

Hull Growers' Network

Growers' Handbook

2026 Edition

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Contents

Introduction.....	2
Growing in Hull.....	2
Community sites and networks	2
Fruit and vegetables in order of difficulty to grow	3
Vegetable Growing Calendar for Northern England	4
‘Right to Grow’	5
Top 10 tips for successful growing.....	5
Reducing gardening chores.....	5
Natural methods and mimicking nature	5
Beneficial insects and bugs	5
Growing herbs	6
How to store your fruit and vegetable harvest	7
Multi-sowing vegetables.....	7
Recommended tools.....	8
Recommended sources of information	9
Books and authors	9
Online, YouTube	9
Local emails list.....	9
Local community food growing sites.....	10
Local veg box suppliers.....	12
Hull City Council Allotments.....	13
2026 Calendar of events	14

Introduction

This handbook is for anyone in Hull or nearby interested in community-grown fruit, vegetables and herbs. Updated every year, it is available in print form or as a downloadable PDF (see handbook front cover for links and QR code).



For those new to growing food, this guide offers suggestions on which **to try growing first** and which to try as your confidence grows. Key information, such as **sowing dates**, can be found on page 4. You'll also find advice on choosing **tools** and a directory of **community gardening sites** in Hull. For new gardeners, the sheer volume of information—especially online—can feel overwhelming, and much of it may not suit local climate or soil. This booklet brings together guidance chosen specifically for the growing conditions of Hull and East Yorkshire. Many people learn gardening techniques by seeing them in practice, and this guide signposts you to places in and around Hull where you can see different food-growing methods at work and speak to growers using successful techniques.

Growing in Hull

Because Hull lies beside the Humber Estuary, its **soils** are typically high in **clay** and slow to drain. This makes them prone to flooding and ideal for **slugs**, which thrive in damp conditions, though clay soil is naturally rich in **nutrients**. You can make heavy soil more workable by adding **compost** at the end of the growing season. Simply spread organic matter over the surface and allow worms to draw it down. This helps retain moisture below while leaving a dry, rough surface above, offering extra protection against slugs and snails.

Hull soil composition: **clay**

Hull climate plant hardiness zone: **9a**— see **map** (Local average lowest winter temp -4C to -7C)

Hull average last **frost** date: **21st - 30th April**— see **map** (dates are later further inland / at higher altitude)

Community sites and networks

Hull offers a remarkable range of growing spaces—from orchards to industrial 'meanwhile' sites to **allotments**—and a wealth of local expertise. This booklet points you towards community sites that welcome volunteers or offer workshops places where you can learn more. The **Hull Growers' Network** is an informal group of growers who occasionally meet to coordinate activities. If you are involved in a project not listed here, or notice outdated information, please get in touch.

If you are viewing this handbook as a digital PDF document on your screen, you will see **green-coloured** words which are clickable for further information either on other pages in this booklet or online from sources such as the **Royal Horticultural Society**. We hope the information you find here will be useful. Happy Growing!

John Pickles

Editor

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Fruit and vegetables in order of difficulty to grow

Take precautions against **slugs** and netting over crops reduces damage by birds and insects. Protect young seedlings from strong winds and do not plant **frost-tender** crops outside until May at the earliest.

