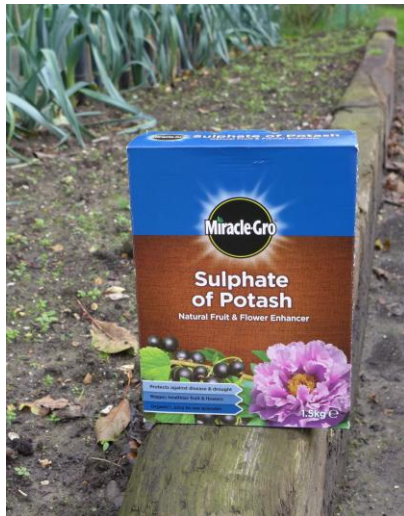


On the 4th November during a break in the rain I managed to get the 'Provence Wight' garlic planted out. Not forgetting to add the essential ingredient, 4oz of potash to the square yard.



At 9" apart I was a little over generous with my spacing of the plants. The recommended distant is 6". Now don't forget the golden rule, plant the garlic so that there is at least 2" of soil above the clove.

I got the plants out just in time. That night the temperature

fell quite rapidly, just what the garlic need.

If we can maintain a soil temperature below 50f/10c for a month, then that will be ideal for initiating clove set.



My last show of the year was held at RHS Wisley. I was quite successful wining with my 'Kelsae' exhibition onions and the smaller 'Takmark' in the 250 gram class. So that was a good end to the showing season. It is was time to prepare the exhibition onions for seeding.



The skins on the onions have been stripped back a little. Also the neck is trimmed quite close to the top of the onion. They are positioned like this to enable any moisture to leak out of the bulbs. Then after a few days each onion is suspended in individual net bags to further dry out. '17th November.' Hung up in my dry airy garage.

No sooner have I finished with the exhibition show onions for this year, than it's time to already start thinking about next season.



I shall be sowing reselected Kelsae seed in late December. Before that I have tested the viability of this years seed. Ten seeds sown, ten germinated, that's 100%. Now I know the seed is good.

It is now time to send your potato order in if you want to be sure of getting your favourite varieties. Although the carriage charges can be rather expensive by mail order, I am lucky because my local garden centre stocks genuine Scottish seed potatoes from JBA Brothers. This means I can select as many tubers as I want and all of the same size and in good condition.



If you are saving some of last years seed, 'like the Purple Eyed Seedling' in the photo, set them up in trays before they start to sprout. If you have a variety that you wish to keep and they have already established long shoots, well just rub them off and in a few weeks they will regrow.



Sometimes this is the only way to hang onto a cherished variety. The 'Purple Eyed Seedling' is no longer available. I was lucky enough to be given some existing stock of this lovely potato by some friends.

Remember the green tomatoes I put on the windowsill. In a couple of weeks they have ripened up. Time to pick a few more green ones from the allotment to follow these.

Some of our vegetables have decided to call it a day. We have picked our last courgettes and cucumbers. I could have carried the cues on for another month, but we are now enjoying our winter vegetables. Last Sunday we had a roast dinner. 'Catriona' roast potatoes, 'Extremo' carrots and 'Cascade' sprouts. Delicious.



The 'Extremo' carrots are doing really well. No sign of carrot root fly damage. That's the advantage of a late August sowing. There is one thing worth mentioning about late sown carrots, they won't be as flavoursome as

those that enjoyed the warmth of the summer sun.



The 'Sweet Candle' we are eating from store taste much better. Well I am off back to the greenhouse to pot up a few more leeks.

More from me in December.

John Trim