

# ALSAGER GARDENS ASSOCIATION

## TEMPORARY RESTRICTION ON THE USE HOSE PIPES ON OUR ALLOTMENT SITES EFFECTIVE FROM SUNDAY 5<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST

The United Utilities general hose pipe ban which should have come into force on **Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> August 2018 has now been lifted.** However, the AGA Committee discussed this issue at its meeting on 31<sup>st</sup> July and the vast amount of water that hosepipes and sprinklers use when compared to watering with a watering can. This high usage is evidenced by the water bills we have received for the period 1<sup>st</sup> April to 19<sup>th</sup> July 2018.

The water bills detail the extremely high use of water on our sites and the cost far exceeds our allocated budget. The estimated total spend on water for all our allotments to the end of August is £1800. This equates to £10 per plot holder and represents 45% of our annual income for plot rentals.

**Considering the need to conserve water and use it wisely, together with the prohibitive costs, it has been decided to apply a temporary restriction to the use of Hose Pipes and Sprinklers on all our allotment sites.**

**This restriction on the use of Hosepipes and Sprinklers is effective from SUNDAY 5<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST.**

The future use of Hosepipes on our allotments will be reviewed and discussed at either the 30<sup>th</sup> October 2018 or 27<sup>th</sup> November 2018 AGA committee meeting. The dates and agenda for each meeting is posted on the web site and all members are invited to attend any of the meetings. For more information go to [www.alsagergardensassociation.org.uk](http://www.alsagergardensassociation.org.uk)

### **General Advice - Watering Wisely**

Tenants on our allotments should use watering cans and are expected to use water sparingly and responsibly.

- Only water early in the morning or the evening
- Soak the soil not the foliage
- Water the roots of the plant and concentrate the watering to once or twice a week, as opposed to giving your plants frequent light showers, otherwise you'll encourage the roots of the plant to seek water near the surface of the soil, as opposed to deep down in the earth.
- Only water those crops that need it and at the right stage of development
- Water plants thoroughly in rotation, rather than distributing water widely and thinly.
- Gardeners who use mulch or dig in lots of organic materials and keep the weeds down will not have as much need to water.

**MORE ADVISE ON WATERING CAN BE FOUND AT**

**<https://www.nsalq.org.uk/growing-advice/gardening-advice/gardening-in-drought/>**