# WHAT IT MEANS TO HAVE AN ALLOTMENT PLOT

The allotment law of 1911 states that an allotment is to provide food for your family so the main requirements of a plot holder are to ensure that the plot is used productively. In effect this means that at least 75% of the plot should be cultivated. The rest can be used for paths, compost areas sheds etc.

Apart from that the plot must be kept hazard free, for example no sharp metal edging, or dangerous chemicals. Also, it is important be considerate to other plot holders, for example keeping weeds under control so the seeds do not blow over the site or making sure that plants to not grow over the communal pathways and cause an obstacle.

The society also encourage plot holders to be as ecologically and wildlife friendly as possible in their growing methods.

# Five characteristics of a cultivated allotment plot

*1.The plot is tidy and relatively weed free*

This means that tools are tidied away, rubbish is removed and pathways are clear. Every plot has the odd weed or two and it is not expected that the plot is kept totally weed free, but if the weeds and grass are beginning to produce seeds and/or hide the plots, the plot is in need of attention.

*2.The plants on the plot are healthy*

Planting should be ordered and organised to ensure a good crop. Plants should be watered regularly, pruned as necessary and removed if they are failing or diseased.

*3.Plants are yielding a crop*

Healthy plants will produce a good crop. In season, plants should be producing fruit, vegetables or flowers. Not all plants will produce in abundance.

*4. Crops are harvested*

The harvest is not left on the plants to rot. Fruit and vegetables are picked, and windfalls tidied.

*5. After the harvest plants are dug out and the ground prepared for the new season.*

At the end of the season, plants which have finished cropping should be dug out or pruned back, ready for winter.

Full details are available in the rulebook: <https://sites.create-cdn.net/sitefiles/64/2/6/642639/Byelaws___White_Book__-_amended_9.12.21.pdf>