Name	Notes	Temperature
Fairly easy to grow		
Beetroot	Ideal for beginners to grow	Cool season
Blackcurrant	Keep them protected from birds with netting during fruiting for a better yield	Frost hardy
Broad beans	Can be sown in Oct/Nov and grown through winter or sown from mid-February	Frost hardy
Chard	Good disease and pest resistance, long growing season	Cool season
Courgette	Sow in pots to plant out. Fast-growing fruit; check frequently	Warm season
Garlic	Requires cold to for bulbs to develop properly so best to plant in autumn	Frost hardy
Herbs	Some annuals, some biennials, and some perennials. (See herb section)	Warm season
Leeks	Sow in containers or a separate area before moving them to their final position	Cool season
Lettuce	Can bolt easily if roots get dry. Grow 'cut and come again' or full heads	Cool season
Plums	Can be heavy cropping. Damsons also recommended	Warm season
Potatoes	Needs little care once planted. Can grow in containers with watering	Frost hardy
Pumpkin	A fun vegetable for growing with children	Warm season
Radishes	Fast growing, can produce a crop in 4-5 weeks	Cool season
Runner Bean	Growing tip is very susceptible to slug damage before they get tall	Warm season
Salad mixes	A good return for little work, fast results. Try 'cut and come again'	Cool season
Raspberries	Summer and autumn fruiting varieties	Frost hardy
Spring Onions	Try multi-sowing them in modules and planting in clusters	Cool season
Strawberries	Plants can last 4 years before you need to move	Frost hardy
Turnips	Fast growing	Cool season
Quite difficult to grow		
Apples	Choose tree varieties that can cross pollinate each other for better fruiting.	Warm season
Asparagus	Perennial requires min. 3 yrs to first crop. Weed area thoroughly before planting	Frost hardy
Broccoli	Romanesco and purple sprouting broccoli are worth trying	Cool season
Brussels	Slow growing. Sow in early May to be ready for Christmas	Cool season
Cabbage	Very vulnerable to pests in summer, essential to protect with netting	Cool season
Carrots	Requires sandy soil, can be grown in containers or raised beds to deter carrot fly	Cool season
Chilli pepper	Requires high temperature - 20°C+ to germinate. 27°C is ideal	Warm season
Cucumbers	Greenhouse usually required, depending on variety	Warm season
French bean	Very tender so easily damaged by low temperatures if planted too early	Warm season
Kale	Harder in summer due to pests and disease. Use netting to protect from birds.	Cool season
Onion	Can be grown from onion sets, but growing from seed is worthwhile	Cool season
Parsnip	Seed must not be kept more than one year, slow to germinate	Cool season
Peppers	Require a greenhouse	! Frost tender !
Peas	Need structural support, need plenty of sun and don't let them get dry	Warm season
Pears	Dessert or cooking varieties are available. May require two trees for pollination	Warm season
Spinach	Sow in August and grow it through winter. Bolts easily	Cool season
Swede	Needs a long growing season	Cool season
Sweetcorn	Requires minimum of 12 plants for wind pollination	Warm season
Tomatoes	Needs steady temp & watering. Tumbling varieties grow in hanging baskets	! Frost tender !
Difficult to grow		
Aubergine	Greenhouse usually required, slow growing. Start in Jan or buy grafted plants	Warm season
Cauliflower	Need perfect conditions at every stage, any setback reduces crop	Cool season
Celery	Self-blanching varieties are easier, otherwise blanching takes time	Warm season

Vegetable Growing Calendar for Northern England

Following the suggested sowing dates on packets of seeds is recommended. Seeds sown later in springtime will often catch up with ones sown too early, but not in autumn. Tender fruit and veg such as tomatoes will need protection against cold and will not survive frosts. Last average frost date in Hull is the last week of April.

Vegetable	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Apples	T	T						H	H	H		
Asparagus												
Aubergine		SI	SI		T	T	H	H	H	H		
Beetroot			SO	SO	SO	H	H	H	H			
Blackcurrant	T	T					H	H				
Broad beans						H	H			SO	SO	→→
Broccoli (calabrese)			SI	SI	T	H	H					
Broccoli (purple sp.)			SI		T				H	H	H	
Brussels sprouts		SI	SI	T	T		H	H	H	H	H	
Cabbage (summer)			SI	T	H	H	H					
Cabbage (winter)				SI	T			H	H	H	H	
Carrot			SO	SO	SO	SO	H	H	H	H		
Cauliflower			SI	SI	T	T	H	H	H			
Celery			SI		T	T	H	H	H			
Chard				SO	T	T	H	H	H	H	H	
Chilli pepper		SI	SI		T	T	H	H	H	H		
Courgette				SI/SO	T	H	H	H				
Cucumber				SI	T	H	H	H				
French beans				SI/SO	SO	T	H	H	H			
Garlic						H	H			SO	SO	→→
Kale				SI	T	T	T	H	H	H	H	H
Leek		SI	SI	SI	T	T	H	H	H	H	H	
Lettuce			SI	SI	SO	SO	SO	SO	H	H		
Onion (seed)			SI		T		H	H	H			
Onion (sets)				SO	SO		H	H				
Spring onion				SO	SO	SO		H	H	H	H	
Parsnip				SO	SO		H	H	H	H	H	
Pear	T	T					H	H	H			
Peas			SI/SO	SI/SO	SO	T	H	H	H			
Pepper		SI	SI		T	T	H	H	H	H		
Plum	T	T					H	H				
Potato (early)				T	T	H	H					
Potatoes (main)					T		H	H	H	H		
Pumpkin				SI	T	H	H	H				
Radish			SO	SO	SO	SO	SO	H	H	H	H	
Raspberry	T	T						H	H	H	H	
Runner beans					SI/SO	T	H	H	H			
Salad mixes			SO	SO	SO	SO	SO	SO	H	H	H	H
Spinach			SO	SO	SO		H	SO	SO	H	H	H
Spring onion			SO	SO	SO	SO		H	H	H	H	
Strawberry						H	H			T	T	→→
Swede					SO	T		H	H	H	H	
Sweetcorn				SI	T			H	H			
Tomato			SI	SI	T	T	H	H	H			
Turnips				SO	SO	SO	SO		H	H	H	H

