



NADCAA

Newton Abbot & District Co-Operative Allotment Association

Registered Company No: 4480485

NADCAA Cultivation Standards – September 2021

		<u>Standard</u>	<u>Rationale/Reason</u>	<u>Guidance</u>
1. Trees	1.1 Existing Trees - Heights and Positions	1. Trees should not be higher than 3.5m and must not hang over any paths or common areas	1. To avoid shading neighbouring plots 2. To allow safe harvesting and pruning 3. To avoid nuisance and inconvenience to other plot holders or visitors to the field	
	1.2 Numbers and types of Trees	1. The maximum number of new trees that can be planted is one per quarter plot, two per half plot and four per full plot. The trees should be very dwarf, semi- dwarf, dwarf or bush varieties. 2. Only fruit trees or trees that encourage biodiversity and can be easily managed may be grown. 3. Existing trees that were already planted before these new standards were agreed by the Association should be permitted to remain so long as they comply with the standards set out in 1.1. And are kept appropriately pruned.	1. The growing of large growing native deciduous or evergreen trees is not appropriate for an allotment. 2. The view of the management committee is that allotment plots should not become small orchards and that a limit on the number of trees that should be planted is appropriate. 3. There are, however, many mature trees on plots and it is not the Association's intention that existing trees should be removed as long as they do not cause nuisance or shading to neighbouring plot holders.	New trees should be dwarf, very dwarf or semi dwarf. Please refer to published guidance on recommended root stocks to ensure that the future height and spread of any tree planted is known before they are planted. When planting new trees think carefully about their location. A tree should ideally be planted around 2.5m from the plot boundary. Trees grown as espaliers, step overs, cordons or as a single stem may be grown closer to boundary's without causing a problem but will need to be carefully managed. Biodiversity trees need to be carefully managed as they can grow rapidly. This is particularly the case with willow. The area taken up by biodiversity trees will be considered to be part of the 25% of land that can

The Administrator (NADCAA Ltd), c/o Newton Abbot Town Council, 43 Wolborough Street, Newton Abbot, Devon TQ12 1JQ

Tel: 07804 122826 (Secretary)

Email: info@nadcaa.org.uk

Web: <https://nadcaa.org.uk>

		4. If an existing tree is removed either because of disease or otherwise there is no automatic right to replace it with another tree if this would exceed the maximum number permitted on the plot having regard to its size or type.		be allocated for biodiversity
2.Cultivation Standards	2.1 Spring and Summer Cultivation 1st April – 30th October	1. Up to 25% of a plot may be used to promote biodiversity Refer to the guidance with respect to this. 2. These standards apply to the 75% or more of the plot that is not being used to promote biodiversity hereafter referred to as cultivated areas. 3. Cultivated areas should either have crops or flowers or fruit planted/sown or be prepared for planting/sowing and crops that have died back and/or gone to seed should be cleared rather than being allowed to rot. Parts of plots that are being cleared and prepared for cultivation shall be deemed to be cultivated. 4. Any ground that is sown with green manure crops or that has been dressed with compost or manure with or without any	There is a high demand for allotments in Newton Abbot and the Association has had a waiting list for many years. The Association believes that it is unfair on those residents who would like an allotment to be prevented from having one if existing members are not using their allotment as intended. An allotment plot should be used for the purposes of growing vegetables, fruit and flowers.	Notwithstanding the adjacent comments, the Association recognises that unforeseen events can temporarily prevent members from tending to their plots as they would like and so members are encouraged to inform their field manager if they are having difficulties in managing their plots. Further details of these processes are set out in the Association's Lapse in Cultivation (LIC) procedures. It is also acknowledged that weather conditions can delay sowing and planting at the start of the growing season and field managers will be mindful of recent weather conditions when considering whether a plot is being adequately cultivated.

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		cover shall be deemed to be cultivated. 5. Members can plant and grow whatever fruit, vegetables and flowers that they wish – other than plants that are illegal to grow and this standard does not attempt to stipulate that any particular crops have to be grown or that any particular cultivation techniques should be followed so long as the overall cultivation requirements set out above are achieved. 6. Parts of a plot that are planted with herbs and edible flowers shall be deemed to be cultivated and included in cultivated areas.		
	3.2 Autumn and Winter Cultivation 1st November – 31st March	1. The autumn and winter is a dormant period for many crops and plants and so there is no specific requirement for plots to have actively growing plants during this period although it is expected that plots should be kept reasonably tidy and that perennial weeds and grasses should be cleared and managed as weather conditions allow. 2. If plastic or weed control fabric is used as groundcover it must be well secured and removed	1. Whilst there are winter crops that can be grown during this period not everyone will want to grow them. 2. Subject to weather conditions this can be a good time to time to prepare the land for the following year, to carry out repairs and maintenance that might be needed and to clear any rubbish that may have accumulated on the plot. 3. This is also a good time to manage perennial weeds and grasses.	Covering plots with weed control membrane or winter green manure crops can help to reduce winter leeching of nutrients from soil and prevent weed growth early in the year. Covering the soil over the winter can also reduce the loss of Carbon Dioxide (CO²) from the soil to the atmosphere.

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		or replaced if it is damaged to prevent pieces blowing onto other plots. Any plastic used should ideally be UV stabilised and permeable weed control fabric is recommended instead of plastic.	4. Plots can also be covered with manure, mulch or weed control fabric.	
4. Weed Management	4.1 Invasive Perennial Weeds e.g. Bindweed, couch grass, mares tail, coltsfoot, oxalis, ground elder, creeping thistle.	Plot holders must keep these weeds under control and not allow them to flower and set seed or to spread.	Some of these weeds can spread long distances underground and can affect neighbouring plots and so should not be allowed to establish themselves on allotment plots.	Weeds will also take away nutrients and moisture from the soil and any cultivated plants growing nearby.
	4.2 Non-invasive perennials e.g. dandelion, dock,	As far as reasonably practicable members must not allow these weeds to spread seeds.	This is to reduce the impact on neighbouring plots.	These weeds will also take away nutrients and moisture from the soil and any cultivated plants growing nearby.
	4.3 Annual Weeds E.g. cleavers, herb robert, chickweed, shepherds purse, groundsel.	There should be reasonable control of annual weeds in cultivated areas.	If soil is disturbed, these weeds are always likely to grow and so some weeds are always likely to be present, hence the requirement for reasonable control that still allows crops and cultivated plants to flourish	Some annual weeds encourage beneficial insects and wildlife and may therefore be grown in areas that are being allocated for biodiversity. If beneficial annual weeds are allowed to flourish in cultivated areas then that space will be deemed to be part of the 25% allocation to biodiversity.
5. Paths	6.1 Paths between plots	1. Plot holders are required to maintain the paths at the top and to the right hand side of their plots. (This involves	To ensure that paths can be used safely.	

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		keeping grass reasonably short and ensuring that the paths can be used safely.) 2. Paths between plots should be a minimum of 2ft (600mm) wide. 3. Paths should not be obstructed.		
	5.2 Fixed paths on plots	Any permanent or semi-permanent paths in the cultivated areas of plots should not take up more than 30% of the cultivated area. If a member has particular needs or circumstances that necessitate more space for paths then this will be taken account of when applying this standard.	The reason for this standard is to ensure that plots are predominantly used for the cultivation of vegetables, fruit and flowers and not as general leisure areas.	

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