



What To Do If You're Struggling With Your Plot



Life sometimes gets in the way of being able to look after and enjoy your plot as much as you'd like to. If you find that your plot is getting on top of you, here are a few options which may be helpful:

Find a helper

Having some extra pairs of hands on the plot can relieve some of the workload and means that more gets done, faster. And it's great to have someone to enjoy the plot and share your harvests with!

Ask your friends, family or neighbours to see if anyone would like to get involved. If so, you can add them as a sharer on your plot (more info about this can be found on the farm's website).

Those on the waiting list for the site sometimes say they'd be happy to help out an existing plot holder while they wait for their own plot. If you don't know anyone who'd be up for helping out, the farm office can put the word out and ask anyone who's interested to get in touch with you.

Switch to a smaller plot

The site rules state that at least 75% of your plot area should be kept in use for cultivation (i.e. space that is well-tended, kept clear of weeds, manured/composted and planted with veg/fruit/herbs/flowers).

If a large area of your plot is consistently underused or overgrown and you've never found time to bring it into cultivation, you could consider swapping to a smaller plot on the site. A smaller plot could be easier to look after with the time you have available, and your annual rent will be lower too. Speak to the farm office if you'd like to explore this.

Splitting your plot

If a large area of your plot is consistently underused, but you'd like to stay on your current plot, it may be possible in some cases to split the plot into 'A' and 'B' plots. You'd continue with one, and the newly created plot would be let to somebody on the waiting list.

Please note, this option is only suitable for those on larger plots, where the newly created plot would be big enough to successfully let as a plot on its own. Chat to the farm office or your field rep if you'd like to explore this option.

And lastly....

Caring for an allotment plot means being able to dedicate time towards working on it on a regular basis.

If none of the options above are suitable for you, please consider how much time you realistically have available to look after the plot.

The waiting list for the AVAA site is currently around 4 years. If you'll only have limited time to work on the plot going forwards, it may be better to let go of the space and give someone on the waiting list an opportunity to start their allotment gardening journey.