Key

SI = Sow indoors

SO = Sow outdoors

T = Transplant

H = Harvest

First/Last frost

'Right to Grow'

In 2025 became the first UK city to give residents the "Right to grow" on unused council land. A procedure has been put in place by Hull City Council enabling community and resident groups to apply to adopt available council land to grow on, within certain parameters. It is hoped that the scheme will bring communities together, reduce antisocial behaviour, and encourage residents to take pride in looking after their neighbourhoods. Applications will be via an online contact form. Link: hull.gov.uk/neighbourhoods-1/right-grow

Top 10 tips for successful growing

Here is some advice on growing fruit and veg from a local commercial grower:

1. Disturb soil structure as little as possible.
(Besides digging out roots: dandelions, docks, brambles, couch grass and thistles)
2. Exclude light from weeds in hard to tackle areas using mulch: cardboard, compost or membrane.
3. Watch out for the weeds flowering and address them before they set seed.
4. Grow in season to avoid natural **pest** cycles.
5. Sow seeds in succession for longer harvest periods.
6. Do not overwater young seedlings, let the roots get established first.
7. Plant out transplants at correct spacings to avoid gaps where weeds can grow.
8. Set up a compost system & recycle all organic matter to keep nutrients on-site.
9. Catch **slugs** late after dark using a torch.
10. Enjoy the process of learning and making mistakes!

Reducing gardening chores

Digging and **weeding** are two tasks often listed by gardeners as the two jobs they dislike the most. A method called '**No Dig**' is gaining popularity and advises against digging or rotovating because inverting the soil brings dormant weed seeds to the surface where they can germinate. There are a growing number of sites in Hull practising no-dig, see [site index](#). The no-dig method promotes disturbing the soil as little as possible in order to let soil microbiology develop and build networks into which plants roots tap into for nutrients.

Natural methods and mimicking nature

Many people like to grow their own food in order to eat fruit and vegetables without the synthetic chemicals. Growing methods sensitive to nature are becoming more popular. There are chemical-free and local certified organic growers some of which may welcome volunteers. People interested in intelligent methods of growing food that work with nature and mimic natural processes to improve soil fertility, reduce pests and disease should look into **Permaculture**. There are examples of permaculture design being practiced at gardens in Hull.

Beneficial insects and bugs

One way of reducing pests is to encourage and offer shelter to **beneficial** creatures that eat common pests.

Insect / bug	Benefit
Ladybird	Predator of aphids
Lacewing	Larvae eat other insects, especially aphids.
Common wasp	Hunts caterpillars and other insects to feed to their young.
Marmalade hoverfly	Pollinator. Many eat aphids.
Violet ground beetle	Predator of ground and soil-dwelling pests.
Bumblebee	Pollinator of flowers
Centipede	Hunts soil prey in soil and on the surface.
Parasitoid wasp	Larvae eat hosts (pests) from the inside leaving papering husks.

Growing herbs

If you don't have the time or space to grow your own vegetables, another way to add home-grown flavour to your food is with herbs. Herbs tend to be relatively low-maintenance compared to vegetables and some are frost-hardy and fairly pest resistant. With relatively little time and space, you can grow enough herbs to supply your needs and add flavour and colour to your meals. Flavours are usually stronger during the summer.

Many supermarkets sell herbs in small pots ready for picking. They last longer than cut herbs, and without much extra work, you can increase your crop further still. Supermarket potted herbs are often densely sown in poor soil, which is soon exhausted and the herbs die. By splitting and replanting in nutritious soil, they will grow well and live longer. Keep some in **containers** near the house for easy picking and keep fast-growing herbs such as mint and sage in containers to restrict aggressive growth.

