

Attendance: Tim, Ray, Trevor, Ashley, Claire, Robin, Justine, John F, John W

Purchases:
Water sprinkler, bought and should arrive tomorrow

Nematodes:
Bought some nematodes that were put into the poly tunnel cucumber beds this morning. **Agreed to apply nematodes to one bed of main crop potatoes as well.**

Weeding / No Dig:
Need to weed onion and leek area Thursday but, apart from that, the weeds are really negligible. The no dig definitely seems to be working to reduce weeds. Potato weeds are our biggest problem!

Netting:
Agreed to organise all netting and make an inventory. 'Netting' includes weed suppression, fine mesh, wide mesh, fleece and netting. Also need to check the contents of the other shed to see if there is any space that could be used if it doesn't all fit in the existing shed. Throw away any rubbish. Robin bought some ribbon to label everything a while ago. Use knots that can be undone easily. We can then order anything that is needed. Also need fine mesh on the cold frames to be replaced. **Agreed: Robin to lead netting task on Saturday.**

Will probably need new netting for peas (need to be netted to prevent pigeons and pheasants eating the plants).

Potato cropping:
Need to be far more meticulous this year when we crop potatoes. Need to have time to dig them properly and so suggestion is to crop the session before and for them to be sold at the next, rather than rushing to do it all in one day. If we leave them in the ground it just creates homes for slugs and other pests, and lots of weeds amongst other crops.

Watering:
Now have two watering groups: one WhatsApp and one on email. Agreed to leave the current arrangements as they are.
No need to water tomatoes, they can be done on team days. Mornings water cucumbers, evenings water modules and cold frames. Need to keep watering the cucumber beds over the next two weeks when we open and close each day. Deep modules need to carefully watered as they dry out really quickly.

Holiday cover:
18 June opening: Robin covering John F
21 June close: Trevor covering John W
22 close: Robin covering John W
28 close: John F covering John W
8 July close: Justine covering the Browns

Agreed to order another lance for the new greenhouse.

Fruit cage:
Will add rhubarb elsewhere and remove it from the fruit cage. **Agreed to add some white current bushes.** Will see how the cropping goes this year and then decide what we need more of.

Globe artichokes:
Not doing well at the moment. Agreed to see how they go this year but will start again for next year in a different location. Will sow some seeds as well.

Black plastic area: will plant a few squash there but not too many

Greenhouse:
New greenhouse is being fitted with glass. Ashley trying to buy the remainder of the glass this week and get it fitted. There is a lot of broken glass in the ground so all **agreed we will need to put some black weed suppression down and cover in gravel. The existing staging will fill one side, agreed to put black weed suppression down and gravel underneath the staging as well as on the other side.**

Agreed to experiment with capillary matting in one side of the greenhouse next year.

Bean poles:
Trevor has put in a lot of bean poles but still need more. Agreed to put some strings up to grow the remainder. Will also do a later sowing to get some in Sept and extend the season. **John W and Trevor to arrange on Thursday.**

Carrots:
Have had problems with slug damage. Carrots and parsnips haven't been manured and should be composted instead. Did manure one bed of carrots to see what happens. Have space for two more beds of carrots and so hopefully we'll get less slug damage. **Agreed to remove the remainder of the black plastic down as it does harbour the slugs.**

Raised bed:
Agreed to remove the remaining bed at the end of this season. The wood border is home to loads of slugs.

Slugs:
There are some key times when slug damage is really bad. Need to focus on slug removal. **Agreed next year: Need remove all black plastic in March and do a focused attack on slugs.** If we get manure early enough we will not need to use much black plastic.

Display of veg for selling:
Need to open the doors and make the area look more appealing

Manure:
Robin has been offered some manure from a stables near Epsom Downs but we need to collect it. Agreed that while it is being delivered to us from just 2 miles away that we don't need it at the moment.

Heritage crops:
Have grown some broad beans, carrots, lettuces, peas, squashes and a few other things.

Labelling:
John W to finish doing the labelling. Curtain rails are good - ask around.

Bonfire locations:
It has been agreed that there should be no bonfires in the walled garden. There's an area designated to the side of the leaf mould to store weeds ready for burning. Not a problem in the winter to have bonfires in the walled garden, it's just the summer months. Could see how the ground looks under the black plastic and use that area rather than for squashes?

Tools:
Agreed the next job should be to sort out all the tools and to have designated stations around the garden.

Hope these are okay, sorry they're late!

See you at the garden

Justine