

And by fruits I refer to all those vegetables that come from a flower.

But before we come to those here is Malcolm who tends his very neat pot across the path from my allotment. As well as doing his own paths he also helps out by cutting the grass for both his neighbours.

As well as running his own garden maintenance business Malcolm also works as a volunteer at Furzey Gardens near Lyndhurst in the New Forest. It's an enchanted woodland oasis. It also caters for people with special needs who get enormous pleasure from working in the gardens. There is a lovely café and entrance to the gardens is by donation. If you are coming down for the National at the end of July it is well worth a visit after the hurly burly of the New Forest Show.



Perfection Peas

First of all I have an apology to make. In my article of 19th May 2019 the label in the jar of peas read 15th April. In fact that should have read the 15th May.

On the 30th June I spotted the first flower. That is 46 days from sowing. In my book [The Root to the Top](#) I quoted 50 days but that was written back in 1990, since then I think that global warming is speeding things up a bit.



That leaves 29 days to the show. From flower set to full pods will take 22/25 days, so in spite of my misgivings I may well get a dish onto the show bench after all. Don't forget to keep tying in the peas to the canes and nip off all those tendrils and any side shoots.

At last the [Zenith](#) tomatoes are beginning to ripen up. Now these are from cuttings getting the better light at the front of the greenhouse. Those at the rear which were grown from the seed that provided the cuttings, are still mostly green.



But on the plus side we are now picking ripe cherry tomatoes from the polytunnel.

Cucumbers

This [Femspot](#) cucumber is 3" long. In a week it should be almost ready for picking. I shall keep an eye on this one to see if I am right.



To keep your cucumbers going throughout the season take cuttings from the side shoots. This is the ideal size, about 6" long. Now I find that as the weather gets warmer cucumber cuttings do not strike so well by standing them in a jar of water. They tend to get mushy bottoms very quickly. Much better to set them away in a good seed compost with sharp sand or vermiculite added. I use a shallow flower pot and the soil is kept quite moist. Leave a small cluster of leaf at the top of the cutting and make sure you remove any embryo cucumbers.



Keep the cuttings out of full sun and spray the foliage several times a day. If it is really hot I put the bowl of cuttings into an open ended cardboard box. In ten days time the cuttings will have rooted and they can then be potted on into individual pots.



Blanch Leeks

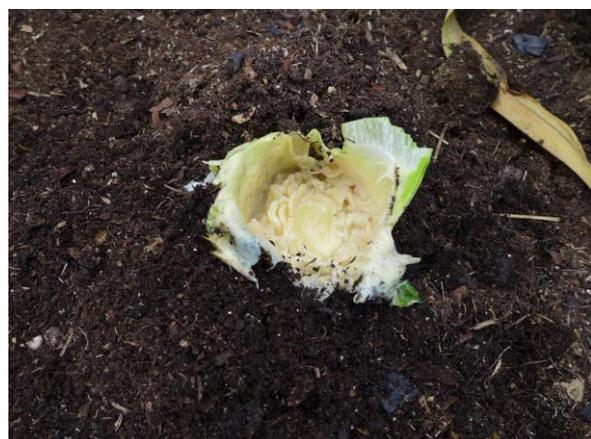
The leeks have had their collars removed for the weekly inspection. So far they are doing okay. Whilst the collars were off I gave another spray against leek moth and thrip. I noticed one flag showed where a moth had laid its eggs.



A problem with the pot leeks

This mess is all that is left of a pot leek. I noticed a day ago that the leaves had suddenly turned yellow and were wilting. On my morning

inspection the leek had collapsed and I attempted to pull it up. This was the result. It stank and I am convinced it is some form of white rot. I lifted what was left with a fork and disposed of it. With another leek looking decidedly sickly I am now having doubts of getting a set for the National.



Better News, the Celery is still doing well

The celery is now in 18" corrugated cardboard collars. And that is the maximum I shall blanch them to.



The collars are on fairly loose to allow the celery some room to grow. Three weeks from

the show they will be tighten up to exclude the light then hopefully we shall get a good blanch on the stems. The stalks in the picture were split and therefore removed.

I shall continue giving a weekly feed of calcium nitrate as a preventative against heart rot.

This recent hot weather has made celery growing a bit more difficult. Now they need watering morning and evening to keep the deep bed moist.

Anyone who can get a top notch set of celery onto the show bench deserves a prize card.

Runner Beans

My earliest sowing of runner beans is primarily to provide the seed for the following year.

To conserve space they are grown at home on a wigwam. This is to eliminate any cross pollination. That would certainly occur if they were grown on the allotment.

Of course some of the beans end up being eaten. We had the first picking at the end of June.

Any bean that looks like it has show potential is retained.

This one has certainly made the cut. Slim long and of the right shape, plus containing nine beans. This and hopefully many others will be left to mature on the bines.



type is self pollinating so there is a better chance of a late crop. In fact I shall grow some of them in the polytunnel.

More sowings and plantings for July

I have made a last sowing of broad beans, **De Monica** variety. I must make another sowing of carrot and beetroot in the next few days. I will also transplant lettuce out of their nursery bed. Making sure they have plenty of water. They will wilt but they will pick up after two or three days.

The **Bute** sown on 18th March potatoes have had their haulms trimmed off. They will be moved under cover in three days time. I still harbour hope for the sickly looking **Amour** potatoes. There is still enough foliage surviving to feed the tubers. If they can keep going for another week there is a chance of harvesting a few decent specimens.

Okay, tomorrow I shall sow more calibrese and plant out the last lot. The **Ironman** variety. And that's about it. More from me in a week or so.

John Trim



Sowing of Stenner runner beans continues

In fact I make five sowings through the year. All **Stenner** variety apart from the last sowing in August which will be a bi coloured. That