Herbs listed in order of difficulty to grow (easy at top)

Name	Growing advice	Space/lifespan	Use and flavour
Mint	Take cuttings and leave in water to grow roots before planting in soil.	Spreads aggressively via underground rhizomes, so keep in a container.	Make hot drinks, cocktails, add to new potatoes, salads, desserts or with roast lamb.
Chives	Grow outdoors. Split clumps and replant in the ground.	Perennial. Produces a purple flower usable as a garnish	Onion-like flavour used with everything from eggs to bread.
Parsley	Grow flat leaf or curly. Replant supermarket bought pots in better soil.	Annual. Can over-winter and be productive the following year.	Bitter fresh herb with subtle hints of celery. Garnish or chopped into sauces, dressings.
Sage	Grow outdoors in a warm, sunny, sheltered spot.	Perennial, can spread aggressively	Used in stuffing and Hull patties.
Oregano	Thrives in a warm, sunny position outdoors.	Perennial, can be started from seed.	Complements garlic, tomato, onion and olive dishes.
Thyme	Thrives in a warm, sunny position in sandy soil.	Small shrub, fairly drought tolerant.	Great for marinades and most meat dishes.
Rosemary	Grow from cuttings. Don't over-water.	Bushy perennial that can get grow into a dwarf hedge.	Pine-like taste that goes well with both meat and bread.
Bay	Trees will put out suckers which can be re-planted.	Perennial, grows as a tree	Dry leaves and add to soups and stews, remove before eating.
Tarragon	French has more flavour than the Russian variety.	Perennial dies back each year. Grow in pot & protect in winter	A summery, piquant, mild aniseed-flavour.
Fennel	Herb fennel as opposed to bulb Florence fennel.	Perennial, grows to 2 metres Don't let it get too dry.	Delicate aniseed flavour.
Dill	Grows best under cover from seed. Will re-seed if allowed	Annual, can grow to 6ft tall.	In fish and egg dishes, pickles, can be chopped into soups, salads.
Basil	Tender and aromatic. Protect from slugs / snails.	Annual, grow on a window sill or a sunny and sheltered spot	Wonderful ingredient in Mediterranean tomato dishes.
Coriander	Pick the leaves when young and use fresh. Bolts easily.	Hardy annual. Grow in a sunny or partially shaded spot	Unique, tangy lemon-like sweet taste, but pungent, so use it carefully.

Pot up herbs such as chives, mint, parsley, or tarragon grown outdoors and bring them in for the winter, standing them on a south-facing windowsill. Other herbs not listed but worth trying: Caraway, chervil, marjoram. www.rhs.org.uk/herbs/growing

How to store your fruit and vegetable harvest

1. Avoid cleaning or rinsing vegetables before storing them.

In general, moisture encourages bacteria growth. If you wash your vegetables before storing them, you're adding moisture. That moisture may cause bacteria to grow more quickly, which will make them rot faster. In order to store them for as long as possible, don't wash them until you're ready to use or eat them. If they are dirty and you want to clean them up before storing them, wipe them off with a dry towel or even a soft brush.

2. Cut the greens off vegetables like carrots and radishes.

When you get your carrots, turnips, radishes, and parsnips home, cut off any greens still attached before you store them as they will tend to draw out nutrients from the root. In some cases, you can keep the greens to use separately (in salads) or put them in the compost. Leave corn-on-the-cob inside their husks for storage. Don't remove the husks until you're ready to cook them. Keep Brussels sprouts on their stems if you're able to. The stems help keep the sprouts fresh for longer.

3. Store fruit and vegetables separately to prevent accelerated ripening.

One of the cardinal rules of vegetable storage is to never keep your vegetables and fruits together. A lot of fruits naturally give off **ethylene** gas and many vegetables are sensitive to it. Storing them together will ripen and then rot your vegetables faster than if they're stored separately.

- These fruits produce ethylene: apples, bananas, nectarines, peaches, pears, and plums.
- These vegetables are sensitive to ethylene: asparagus, broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower, celery, green beans, kale, lettuce, mushrooms, potatoes and spinach.

Carrots and other root vegetables can be kept at room temperature. As moisture speeds up spoiling, storing them without their leaves with some ventilation and will help keep them fresher for longer.

Tomatoes	Do NOT refrigerate, store in a cool spot (13°C) in the kitchen in paper bags. Tomatoes lose colour, firmness and flavour if stored below 4°C.
Potatoes	Harvest when the vine dies back. Potatoes are best stored in dark, cold, moist conditions. Expected shelf-life 6 months.
Onions	Harvest when necks bend. Cure 2–4 weeks at room temperature, then store cold and dry. Do not freeze. Shelf-life ~4 months.
Carrots	Store in cold and moist conditions without their tops. Expected shelf-life 8 months.

A vegetable rack keeps produce organised and frees up fridge space, making it easier to see what's on hand and reduce waste. Store leafy greens in containers in the fridge, and keep celery in water on the counter to stay crisp.

Multi-sowing vegetables

Some vegetables thrive when sown in clusters. Sow multiple seeds per module, thin seedlings, and transplant at slightly wider spacing than usual. They'll naturally spread as they grow, allowing more plants per area.

