

Links

Here is a selection of websites that plot holders may find interesting or useful. If you know of any sites you would recommend for inclusion, please let us know.

- [Organizations and official sites](#)
- [General information about allotments](#)
- [Advice on growing](#)
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Organizations and official sites

[Allotments Regeneration Initiative](#)

An organization that promotes the creation of new allotment sites and the regeneration of old, existing ones. Regular newsletters and downloadable factsheets and information packs.

[Garden Organic](#)

The UK's leading organic gardening movement, originally the Henry Doubleday Research Association (HDRA). Lot of valuable, downloadable information for paid members.

[National Society of Allotment and Leisure Gardeners](#)

Official representative body for the allotment movement in the UK.

[National Vegetable Society](#)

Slanted towards growing for shows and competitions – but lots of general information and advice too.

[Soil Association](#)

The voice of organic farming in the UK – campaigning for and promoting “planet-friendly food and farming”.

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General information about allotments

[Allotment Vegetable Growing](#)

Long-established site created by popular book author John Harrison. Practical information as well as lots of web links.

[Allotments 4 All](#)

A popular, wide-ranging forum site for allotment ploholders.

[Carry on Composting](#)

A web site is designed to promote and encourage composting of garden and food waste in the hope that we can reduce the amount of waste sent to landfill sites.

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Advice on growing

[RHS Grow Your Own](#)

Reliable, authoritative information from the Royal Horticultural Association on growing most fruit and vegetables, including common pests and diseases.

[BBC Gardening](#)

Lots of practical advice and growing tips, as well as links to TV's Gardeners' World and Radio 4's Gardeners' Question Time.

[Garden Action](#)

Pretty good source of information about gardening techniques, with an emphasis on vegetables, fruit and herbs.

[Grow Organic Food](#)

Organic gardening news, views, interviews, help and support.

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Local garden centres and suppliers

[Dobbies Cirencester](#)

A range of sheds and building materials, as well as plants, tools, aquatics, and other horticultural supplies

[Austins Country Store](#)

A wide range of stoves, solid fuel, building materials, as well as plants, tools, and other horticultural supplies.

[The Nursery, Miserden](#)

Just a short drive from Cirencester, the nursery's magnificent period glasshouses form a spectacular backdrop to the collection of traditional and unusual plants. In a lovely location with a café in a converted glasshouse make this a must visit nursery.

[Dundry Nursery](#)

Worth a visit just to buy your spuds the third weekend of January but seeds, plants and other horticultural supplies also available

[Toomers](#)

Cirencester town centre shop stocking an extensive range of products for gardening, pet care and aquatics.

[Lechlade Garden Centre](#)

Part of the Hillier group offers a range of sheds and building materials, as well as plants, tools, aquatics, and other horticultural supplies.

[Burford Garden Company](#)

Nicknamed the Harrods of garden centres sells much, much more than just horticultural and gardening products, including clothing, outdoor buildings, toys, food, antiques, artwork, ceramics, stationery and furniture.

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Mail-order seeds and plants

The big names are well-known and easily googled: Thompson & Morgan, Marshalls, Dobies, Unwins, Mr Fothergill, Suttons, Victoriana, Crocus, and so on. Here's a list of the smaller, independent suppliers whom it's worth supporting.

[Chiltern Seeds](#)

A good range of unusual heirloom, organic and Oriental vegetable seeds.

[Chris Bowers](#)

Specialist fruit nursery based in Norfolk. Extremely wide selection of new, modern varieties as well as unusual and rare traditional ones.

[Heritage Seed Library](#)

Part of Garden Organic look for the link. Heirloom seeds that can't be bought and sold – but if you become a member you'll receive a choice of up to six rare varieties each year.

[Ken Muir](#)

Top-quality, specialist fruit nursery – particularly good for pre-trained espalier and space-saving “minarette” fruit trees.

[More Veg](#)

Seeds come in smaller quantities to cut down waste – so prices are low. Good choice. Regular special offers.

[Organic Gardening Catalogue](#)

Perhaps the best of the organic suppliers. Run as a joint venture between Garden Organic and Chase Organics, who are based in Hersham.

[Plants of Distinction](#)

Over 1200 exciting and unusual flowers, vegetables and plants including a large collection of heirloom tomatoes and peppers. Order their excellent “Simply Vegetables” catalogue [here](#).

[Reads](#)

Well-known long-established nursery specializing in fruit of all kinds – including figs, citrus, and grapes. Both traditional and modern varieties.

[R.V. Roger](#)

One of the country’s top nurseries for fruit trees and bushes.

[Real Seed Catalogue](#)

Husband-and-wife team based in Wales who sell “real seeds for real gardeners wanting to grow proper vegetables. You’ll find no F1 hybrids or genetically modified seed here - just varieties that do really well in the UK climate and taste great when grown by hand on a garden scale. Many are rare heirlooms, and all are open-pollinated (non-hybrid) so you can save your own seed for future years.”

[Sarah Raven](#)

Good choice of varieties, with monthly sowing and planting tips. Very smart website and sumptuous catalogues.

[Seeds of Italy](#)

Franchi Seeds has been in business since the 18th century. Wonderful Italian varieties of tomato, aubergine, pepper, lettuce, chicory, beans, squashes, plus other vegetables. But be warned: tempting as they are, most are native to the Mediterranean and need a hot summer to do well in the UK.

[Simpson’s Seeds](#)

Extensive range of seeds and plants. Lots of unusual varieties.

[King’s Seeds](#)

Supplier of vegetable seeds, flowers seeds, organic vegetable seeds, herbs seeds, Sweet Pea seeds, fruit trees and various plug plants. Also sells seed through the [National Allotment Society](#) with discounts for members. Barton Lane has an associated society and many plot holders are members.

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Mail-order equipment and materials

[Compost Centre](#)

Bags of natural organic compost at reasonable prices

[Harrod Horticultural](#)

Not cheap, but one of the best places for fruit cages, nets, cloches, tools, etc.

[Labels 'N' Things](#)

Labels 'N' Things have a comprehensive range of plant labels, ties and sundries available.

[Two Wests & Elliott](#)

Wide choice of gardening equipment – from propagators to polytunnels.

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