Keeping Busy

Outdoor Edition - Issue 7

KINGSTON MAURWARD COLLEGE

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Do Gardening

Tomatoes:

- When your seedlings are 4-6 inches tall, pinch back the growing tip; this will not affect the fruit as it has not bloomed yet.

- When they have been planted out remove the suckers which grow between the stems and branches as this will help the plant channel its' energy into flowering, fruiting, preventing excess foliage, shadowing and ripening.

Sweet Peas:

- To stop your plants from becoming a jumble remove their tendrils as they tend to grab adjacent plants which in turn distorts their stem growth.

- Toughening up, *hardening off*, your plants refers to a procedure where you gradually expose your plants to cooler, lower humidities and breezier conditions from 1 - 3 weeks.

- This has the effect of making plants stockier, robust and less prone to pests and diseases once outdoors.

- These plants will acclimatise quicker than half-hardy or tender varieties.

- The warmer the conditions they were planted in, the longer it will take to acclimatise the plants.

Bee kind to your Gardens

Friends of the Earth are asking volunteers to plant wildflower seeds to help keep steady bee numbers.

To receive your bee kit, please click here, make a small donation, and start planting.

Alternatively, Gardeners World offer an article, click here, focused on the best plants for bees.

See below for a list of the best flowers to plant, season-dependent.

Spring Flowers:

- Bluebells
- Bugles
- Crab apples
- Crocus
- Flowering cherry and currant
- Forget-me-nots,
- Hawthorns
- Primroses
- Rhododendron
- Rosemary

Early Summer Flowers:

- Campanula
- Comfrey
- Delphinium
- Foxgloves
- Hardy geraniums
- Honesty
- Hollyhocks
- Potentillas
- Snapdragons
- Thyme