Recommendations below are by Charles Dowding.

Plant	Seeds per module	Seedlings to transplant	Plant	Seeds per module	Seedlings to transplant
Basil	3 or 4	2 or 3	Onion	6 or 7	4 or 5
Beetroot	4	4	Peas	2 or 3	1 or 2
Sweetcorn	2	2	Radish	5 or 6	4 or 5
Chard	2 or 4	2 or 3	Spinach	4	3 or 4
Kale	4	3	Spring onion	8 to 10	6 to 8
Leek	5 or 6	2 to 4	Turnip	5	3 or 4

Recommended tools

You don't need many gardening tools to get started growing fruit and veg. If you don't have access to any tools and are looking purchasing some, second-hand forks, trowels, spades or rakes can be worth buying from car boot sales. Older, second-hand tools are often more hard-wearing but be cautious of tools with old blades.

If you are looking to buy brand new tools, below is a list in approximate order of usefulness. You do not need many tools to get started and some tools can be homemade or substituted for. Generally, you get what you pay for, but this price range will give you a good guide.

As already mentioned, Hull soil tends to be heavy, so avoid buying tools with shafts or prongs that are weak or bendy as they may bend too much and soon snap. You may struggle with lightweight forks and spades in wet clay soils. Avoid plastic forks. Dry any blades after use and do not leave them out in the rain to go rusty.

Essential	Prices from	Notes
Hand trowel	£4.50	Weak versions may bend in heavy clay soil
Gloves	£3 - £10	Find a pair that fits tightly but have flexibility
Secateurs / pruners	From £6	Worth paying £12+ if used regularly. Clean & dry after use
Trug	£6	Any container will do, handles help. Old tonne bags are useful
Important		
Fork (full size)	£7 - £25	Weak versions may bend in the local heavy soil
Rake	£7 - £15	Often needed for raking a bed before sowing or planting
Spade	£8 - £30	Weak versions may bend in heavy clay soil
Plant labels	£2 - £3	Important for remembering what you've sown. Plastic or lolly stick label + pencil
String / twine	£3 / 100m	Worth getting bio-degradable such as jute. Plastic versions can degrade leaving unpleasant non-degradable fibres.
Plant pots /seeds trays	From £1 (10pack)	For seeds use yoghurt pots, tubs, any container with drainage holes. Module-type trays can be easier to transplant from.
Bamboo canes	£6.50 (10pack)	Price is for 5 ft long. Canes up to 8ft long
Pocket knife	£10	Find them in camping shops
Watering can	From £5	Only use the rose for watering seedlings
Bucket	£2 - £10	Always worth having
Hand fork	£4 - £6	Weak versions will bend and break in heavy soil
Hoe or 'shim'	£10 - £30	Many versions. Double-action push/pull type recommended
Useful		
Gardening wire	£4 / 30m	Single strand wire
Wheelbarrow	£30 - £50	Puncture-proof tyres extend tyre the lifespan
Shears	£10 - £40	Dry them after use. Cheap ones are prone to bending.
Dibber	£1- £3	Alternatively, use a stick
Pocket tool sharpener	£7	Useful for sharpening knives
Hand hoe	From £11	Various designs for nimble weeding

Recommended sources of information

Useful information about growing fruit, veg and herbs in the UK.

Books and authors

- **Vegetable Growing Month-by-month: The Down-to-earth Guide** by John Harrison
- **Allotment Month by Month: How to Grow Your Own Fruit and Veg** by Alan Buckingham
- **Veg Patch: River Cottage Handbook No.4** by Mark Diacono and Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall
- **New Vegetable Garden Techniques: Essential skills and projects...** by Joyce Russell
- **Food from Your Garden and Allotment** by Reader's Digest
- **No Dig Organic Home & Garden** by Charles Dowding & Stephanie Hafferty
- **Veg in One Bed: How to Grow an Abundance of Food in One Raised Bed...** by Huw Richards
- **The Vegetable & Herb Expert: The world's best-selling book on vegetables & herbs** by Dr D G Hessayon
- **RHS Allotment Handbook & Planner** by The Royal Geographical Society Ltd and The RHS

Online, YouTube

- **Charles Dowding** - video series focussing on the No-Dig method
- **Garden Organic** - the UK's leading organic growing charity
- **GrowVeg.com** - an excellent series of videos for amateur veg growers based in the UK
- **Huw Richards** - growing food following organic and sustainable principles
- **Lovely Greens** - green living enthusiast on the Isle of Man.
- **Simplify Gardening** - everything garden related, beekeeping and poultry keeping

Local emails list

For up-to-date information about community growing, events and workshops, email Jane Winter who is Open Spaces and Community Engagement Officer at Hull City Council.

jane.winter@hullcc.gov.uk

She can add you to her email list to receive regular information updates.

