

RATS

Unfortunately, there have been reports of rats on the allotments this year. I'm aware that rats are everywhere but this year there seem to be a lot more than usual. I have seen several rat runs on some allotments, which means that there are several rats using those routes. I've also seen small round holes in sheds that rats have gnawed, to get inside.

On the allotments rats live to live wherever it is dry and warm with easy access to food. This is likely to be under sheds, in sheds, under black plastic and in compost bins. A compost heap offers both warmth and food. To deter rats, turn your compost heap regularly and keep it wet and open to winter weather.

Please can I ask that every plot holder is vigilant to vermin, especially the chicken keepers who must keep all feed stored in a rat proof bin and use chicken feeders that are rat proof too. Please don't leave uneaten food, or feed your chickens ad lib food, as this will certainly encourage all vermin. Like all living things, rats need food, water and shelter to survive. Remove at least one of these from your allotment and they are less likely to stay. Rats are prolific breeders and once established are increasingly hard to remove. Look for tell-tale signs of their presence. You may spot their tunnels, runs and tracks alongside fences and sheds. Spot any of these and you'll need to take action to deter these unwanted intruders.

Please check your plots and take action if you have rats living on them.

Thank you

