

Dear All,

Notes from today's meeting

John will pull together a list of jobs that need to be done. Most of the sowing has been done - perhaps some for the polytunnel.

Need to cover Thurs, Sat and Sun morning - we'll work it out between us.

Successes and failures

Failures

Carrots

Late Spinach - germination poor

Little Gems - germination poor

Turnips

Apples and pears need water

Raspberries - bind weed an issue and water possibly needed

Peas - think the mice have taken more than we thought and we haven't caught as many as we have in previous years. We also need more pea sticks or use netting. Need to plant rows further apart if we want to use pea sticks. Need to review in March and make sure we have enough.

Garlic - many have split.

Charlotte potatoes - Bob has taken one to the help desk in Wisley and we should be receiving an answer later this week. Could possibly be a fungus from the manure? Don't think it was blight. The damage is not on all the potatoes - brown patches seem to be superficial until they are stored, foliage is really healthy. Perhaps we shouldn't trench as we have. Agreed to manure this autumn (as much as possible) and rotivate it in rather than trench.

Successes

PSB

Courgettes

Early spinach

3 different types of lettuce

Spring onions

Shallots

Onions

French beans

Runner beans

Kol rabi

Cauliflowers

Celeriac

Cabbages - red and Autumn

Sweet corn

Squash

Soft fruit - loganberry season quite short

Polytunnel

Future ideas

White current- John F and Bob to take some cuttings/ layer their plants at home to plant some for next year

Suggest the building of a manure store goes on the list

To do

Weed the rhubarb and then water

Move the potatoes and onions

Take shredder for Saturday

Order some plastic ready for use

Ask Michael to send a message to the allotment holders - if people use items please return them to the garden

Bob to put some paint on the tools to try to stop things going missing

Buy some more enviro mesh and netting for the winter

Ashley - check the pegs we ordered for the enviro mesh

Issues

In June we get behind because so many people go away and then spend July trying to catch up. Seemed worse this year as it was wet and warm.

Asparagus

Need 40 plants and is a good crop in May. Agreed to plant some more.

Grass cutting

Ben has been mowing all the areas. Have been giving him extra veg but he's using his own mower and petrol. We need to make sure we give the allotment holders value for money. Everyone thought it was a good idea but the issue is the storage. Ashley to raise at the Director's meeting on Thursday.

Storage

The potting shed is too warm, need to leave the windows open. The potatoes need to be moved into the old shed as it's in the shade and has ventilation.

Manure storage - need to construct a bin or co-ordinate the delivery so that the pile is moved really quickly.

Storage of netting - it needs to be labelled and stored properly.

Black plastic

Agreed we need to put some down in the old squash area so that all the weeds can be killed off. No other area needs to be covered.

Could be used on abandoned allotments to keep them tidy.

Vouchers

£100 of Squires vouchers. They do sell drip hoses - would be good for the cucumbers. Could also do Wolf handles - wooden ones were preferred. Asparagus is another option. Agreed John to use the vouchers on these items.

Module trays

Need to order some more and the depth is really good. All agreed to buy some more.

Soft fruit cage

Could crowd fund it or use some of the money we make. Agreed to measure the area and work out what we need and cost it out.

Justine