*Can you recommend books and videos, online channels? Email **the editor***

Local community food growing sites

Sites are listed in order of postcode starting with HU1 in the city centre.

Key in descriptions. (If information is missing, enquire with the site.)

V = volunteers required

T = toilet on site

D = disabled access.

Hull and surrounding postcodes



Postcode	Site	Key	Location	Description
HU1 2AG	The Wilson Bed		Outside the Wilson Centre, Hull City Centre	Originally a flower bed outside the Wilson Centre. Since 2014 it has been maintained by volunteers from Friends of the Earth, Food4Hull, Transition & Permaculture Hull - used to grow vegetables for public or harvested by a soup kitchen ' Ladeled with Love '
HU3 1YE	BUGS aka Brunswick Urban Garden Space	V-T-D	Behind Kingston Youth Centre, Beverley Road	Growing in raised beds behind Kingston Youth Centre. The site has polytunnels. Lots of active members and they also work with Solidarity Hull. They are open Mon to Sat, 10:30am till 1:30pm
HU3 2RA	Villa Community Gardens & Thornton Urban Gardeners	V-T-D	Behind the Octagon Centre, Thornton Estate	Created on an overflow parking area at the Octagon. It consists of individual allotments of various sizes plus community growing areas. Centre of the Thornton Estate linking the community allotments with housing in Firethorn Close. Overseen by Kieran Foster goodwintrust.org
HU3 3DF	Constable Community Allotment	V-T-D	Constable Street, Hessle Road	Community Allotment established in 2015 and led by Lausanne Tranter. Growing fruit and vegetables with locals. Developed using permaculture principles and the only Permaculture Land Learner in East Yorkshire. Site includes cob pizza oven, 'Iron age replica' round house structure, composting toilet, polytunnels. Inclusive site. See website constableallotment.org.uk
HU3 3ED	Western Library Garden	T-D	The Boulevard	Friends of Western Library (Fowl) is working with Hull City Council's library services and Streetwize to help look after the garden, as well as organise events and gardening groups for all ages. www.facebook.com/friendsofthewesternlibrary
HU3 5EG	The 'Therapy Allotment'	V-T-D	Edensand Road, Hawthorn Ave	3 plots at Edensand Road allotment site. The garden was developed by Youth in Nature and in 2020 was taken on by EMS. It is used for weekly therapy gardening sessions, school education and staff volunteering sessions. Access to community building with facilities. www.emsyorkshire.co.uk
HU4 7AQ	Pickering Road Community Orchard	V-T-D	Off Cranberry Way, Pickering Road	Opened in 2004. Apple harvest mid-August to October with volunteer days Monday & Thursday. For a donation of £1/kg of apples. Seasonal celebrations include Wassailing in January and May Day. Volunteers Mon & Thurs www.facebook.com/Pickeringroadorchard

