



Making the most of your garden

The return of garden waste collections signals the start of the growing year, from planting early food crops on an allotment to enjoying snowdrops and other new arrivals in your flower beds.

Check your days for garden waste and other kerbside services via My Collection Day at **somersetwaste.gov.uk**. You can also now start a new or additional 12-month garden waste collection at any time during the year via My Waste Services at **somersetwaste.gov.uk**.

As you plan your low-waste garden year, take full advantage of the opportunities for reuse - one important step up the waste hierarchy from recycle - whether repurposing plastic bottles as mini-cloches or hanging CDs as bird scarers.

Looking ahead can include what you want to grow, and when, so you can

plan your family's future meals, whether tomatoes and lettuce for simple salads, carrots and potatoes for hotpots and casseroles, or fancy edible flowers to be colourful additions to summer picnics.

If you have a garden or allotment, make good use of food waste by composting all suitable materials, from veg peelings to tea leaves. Useful help and a bargain compost bin offer here: **somersetwaste.gov.uk/home-composting**.

Or - especially if "Veganuary" means you have been preparing more veg - go one better by adding all that "waste" to a freezer bag until you have enough to make stock for soups, stews or sauces.

And why not cut waste even more? It is easy to check which plants can be eaten from root to tip, and to regrow veg - herbs or garlic, celery to spring onions - from scraps on your kitchen windowsill.



Questions that need answers?

With Recycle More's extra recycling collections heading fast to Sedgemoor and West Somerset, residents can get answers to all their questions online in three 7am-7pm Facebook "days" at **facebook.com/somersetwaste**:

- Wednesday 26 January
- Friday 18 February
- Wednesday 16 March

This is the final stage of the Recycle More roll-out. The service is already helping 185,000 families recycle hundreds of tonnes more materials each week across Mendip, South Somerset and Taunton Deane. Full details: **somersetwaste.gov.uk/recycle-more**

PS: Don't recycle these leaflets!

Two Recycle More leaflets will hit every doormat in Sedgemoor and West Somerset in the coming weeks with vital dates, what-goes-where details, and individual one-year calendars for all the new collections. Every home will have collection changes - keep the leaflets to know exactly what you need to do.

Apologies and a big thank you

The upsurge in Covid infections and isolations, together with continuing LGV driver shortages and excess extra waste - especially cardboard - have led to some delayed collections in recent

weeks - for which apologies - and thanks are due to many residents who helped keep pick-ups going.

Despite the pandemic and other problems, there is a lot every family can do to keep services on track for themselves and their neighbours:

- Flatten and tear up cardboard or - if preferred, and time, transport or help - take any excess card, other materials or rubbish to a recycle site.
- Use only the official boxes, bins and bags - order them via My Waste Services at **somersetwaste.gov.uk**.
- Be sure to put out only what is taken kerbside: **somersetwaste.gov.uk/recycling-collections**.
- Help others to recycle, especially those older or vulnerable.
- Report any missed collection after 7pm on the due day using My Waste Service at **somersetwaste.gov.uk**.

Somerset Waste Board

SWP's governing body has two members from each partner council: **Mendip** Cllrs Peter Goater, Tom Ronan; **Sedgemoor** Cllrs Andrew Gilling, Janet Keen; **Somerset County** Cllrs David Hall, Clare Paul (Vice Chair); **Somerset West and Taunton** Cllrs David Mansell, Andrew Sully; **South Somerset** Cllrs Sarah Dyke (Chair), Tim Kerley. SWB agendas: **somersetwaste.gov.uk/somerset-waste-board**.

Information on SWP services

SWP manages waste services for all Somerset councils. On social media, follow **@Somersetwaste**. Advice and ezine sign-up: **somersetwaste.gov.uk**.