

Hello and welcome...

to everyone who has been involved in the garden or those who hope to be in the future.

With the coronavirus pandemic so much has changed for us and all our garden programmes have been postponed until further notice. Colebrooke is definitely a quieter place but things are still growing, and as food producers we are still growing for the community.

I thought this would be a good opportunity to keep people up to date with what's happening and maybe give a few gardening tips along the way. So much is changing in our normal life but it's a great chance to notice nature progressing through the season now we have a bit more time. Buds opening and seedlings growing with beautiful sunshine most days shifting our attention to outside can be a real help.



Purple Sprouting Broccoli



Apple Blossoms



Broad Bean Blossoms

This time last year our groups were tapping birch trees to make birch sap syrup and waiting for the elder flowers to come out to make elder flower cordial. Many hard-working veterans were digging the garden and planting seeds. This year will definitely be different but we can still do all these things and share them with you online along with recipes and growing tips.

I really hope people get to enjoy nature close to home and can take the time to notice the life around us.

Keep safe and hope to see you all in the garden when we are allowed to return.

**Regards,
Dougal Dorman**

Head Gardener, Colebrooke Walled Garden

SEED SOWING

15TH APRIL 2020

Seed sowing is the name of the game at the moment. Here are some tips for great success growing seeds

STEP 1: SEEDLING COMPOST

Use fine seedling compost if you can get it. Other compost can be too rich for a small seedling.



STEP 2: READY YOUR TRAY

Break up any lumps and tap down your tray to get rid of any air pockets.



STEP 3: WATER!

Water your tray before putting the seed in so you don't soak the seed too deep into the tray.



STEP 4: PLANT!

Thin out any weaker seeds and plant two seeds per cell, giving you more chance for success.

STEP 5: KEEP YOUR SEEDS HAPPY

Store your seeds in a warm, bright place. Heat mats are great during cold nights.

★ TOP TIP!

Only water your seedlings when they need it. Seedlings can easily be killed with too much kindness.



This week we sowed Lollo Rosso, Mazur & Navarro which are varieties of lettuce which go great in a salad mix. We also sowed Savoy King Cabbage & Redbor Kale which are definite favourites. Finally, it's your last chance to sow tomatoes, we grow Sun Gold Tomatoes which are the sweetest of all!

AROUND THE ESTATE

18TH APRIL 2020



None more so than the spring lambs who can be seen galivanting around their fields, mostly to the disgust of a large hare who was trying to gaze peacefully, when I was taking these photos. Hares are noticeably larger than rabbits and have black tips on their ears. Unlike rabbits, hares live on the ground, rather than in burrows. They rear their young, known as leverets, in shallow depressions in the ground known as 'forms'. They are rare to see and according to The Wildlife Trust in recent years their numbers have been declining due to loss of habitat. I always feel privileged when I stumble across one.

Last summer in the garden at Colebrooke, a number of leverets appeared, as they are not burrowing mammals leverets do not 'run away' but rather hunker down hoping not to be detected by predators. As they view humans as predators it is important not to pick them up or move them, so they were left to the peace and quiet of the garden during this time.

Robyn Livingstone

Brooke House

Haring Around...

As well as sharing information and updates from the Walled Garden, each week we will also share a snippet of life from the wider estate. Colebrooke Estate stretches over 1000 acres and encompasses a variety of different environments including ancient woodland, grasslands, pine forests and the winding Colebrooke river.

The sun over the last couple of weeks has well and truly emphasised the fact that spring is here, and everything in nature is starting to move and shake again.



HARVEST

15TH APRIL 2020

Each week the garden produces a variety of tasty, organically grown fruit and vegetables...



Florence Fennel

Rhubarb

Beetroot

Purple Sprouting Broccoli



Salad Mix

This week we harvested florence fennel, purple sprouting broccoli, rhubarb, beetroots, and a variety of leaves for salad mix.