HU5 2SX	Pearson Park Community Garden	V-T-D	Pearson Park, at East Lodge by Iron Archway	Raised beds maintained by a community group overseen by Stacie. Volunteer sessions on Tuesdays from 9-4pm www.facebook.com/groups/5239881606126141
HU5 2HW	Longthorns	V	'The Plot' Edgcumbe St. Newland Ave Allotments	Providing a physical space to grow a wide range of plants and encourage biodiversity. Educate about food production and the natural environment. Enhance well being through the enjoyment of gardening. Promote the sustainable value of gardening.
HU5 2LJ	Bakersville and Psypher Allotment	T-D	At Newland Allotments Off Tavistock Street, Newland Avenue	On the right as you come through the main gates on Tavistock Street. Set up to provide activity for those referred by the NHS. The project is built on the links between Occupational Therapy, Education, Horticulture and Biodiversity and the importance of working together.
HU5 2LJ	Bora Shabba - Refugee Community Allotment	V	Off Tavistock Street, Newland Avenue	Run by volunteers – learn to grow fruits, vegetables and all kinds of plants. Make friends along the way. Sessions are on Tuesdays, 10am – 1pm. Contact Severine on 07398112959 or email shabaabora@gmail.com borashabaa.org.uk/community-garden/
HU5 2TD	Pearson Park Wildlife Garden	V	Princes Avenue, next to Pearson Park	Run by the Yorkshire Wildlife Trust, the site has herb beds, vegetables and fruit, bees and paths through uncultivated wild areas. Provides children's educational activities, volunteer sessions and a venue for events. ywt.org.uk/pearson-park-wildlife-garden
HU5 3RN	Thoresby Edible Forest & Community Garden	V	Off Thoresby Street	Small edible garden set up by 'At the Edge' community group on council owned land growing fruit and vegetables using forest garden principals. facebook.com/ThoresbyCommunityEdibleGardenATtheEdge
HU5 5QX	Friends of Garrowby Orchard	V-D	Garrowby Walk, Coronation Road North,	A community greenspace managed by local residents and Friends of Garrowby Orchard Community. The site was formerly a school playing field and has been transformed into a woodland, community orchard, and greenspace that is open to the public year-round. https://www.facebook.com/p/Friends-of-Garrowby-Orchard-Community-100071402726994/
HU6 7PE	No Dig community Allotment	V	Clough Road Allotments	A community project on plots within Clough Road Allotments practicing no-dig gardening . facebook.com/NDCallotment
HU6 8AB	The Rainbow Garden	V-T	Off Levisham Close, Endike Lane	Established 1997 in a triangle of land surrounded by houses. It has won many awards. There are volunteer sessions and children's activities in the holidays. facebook.com/rainbowgardenhull
HU6 9ES	HOPE Allotment	V-T-D	Henry Cooper Park, Orchard Park	Land originally part of Henry Cooper School now used food growing and outdoor activities by Sirius Academy North, Thorpepark Academy and Life Skills Hub, Amanita Forest school and Solidarity Hull. With biodiversity spots by Orchard Park Postcode Gardener. www.emsyorkshire.co.uk
HU7 4TT	Men In Sheds, Sutton	T-D	Church Street, Sutton	Group of men growing vegetables in raised beds behind Sutton Reading Rooms Snooker Club on church Street in Sutton. Supported by EMS Ltd in setting up. www.emsyorkshire.co.uk

HU7 4WD	Bespoke Centre Veg Garden	V-T-D	Zeals Garth, Bransholme,	Base for the Central Bransholme Postcode Gardener project with Jon Pearson https://linktr.ee/bransholmepostcodegardener
HU9 1AA	Rooted in Hull	V-T-D	St. Peter's Street, Hull	Innovative Urban Agriculture Project in the centre of Hull working in partnership with local businesses. Transforming a brownfield site into community space as a micro enterprise hub based around food, farming and environment. rootedinhull.org.uk
HU9 1UA	Thinker's Corner Garden	V	Citadel Way	Green space restored by volunteers with some seating, herb and plants growing around a statue. Linked to Rooted in Hull
HU9 4PX	TimeBank Garden	V-T-D	Marfleet Community Centre, 22-24 Swanfield Rd.	Bringing people together. Gardening, foraging walks, events and much more, there's something for everyone to get involved in. timebankhullandeastriding.co.uk
HU9 4DZ	Friends of Kneeshaw Park	V-T-D	Valiant Drive, Barham Road	The Friends of Alderman Kneeshaw Park are a group of dedicated volunteers with a vision to connect and engage the community. We aim to inspire local people to engage with this green space and reignite passion for our beloved park. www.facebook.com/FriendsofKneeshaw
HU9 2TA	St John's Church & Community Garden	D-T	Rosmead St, Marfleet Lane	Features raised beds, brick-built BBQ and pizza oven. Looked after by members of this busy and community focused church, engaging people in growing, cooking and sharing food together.
HU12 0NP	CICD College for International Cooperation & Development	V-T-D	Winestead Hall, Winestead, Hull, East Yorkshire	Volunteering for community development, health and education in India and Africa. 07813 854298 / 01964 631826 https://cicd-volunteerinafrica.org/ https://joincicd.co.uk
HU13	Men in Sheds Haltemprice	V-T-D	First Lane Anlaby	Men in Sheds Haltemprice (MISH) is a charitable organisation whose aim is to preserve, protect and promote good health among local men and women aged 18 years or older. Veg growing plots.
HU17 0RW	Millennium Orchard	V-D	Beverley Parks, Shepherd Ln	100 apple tree orchard, previously hosted annual apple days. Now maintained by volunteers and help is required. Public access as park of Beverley Parks.

Local veg box suppliers

Depending on the time of year, these veg box suppliers may welcome volunteers. Contact them for more information.

