

# EALING COUNCIL ALLOTMENTS – NON-CULTIVATION GUIDELINES

Here is a summary of the guidelines for how an allotment plot should be cultivated.

Cultivated is: the plot needs to be planted, cropped, harvested or being prepared. It is not sufficient to simply keep them clear of weeds, but then to leave them unplanted.

In the main growing season we would expect to see:

- Fruit, vegetables or flowers
- Lawn and grass paths mowed and trimmed
- No weeds going to seed
- No brambles or couch grass creeping around the plot

In the winter months:

- The above (but obviously less fruit, veg and flowers)
- Beds dug over ready for the winter frost
- Or if no dig methods are being used - a clean bed with no weeds
- Green manures being grown
- Growing areas being prepared (and covered to suppress weeds)

Cultivation area

- In the first three months on site least **25%** of the plot should be cultivated
- After 6 months of taking tenancy up to **50%** of the plot would be expected to be cultivated.
- By 12 months **75%** should be cultivated
- In year two and beyond **75% minimum** of the plot should be still cultivated.
- Areas of plots covered are not considered to be cultivated.
- Around 10% of the plot can be a shed, composting area, water storage

Causes for concern

- When was the plot holder last seen on site?
- Is the majority of the plot being cultivated and cropped?
- What is the level of weeds on the plot? Everyone has a few weeds. The concern would be with weeds going to seed in large areas of the plot and causing a nuisance to plot neighbours.
- Waste materials on the plot

There will, of course, be mitigating circumstances which will quite reasonably prevent a plot holder from accomplishing the expected levels of cultivation described above. It's best for everyone that a plot holder advises the site manager as soon as it becomes apparent that they won't be able to meet them. However, as a minimum, it would be expected that the plot holder ensures all long vegetation on the plot is kept down so that other allotment holders are not affected by weeds.

Sincerely

Allotments

London Borough of Ealing



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