

# Metford Road Community Orchard

## Default Seasonal Activities



As well as specific projects, the following table gives an idea of seasonal tasks that need to be done.

**All year:** Put a message on the tech group to advise other members if you notice that something is ready for harvest or if you notice that any specific job needs to be done (e.g. you spot a new pest or disease, broken step, etc).

| Spring   | Summer   | Autumn  | Winter   |
|--|--|---|--|
| <p><b>Early:</b></p> <p>Pruning (except stone fruits)</p> <p><b>Late:</b></p> <p>Mulch soil with compost and cardboard</p> <p>Net soft fruit</p> <p>Sow any annual herbs</p> <p>Prune young plums</p> <p>Harvest Japanese Knotweed.</p> <p>Remove Hogweed by paths (wear long sleeves, &amp; gloves as it's phototoxic).</p> <p>Harvest or destroy Giant Knotweed.</p> | <p><b>Early:</b></p> <p>May/June: Thin apple and pear fruit (up to 2/3).</p> <p>Pinch out Cherry</p> <p>Prune mature plums</p> <p><b>Late:</b></p> <p>Harvest fruit as ripe (soft fruit)</p> <p>Check fruit bushes for sawfly &amp; remove by hand</p> <p>Prune stone fruits (i.e. plum, damson, cherry)</p> <p><b>All Summer</b></p> <p>Burn Japanese Knotweed.</p> <p>Keep rampant weeds down (e.g. bindweed).</p> <p>Regular watering of new plantings</p> <p>Keep ponds visible &amp; clear of excessive grass etc</p> <p>Keep paths clear of brambles (uproot them) and long grass (trim/shear)</p> <p>Cut back comfrey as it grows large, and use as mulch</p> <p>Keep turning compost heaps as they grow, and moisten if necessary.</p> | <p><b>Early:</b></p> <p>Check fruit bushes for sawfly.</p> <p>Harvest fruit as ripe (especially plums) - &amp; keep a record of how much is harvested from which plant</p> <p><b>Late:</b></p> <p>Harvest fruit as ripe (especially apples, pears) - &amp; keep a record of how much is harvested from which plant</p> <p>Make jam, chutney etc and swap with fellow members!</p> | <p><b>Early:</b></p> <p>Disturb soil around gooseberry bushes to avoid sawfly and capsid bugs.</p> <p><b>Late:</b></p> <p>Pruning (except stone fruits)</p> <p>Plant new bare root trees.</p> <p>De-silt the stream</p> <p><b>All Winter</b></p> <p>Repair / build steps</p> <p>Maintain compost loo and shed as necessary</p> <p>Maintain tools</p> |