



# Allotment Starter Checklist

10 things to do in your first month

by Tony Smith · [growmorecookmore.com](http://growmorecookmore.com)



*Right — so you've got your allotment. Brilliant. Here's what I'd do in that first month if I was starting over. Do these ten things and you'll be well away.*

## 1 Walk every inch of your new plot — slowly

Don't touch a thing on day one. Just look. Where does the sun hit? Where's boggy? Where's the old tenant left stuff? You'll save yourself a lot of bother if you understand what you've got before you start digging, you know what I mean?

*Tony's tip: Take photos too — you'll want to compare them in a year's time.*

## 2 Clear one small bed properly — not the whole plot

Trying to tackle everything at once is how people burn out and give up by March. Pick one bed. Clear it properly — roots and all. Get a win under your belt first.

*Tony's tip: A 1.2m x 2.4m raised bed is plenty to start with.*

## 3 Sort your soil before you sow anything

If your soil's rubbish, your veg will be rubbish. Dig in some compost or well-rotted manure before you plant anything. Your future self will be dead chuffed you did this.

*Tony's tip: Get a basic soil pH test — they're cheap and worth every penny.*

## 4 Find out what grows well in your area

Have a chat with neighbouring plot holders — they're usually dead friendly and full of local knowledge. What thrives on your allotment site is more useful than any book.

*Tony's tip: Different soils, different microclimates — local knowledge is gold.*

## 5 Start with something easy — and quick

Radishes, salad leaves, courgettes. Things that reward you fast. You need those early wins to keep the motivation going through the harder bits.

*Tony's tip: Radishes are ready in 4 weeks. Brilliant for morale!*

## 6 Get a decent watering system sorted

Whether it's a water butt, a standpipe nearby, or just knowing where the tap is — sort this out early. Watering is the one job that kills plots when people don't plan for it.

*Tony's tip: A water butt connected to a shed saves a lot of lugging.*

## 7 Make a simple sowing plan for the season

Nothing fancy — even a piece of A4 with the months across the top. What are you sowing when? What needs to go where? A bit of planning saves a bloody lot of confusion.

*Tony's tip: The sowing calendar in the Grow More Cook More app does this for you.*





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## 8 Learn what 'direct sow' vs 'start indoors' means

Some seeds go straight in the ground. Others need a head start inside on a windowsill. Getting this wrong wastes seeds and time — but it's not complicated once you know.

*Tony's tip: Beans, peas, squash — direct sow. Tomatoes, peppers, aubergines — start inside.*

## 9 Set up somewhere to store your tools properly

A shed, a box, even a tarpaulin. Tools left out rust and disappear. Your future self will thank you every single time you need a trowel in a hurry.

*Tony's tip: Clean and oil your tools at the end of each season — they'll last forever.*

## 10 Give yourself permission to make mistakes

Every experienced grower you meet has killed plants, flooded beds, sown too late, harvested too early. That's how you learn. Enjoy the process, man. It's supposed to be good for you — not perfect.

*Tony's tip: "The best gardeners aren't the ones who've never made a mess."*

*Want the sowing calendars, meal planners, and growing trackers that go with this? It's all inside the Grow More Cook More app — and the free weekly newsletter walks you through it step by step. Take care of yourselves.*

