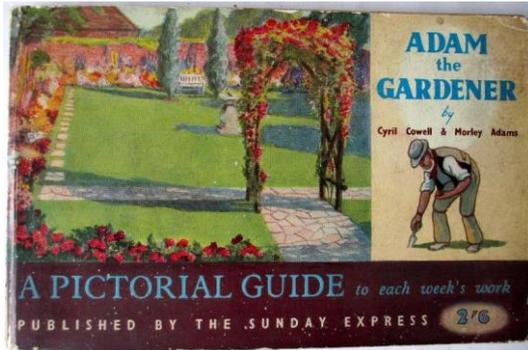


Well we can't get satisfaction every time. The 'Lima' asparagus have turned out to be a real disappointment. My main complaint is that the stems are quite tough and fibrous and the flavour is not up to much either.

I went online to see if I could find any reviews. In fact I could not even find any for sale anywhere even though they are still listed on Blackmoors website. I left my own somewhat grumpy review. So that's it for the 'Lima', they will now be grubbed up and replaced with a known reliable variety like 'Gijnlim' or 'Backlim'



I wonder who remembers these books. I found this one in the library at RHS Wisley. Only £2.00. It is still a very useful source of information. And even more it brought back some lovely memories of gardening in my school days.

On the NVS website a member asked about French beans and how to identify them apart. He had inadvertently mixed up two different varieties commonly used for show. So here you have it. **Hawkesbury Wonder** are purple and **Prince** are brown and speckled.

The Hants D.A Plant Sale

We had another successful day at West Wellow on 5th May. Mind you some people had a bit of difficulty identifying the plants.



Nigel to Peter, 'I'm telling you it's a 'Triffid'.



The trustees who run the show. 'Secretary' Alison, 'treasurer' Ann and 'Chairman' Jim. Well done on another professional job.

And thanks also to the ladies who made all the cakes and manned the kitchen providing refreshments.

Also to all of the Hants D.A members who provided a wide assortment of flower and vegetable plants. Though next year I must produce a few more trays of leek. Most of mine did not even get onto the tables before they were snapped up. Hears to next year.

In the polytunnel

The **Charlotte** potatoes are starting to throw up flowers. That means the tubers are forming. In another week I reckon I can start lifting. The first plant won't provide a great yield but it is just lovely to have those new potatoes on the menu.



The Allotment greenhouse



On the opposite side of the house are the **Gogorez** peppers.



In the Greenhouse.

The **Ferline** tomatoes have set their first truss. Its now time to switch over to a high potash feed. **Tomorite** will do.



The **Marathon** calabrese are producing heads followed by a plentiful supply of side shoots.



They are setting fruit so its time to change their feed. These will get a dose of **Maxicrop Triple** twice a week at half strength. Some of these will be grown on for show in an attempt to win the £75.00 first prize on offer from 'Marshalls

'Seeds' at the Southern Branch Show at the end of July. As the prize is for the heaviest pepper that means that unfortunately I am going to thin them down to just two or three peppers per plant in order to get an increase in size.

The Swift F1 sweet corn has been planted out between onions and the shallots. Every bit of space on my allotment is utilised.

The onions and shallots will be lifted in July leaving the sweet corn to grow on unimpeded.



Any day now I can expect the Elephant Garlic to start throwing up seed spikes. Some people break them off as they believe it leads to a bigger bulb. I leave mine to flower as they make a very colourful sight on the allotment and quite honestly I have not noticed any difference in size. I have two rows growing from cloves and one row of rounds. These are the bulbs that were grown from cloves last season but they did not form into bulbs with cloves. So all one does in that instance is to hang onto them until the

following October and plant them up again. Then in theory they should grow into bumper bulbs. 'We shall see'.

It seems we have run into a period of dry weather. My exhibition potatoes have been in the bags since 3rd April. The 4th to the 8th week of growth is a critical time in the life of the potato. They must not go short of water. So that's something to keep an eye on.

Many thanks to neighbour Ann for the donation of the sweet corn.

Expect another article in a week or so.

John Trim