
Dear All,

Lovely to see you all this evening. Here are the notes from our meeting.

1. Peas growing

Bob has removed some of the peas from the fruit cage and questioned about leaving the sticks in situ.

Pea sticks or netting? Trevor felt the netting took a long time. It was agreed that we'll stick to using the pea sticks as long as we can get them from Sheepleas, especially as we are trying to garden organically. Agreed to keep as many as possible to use for next year.

Action: Robin to contact Sheepleas and arrange coppicing.

Action: keep as many sticks as possible to re-use next year

Note to all: Do not cut down the pea sticks as they make great pigeon perches.

2. Failures in 2020

Collapse of the drying beans in the gails. Suggestion is to grow in tripods instead, use diagonal bracing or do shorter runs of 10m.

Agreed: try a mixture of options next year

Action: have a look at the beans to see if they are mature enough yet to remove and dry elsewhere

Carrots: early carrots weren't good but later ones have been much better. There was a discussion on types: **Milan from Tamar** was suggested.

Cabbage & Calabrese - they are just too big, very tasty but too big. Would be better if we could cut them up and sell them in sections.

Autumn onions: mainly bolted. Halving the number and growing some seed this year.

French beans (Faraday): have cropped in huge numbers. Will use again but need to spread out the sowings and probably reduce the quantity.

Fennel: first bed has bolted as it was too hot.

Sweetcorn: has been very good but birds have been helping themselves.

Asparagus: about the same as last year. New bed will come on next year, so we may remove the older area next year.

3. Areas that are out of control

All the corners are a problem, apart from the entrance.

Agreed to blitz these areas one a week. It is important to dig out the roots, not just remove the tops.

The area where the wall was repaired needs some attention.

Agreed: Loganberries could go back into the space, wires need replacing as well.

Action: Bob to investigate purchasing half a dozen plants.

Around the frame area is also bad; the potentilla is horrendous and is spreading rapidly across. This area is also bad for slugs.

Action: Ashley to bring down some wool based slug deterrent to consider.

Wildlife corridor - needs some attention - removal of some of the perennial weeds

4. Raspberry supports

Wires need moving around. The gap is too big and they go too high.

John W: to ask the building team to amend the wires

5. Outdoor bush tomatoes

Have grown beautifully but you can't get to them. Could support them as they do them at Kew.

A recommended variety is Coeur de Boeuf

Agreed: grow some more outdoor bush tomatoes next year and some San Marzano

6. Indoor tomatoes

Reduce the number of Sungold and grow some more larger tomatoes

7. Aubergines

Very low quantity in the polytunnel compared to outdoor multi-stem ones. Perhaps should crop early ones smaller as some of the flowers fell off plants. We've also had some pests in the polytunnel.

Agreed: to try some outdoors next year as well

5. Winter jobs

Remove weed suppression and refresh the frame area

Amend the raspberry wire supports, to make them lower and reduce the gaps.

Replace the soil in two of the beds in the polytunnel but need to be careful where we get it from to ensure we don't bring in the weeds. Could replace with compost from the bins.

6. Grant received to replace the plastic on the polytunnel

Agreed to replace the plastic in the smaller polytunnel at the end of March / early April.

7. Fruit Trees

Pruning

All the summer pruning was done earlier in the year. John F and Ashley going to do them again this week to take off any subsequent growth.

Action: Ashley to check when to do the grease banding, probably towards the end of September.

Dead tree

There is a dead Quince Pear that needs replacing. Suggestion was for a different type of pear. We believe it was a cherry before.

Action: Agreed to buy a William's Pear that is a few years old and replace the soil

8. Weeds

Rob has built two more bins. We have found some pallets and will use those to build some more weed bins.

Action: Call to go out about asking for pallets.

9. Leaf mold

Last year there were weeds added to the leaf mold, so it couldn't be used.

Action: Agreed to resurrect the leaf mold bin

10. Soft fruit

We had loads this year but may not be as many next year; the crops were so heavy some of the branches collapsed and some pruning is needed. The plants need to recover, so it's likely the crop will be reduced.

11. Greenhouse staging

Agreed that would be this time next year.

12. Wheelbarrows

Suggested that we should buy galvanised wheelbarrows in future as the others do not last.

13. Manure

About time to request some more before the ground gets boggy and the truck gets stuck. Important to keep the two lots separate.

Action: John to talk to Trevor about getting some more in

14. Price list

Action: Justine to do a new list for beginning of October

15. Entrance

Should we improve the entrance and put some beds there? Robin suggested we need to check with the National Trust but all agreed it would be a good idea.

Hope to see you at the gardens!
Justine

