

Garden Diary - 26th May 2020

Definitely the busiest time of year!

Starting to look forward to the summer now when most things are planted and there is a chance to just leave things to grow, instead of jumping from job to job in a mad rush to get through my list of things to do. I was in the polytunnel alongside one of our volunteers, quickly sowing some seed before moving on to plant more flowers, when he said to me "Isn't it amazing these wee seeds grow into plants."



Hearing that made me stop in my tracks and think, "YES! It is amazing." Here I am getting flustered trying to plough through my list of jobs, when the volunteer beside me is sowing the same seeds but really enjoying the whole process thinking about all the potential. I realised I'm not going to get anything done quicker worrying about what I have to do next so instead why not get fully involved in what I am doing in that moment and enjoy it - a much better way to be!

Seeing other people enjoying the garden is as rewarding for me as it is for them. We are so lucky to still be able use the garden during the lockdown and to have others enjoying the tranquility working on their plots.



It reminds me how much I appreciate gardening. Seeing others getting pleasure from growing is such a help and to value the individual jobs for what they are. It would be terrible to not be amazed that a seed grows, so I make sure I do not take nature for granted and take the time to soak in each moment.

Hearing about all these people spending a bit more time in their gardens during lockdown and realising the pleasure that can be had from simply growing things is very reassuring. The simple things matter a lot and keeping it simple definitely helps enjoying the moment and not get lost in the busy times.



***Regards, Dougal Dorman, Head Gardener,
Colebrooke Walled Garden***

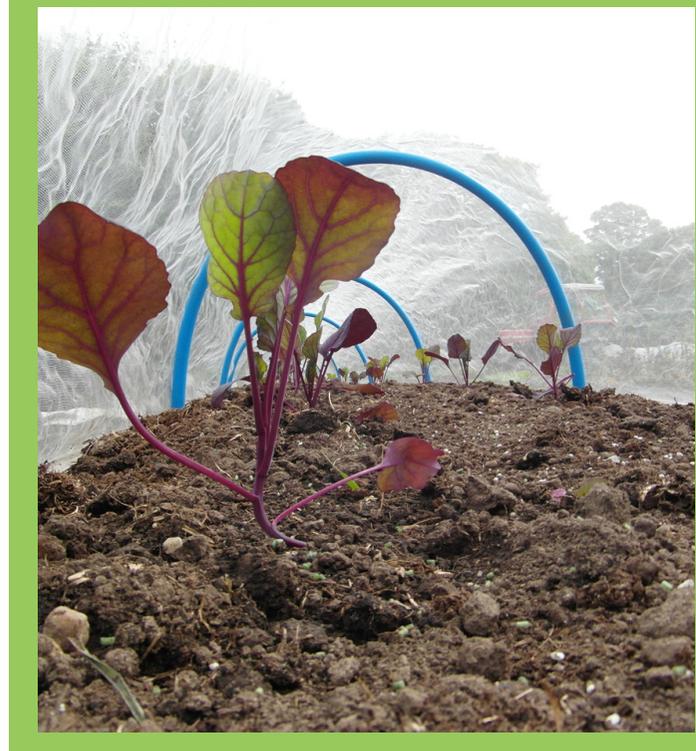
PLANTING OUT BRASSICAS

27TH MAY 2020

One of our favourites!

WHAT ARE BRASSICAS?

We love growing brassicas here in Colebrooke. That's the plant family which include things like cabbage, broccoli, brusselsprouts and cauliflower, although there are a few things that make our lives awkward growing this particular family of vegetable.



DISEASE

We have a disease in the soil called club root which deforms the roots preventing the plant from growing properly. The best thing to do is to grow a big, healthy plant in a bigger pot before putting it into the ground. This usually does the job.

PESTS

Our second problem is cabbage root fly. This is a horrible pest that lays its eggs around the collar of the plant so its larva can eat away at the roots. Using these special nets is a great way of stopping them. Once the plants get much bigger, we just take the nets off. Cabbage collars are another solution, which are cardboard rings placed around the stems of the plant.



“Brassicas” or “cruciferous vegetables” refers to species in the genus Brassica, which is part of the mustard family.

A NEW MARKET GARDEN...

...Growing Potatoes

It has been the ambition, of a few of the garden volunteers, to create a market garden.

CREATING THE SPACE

At the start of April the lower section of the walled garden was cleared, ploughed and rotavated to make way for a crop of potatoes. This included the relocation of the fence from the bottom part of the garden.



PLANTING

By the middle of April, once the ground was prepared including the removal of all large stones and weeds, the potatoes were ready to be planted. Seed potatoes were cut in half and planted in the ground approx. 10cm deep. A variety of potatoes have been planted including Jazzy, Linda and Casablanca varieties.



PROTECTING YOUR POTATOES

1. As your potatoes grow its good to cover them with more soil, giving the plant more room to grow more potatoes!

2. It's also a good idea to cover them when they are young if there might be a frost. We use the soil from the path to earth them up.

3. A fork or cultivator are good tools to break up the compacted ground, then a shovel or a digging hoe are used to spread the soil around the potatoes.



WATCH THIS SPACE

Come harvest time, we'll need help getting our potatoes safely out of the ground, watch this space. Spuds growing...



Tools Used:



1



2

3

