

# Rod Hill's Gardening Tips

Corfe Mullen Gardening Club July / August 2016



For reasons our **Azaleas** and **Rhododendrons** came into flower during May time and were gone over by the second week of June after having so much rain.

The growth has been enormous on many of the shrubs, so it is time to get out the pruning shears or hedge trimmer. The weather has given us an abundance of snails and they have gone to town on our Hollyhocks, the little snails have enjoyed the leaves and the adult snails have reduced the growth. As I am not keen to kill them I have been picking them off morning and night and have taken them to a new destination for their holidays and I am hoping that they will not be able to find their way back home.



Where the garden seems to be very sandy around the Azaleas I am giving it a good mulch of last year's compost.



July and August is a good time to take cutting and increase your stock. Our perennial bed has been looking good with a variety of colour and I notice we have many plants that have propagated themselves, especially the **Bleeding Love Hearts** [ *Lamprocapnos spectabilis* ] when early flowering perennials have gone over why not cut them back and see if they give you a new flush of flowers.

We may be having a lot of rain but it is still good to give plants a general fertilizer or a liquid plant feed or Tomerite

Don't forget to keep an eye on the bedding plants and dead head when necessary to keep them looking good.

Is your **Rhubarb** looking tired and old and has lost its figure, it may be time to get rid of it at the end of the season and replace with a new plant in a fresh position. Our Rhubarb has been brilliant this year with stems over 2 feet in length. We have cut, chopped and placed packs in the deep freeze. What better on a cold winters night than to sit down to a bowl of Rhubarb crumble custard and cream.



Enjoy the garden

From Rodders the retired gardener