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Vegetable Seedlings

April 2017

All our vegetable seedlings are grown in organic, peat-free compost.

Onions

SOIL: Sunny position in fertile cultivated ground with good drainage and a fine tilth. Tread the soil down to make the surface firm before planting.

CULTIVATION: Plant out the seedling clumps 20 cm apart - They will push themselves apart as they expand. Water only in dry weather. Stop watering once the onions have swollen. Pull back the covering soil to expose the bulb surface to the sun.
For onion sets: Pant 10cm in row and 25cm between rows. Plant so that the tip of the bulb is just visible above the soil.

HARVEST: As soon as the leaves start to yellow and die back. Choose a dry day.

• **Onion 'Sturon' – sets.** Good quality round bulbs. Suitable for storage. Harvest: Early August.
• **Onion 'Red Baron' –** Superb quality red onion. Strong flavour. Harvest: August – September.

Tomatoes -Eight different varieties!

SOIL: Fertile well-drained soil or grow in pots with potting compost. Choose a sunny, sheltered spot.

CULTIVATION: Water plants daily and once flowers have started to appear, feed with tomato fertiliser every week to ensure the best fruit.

TRAILING TYPES – use in hanging baskets and containers. Bush variety - no need to remove side shoots.

- **Tomato 'Tumbling Tom Yellow' -** Cascading, highly productive variety. Sweetly flavoured yellow cherry fruit.
- **Tomato 'Tumbling Tom Red' -** Cascading, highly productive variety. Sweetly flavoured red cherry fruit.
- **Tomato 'Tumbler' -** Trailing cherry tomatoes. Produces 2kg of fruit per plant! One plant per 12" basket.

CORDON TYPES – the aim is to create a single-stemmed plant. Snap out shoots that grow in leaf joints and when your plant has produced four sets of flowering trusses, pinch out the growing tip to ensure all its energy goes into producing fruit.

- **Tomato 'Ailsa Craig' -** Bright red, medium sized fruits. Famous for its flavour. Matures early.
- **Tomato 'Gardeners Delight' -** Cherry Tomato. Old favourite with great flavour.
- **Tomato 'Sungold' –** Small, delicious tasting orange coloured fruit on long trusses. Ideal for salads.

BUSH TYPES – No need to remove side shoots.

- **Tomato 'San Marzano' –** Large plum tomato. Ideal for classic Italian sauces
- **Tomato 'Totem' -** A dwarf bush variety suitable for containers.

Brassicas - A wide range of leafy vegetables like cabbage, brussels sprouts, broccoli, kale and cauliflower.

SOIL: Brassicas do not like acidic soil so add lime to the soil if necessary, aim for a pH of 6.5-7.5.
They grow best in partial shade, in firm, fertile, free-draining soil. Tread on the soil to remove any air pockets and make the surface very firm.

CULTIVATION: Plant 30cm apart for small cabbages to 75cm apart for brussels sprouts. Keep well-watered until established. Apply a foliar feed in summer.

HARVEST: Summer cabbage, cauliflower and calabrese – July onwards
Brussels sprouts (from bottom of plant upwards), early and late varieties of broccoli, autumn and winter cauliflower and cabbage – October to the following spring.

PESTS: Cabbage white butterfly and birds – protect with net, try CDs on strings or **a scarecrow**. Inspect plants regularly for caterpillars.

- **Brussels Sprouts 'Bedford Darkmar 21' -** Pick from bottom of stem and work upwards. Harvest: mid-August – early April.

Cabbage

- **'Stonehead' -** Early ball head type. Round medium green heads. Good bolting resistance. Harvest: June – September.
- **'Red Drumhead' -** Red Cabbage. Solid round heads. A compact variety suitable for the small plot. Harvest: June – September.

- **Calabrese 'Marathon' -** Produces small, evenly sized buds with good bud colour. Deep well formed heads. Tolerant to downy mildew. Matures after 75 – 95 days.

Cauliflower

- **'Snowball' –** Early variety and also suitable for successional growing. Harvest: July – August.
- **Cauliflower 'Minaret' –** Romanesco variety. Mid-green coloured heads. Harvest: July – August. Available late May.

- **Purple Sprouting Broccoli -** Popular plant for 'cut and come again' crop. High yielding. Harvest January - May. Available late May.

Legumes -beans and peas

SOIL: Moist, fertile soil in a sheltered, sunny spot away from strong winds. Can also be grown in pots.

CULTIVATION: Before planting, create a support for climbing French and runner beans. Either make a wigwam with 2m (6ft) canes, lashed together with string at the top, or create a parallel row of canes, which have their tops tightly secured to a horizontal cane. Each row should be 60cm apart and canes spaced 15cm apart in the row.

For peas, broad, dwarf French beans, plant 10cm apart with shorter supports.

Regular watering is vital. Runners should be watered particularly heavily in dry weather, both when the flower buds appear and when they open. Mulch around beans to help keep moisture in the soil when the conditions are dry.

HARVEST: Pick the beans and peas as soon as are ready and the plants will continue producing for several weeks.

• **Pea 'Hurst Greenshaft' -** High yielding variety with 8-10 peas per pod. Height: 75cm. Harvest: May – September.
• **Broad Bean 'The Sutton' -** Dwarf variety, growing to 45cm in height. A good choice for exposed areas. Harvest: June – September. Sold out!
• **Broad Bean 'Witkiem Manita' –** Early maturing variety, Height 90 – 100cm. 5 white beans per pod. Sold out!
• **Dwarf French Bean 'Tendergreen' -** Prolific crop of string less, dark green pencil pods 15 - 17 cm long. Excellent for freezing. Harvest: July – October.
• **Dwarf French Bean 'Borlotto Supremo Nano' –** Dwarf borlotto beans. The pods are 16cm long and predominately red in colour. Kidney shaped beans in the pods with a creamy coloured background and red stripes. Harvest: July – October.
• **Runner Bean 'Enorma' –** Straight, long pods, 30-32cm long. Red flowers. Good flavour. Harvest: July – October.
• **Runner Bean 'Painted Lady' –** Red and white bi-coloured flowers. Produces short, tender and flavoursome pods. Harvest: July – October.
• **Bean 'Runner Hestia' –** Dwarf bi-coloured variety that look great in a containers. Good quality beans over a long period.

Squashes - Summer type: Courgettes and Marrows, Winter type: Pumpkin and Butternut Squash

SOIL: Sunny location and fertile moist soil.
Can be grown in large pots (at least 45cm across).

CULTIVATION: Plenty of water is essential, especially when the plants are in flower and then when the fruits have started to swell. Sink a 15cm pot alongside the plants when planting out. Water into this so it goes right down to the roots and does not sit around the neck of the plant, which can lead to rotting.
On sandy or light soil, regular drenches with a liquid feed will help boost production.

HARVEST: Use a sharp knife to sever the fruit from the plant. