticides are not used as individual chemicals but are mixed with solvents and other chemicals. The effects of these commercial formulations may differ from that of individual pesticide active ingredients. In addition, pesticides may affect humans differently from rats.

A new study from Sri Lanka examines people admitted to hospital after self-poisoning with a pesticide. A total of 7,461 patients had swallowed a single known pesticide. The fatality varied between 0% and 42% depending on the pesticide but interestingly the lethality of individual pesticides did not correlate well with their WHO toxicity class.

Pesticide regulations around the world rely heavily on WHO classification. This human toxicity data from Sri Lanka now questions its usefulness in protecting workers around the globe exposed to pesticides.

Acute Human Lethal Toxicity of Agricultural Pesticide: A Prospective Cohort Study, Dawson AW, Eddleston M, Senarathna L, Mohamed F, Gawarammana I, Bowe SJ, Manuweera G and Buckley NA, PLoS Medicine, 2010, 7:1-9.

fruit trees and bushes this month.

- * Check that young trees are well supported with stakes.
- * Prune young apple and pear trees.

GENERAL TASKS

- * Cover bare ground with leaves, weed cloth, straw or similar.
- * Don't dig the soil when it is wet and sticks to boots and tools.
- * It is too late to plant most green manure crops except for winter rye.
- * Prepare a container for making leaf mould. Trace out a square on the ground (about 2 feet by 2 feet) and hammer four wooden posts in the ground, one in each corner of the square. Wrap chicken wire around the sides attaching the wire to the posts making a container. Fallen leaves can be collected and stored in this. After 18 months or so they will have broken down to make leaf mould, an excellent soil supplement.
- * Cover compost bins to keep the rain out and heat in.
- * Reduce ventilation in the greenhouse.
- * Insulate the greenhouse and worm bin ... try bubble wrap.
- * Set up water butts to collect rain from greenhouse/shed roofs.
- * Remove yellowing leaves from winter brassicas. These are not useful to the plant and will encourage botrytis to develop.
- * Check stored crops removing any showing the first signs of rot.
- * Make preparations for next year by ordering new seeds, repairing and cleaning out sheds and greenhouses.
- * Protect the curds of cauliflowers to keep them white and delay their opening by bending or tying the inner leaves over them.
- * Net brussels sprouts, broccoli and other winter brassicas to protect them from pigeon damage.



Plum moth

The plum moth, *Cydia funebrana*, is a close relative of the codling moth and can attack all types of plums, including damsons and gages. Ripening fruit contain a pinkish-white caterpillar up to 12mm long and the fruit may be misshapen. The area around the fruit stone will have many small, orange-brown pellets, which are the caterpillar's excrement. Fruit damaged by plum moth often ripens prematurely. At the beginning of the picking season, it may appear that the whole crop is ruined. However, fruit which ripens later generally have a much lower level of infestation and may be OK.

The adult moth lays eggs on developing fruit in June-July. After hatching, the caterpillar tunnels into the fruit and feeds around the stone. In late July-August, the caterpillar emerges, overwintering under loose flakes of bark. It pupates the following spring.

On isolated trees, a plum moth pheromone trap may catch enough males to prevent some females mating, resulting in fewer viable eggs being laid. However, this is unlikely in places where there are plum trees in other nearby gardens or allotments. The traps are available from most garden centres and should be hung in the tree in mid-May when the adult moths are emerging. If an infestation with plum moth is suspected it is advisable to cut open plum fruits before eating/cooking! Plum moths have become more widespread over the last 20 years.



Pesticide Action Network UK (PAN UK) is an independent non-profit organisation working nationally and globally with individuals and organisations who share our concerns. PAN UK projects enable us to work effectively towards specific targets to enable us to:

- ❖ Eliminate the hazards of pesticides
- ❖ Reduce dependence on pesticides
- ❖ Promote alternatives to pesticides

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