HU17 9FS	Frith Farm	V-T	Grange Road, Molescroft, Beverley	The farm provides fresh locally grown vegetables. Veg box scheme. They have taken on customers previously with Arthur's Organics. www.frithfarming.com
Y025 8NJ	Green Growers	V-T	Nafferton, Driffield	Local grower of organic vegetables. Veg box scheme run by grower and soil science expert Dr. Gwen Eggington, specialising in salads greengrowers.wordpress.com

Hull City Council Allotments

	Site	Post	Plots
1	Albert Cottage (Kenilworth Ave)	HU3 5RT	97
2	Bilton Grove	HU9 5YB	44
3	Bude Road	HU7 4QY	74
4	Calvert Road	HU5 5DF	67
5	Clough Road	HU6 7PE	94
6	County Road	HU5 5NB	111
7	Edgecumbe Street	HU5 2EU	35
8	Edensand Road (Hawthorn Ave)	HU3 5EG	36
9	Field Street (Holderness Road)	HU9 1HN	4
10	Gipsyville (Hessle Road)	HU4 6QF	73
11	Lamorna Avenue	HU8 8HT	80
12	Marfleet Lane	HU9 5TF	66
13	National Avenue	HU5 4BT	97
14	Newland Avenue	HU5 2LJ	245
15	Noddle Hill Way	HU7 4NQ	65
16	Oak Road	HU6 7LY	68
17	Perth Street (West)	HU5 3TZ	98
18	Pickering Road (Cranberry Way)	HU4 7AQ	109
19	Portobello Street	HU9 5XY	44
20	Richmond Street (Avenues)	HU5 3JY	36
21	Sutton / Leads Road	HU7 4WA	81
22	Wansbeck Road, Longhill	HU8 9SZ	37

Hull City Council has over 1,800 allotment plots across 22 allotment sites around the city. Although some sites still have very long waiting lists, they often have sites with vacancies or short waiting lists. Please enquire on a site-by-site basis for waiting list details.

For those sites with waiting lists - customers can request to go on the waiting list, however timescales cannot be given for when plots may become available.

All sites are fenced and most have access to water.

Charges

A statutory plot of 250 square metres costs £73.25 per year payable in April of each year.

Concessions are available at £57.75

A refundable deposit of £20 is payable for a key to access the site.

Who can apply and how?

Any resident of Hull can apply for an allotment. The person signing the tenancy agreement must be over 18 and also be a resident of Hull.

Apply online

Use the Hull City Council 'Manage your allotment' online form to -

join the waiting list to apply for an allotment

transfer your allotment

add a co-worker to your allotment

terminate your allotment

apply for a rent reduction. You will be asked to provide supporting evidence

other - any other allotment queries

To use the online forms to manage your Allotment, visit:

hull.gov.uk/leisure/allotments

Email: allotments@hullcc.gov.uk

2026 Calendar of events

Here is a list of food growing and related events in the UK in 2025. Please get in touch with us if you would like to list your own event next year.

Event	Date	More information
Seed Week 2026	In January	seedsovereignty.info/
Hull Seed Celebration	Sat 21 Feb, 10:30 – 2:30	Jubilee Central, Hull, HU1 3SQ nurturehull.org.uk/event/hull-seed-celebration-2025
Eat Them To Defeat Them 2026	March 2026	Events Nationwide and on television. eatthemtodefearthem.com
Community Garden Week	31 March to 6 April	awarenessdays.com/awareness-days-calendar/community-garden-week/
Good To Grow week	18 – 26 April	Various locations across the UK capitalgrowth.org/goodtogrow/
No Mow May	Month of May	plantlife.org.uk/campaigns/nomowmay/
May Day at the Orchard	Mayday 2026	Pickering Road Community Orchard, HU4 7AQ facebook.com/Pickeringroadorchard
Compost Awareness Week	3- 9 May	compostfoundation.org/ICAW/ICAW-Home
Hull Seeding ‘Bring & Buy’	Date in May	Enquiries to john@buddingcommunities.uk
National Children’s Gardening Week	24 – 31 May	awarenessdays.com/awareness-days-calendar/national-childrens-gardening-week/
National Allotment Week	12 – 17 August	awarenessdays.com/awareness-days-calendar/national-allotments-week/
Hull Apple Harvest	Sundays in Aug to Oct	Pickering Road Community Orchard, HU4 7AQ facebook.com/Pickeringroadorchard
Organic September	September	soilassociation.org/certification/marketing-organic/organic-september
Seed Gathering Season	22 Sept – 22 Oct	treecouncil.org.uk/seasonal-campaigns/seed-gathering-season
No Dig Gardening Day	Tuesday 3 rd November	charlesdowding.co.uk/no-dig-day

Contributions: Thanks to Matt Turnbull, Dr. Gwen Eggington

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