



Open Gardens Manuden 2016 Sunday 10th July

OPEN GARDENS 10TH JULY 2016

Hello dear reader this is the penultimate article to remind you about the open garden day on Sunday the 10th of July. Breaking news is that one of the gardens, that will be open, has been awarded a historic blue plaque! Which one I hear you ask? Read on more at the end of the top tips!

There is still time dear reader to include more gardens! So if you are in two minds please let me reiterate that this event is open to all! Your garden does not have to be designed by famous designers or have huge rolling lawns! We want to have all sorts, huge grand gardens, down to courtyard gardens and everything in-between. It does not have to be weed free or pristine, manicured to its edges or covered in rare plants!

The only criterion for opening is for you to enjoy sitting in it! It is amazing how many ideas I have seen in other people's gardens that I have enjoyed sharing with other people! Please do consider opening as it provides so many people with a lovely afternoon's entertainment and believe it or not we have had visitors who don't even have a garden of their own to enjoy! So if you've read all this and said "well they wouldn't want mine" we do!!

I have been asked for some tips on tomato growing and probably the easiest ones to grow are the sort that you can plant in a hanging basket (Tumbler) just water and feed and eat the results! It couldn't be simpler! If you grow them in pots or grow bags or baskets the main tips are you must support them with canes (not baskets) water and feed regularly. If they dry out then the tomato fruits will crack and split! Feed regularly as well as per instructions on the tomato feed. It's vital to feed tomatoes as it helps prevent blossom rot! This is where the bottom of the tomatoes turn black.

Also jobs to do check your Lilies for the red Lily beetle these are pesky varminths! They can strip your lovely Lily's of leaves and petals! Hold your hand underneath the leaf where the bright red beetle is eating and they drop like stones and you have to be really quick to catch them. Then jump on them! It's amazing how fast they are and how you think being so bright that you would easily spot them after they drop but they are masters of concealment!! You can spray if you like but the size 10 boot is more organic!

Prune some of the early flowering shrubs for instance the Spirea bridle wreath. It's seems harsh but if you cut it back now it will grow through to Autumn and you will have more flowers next year Deutzia Philladelphus and Weigela are similar shrubs that benefit from this pruning.

I promised more news on the blue plaque garden if you want to find out which one it is then dear reader you will just have to come to visit all the gardens on the Sunday 10th of July!!

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More details to follow – if you would like to open your garden next summer then please contact us on:-

open-gardens@manuden.org.uk

PS All my top tips are available on <http://www.manuden.org.uk/Manuden-Open-Gardens.asp>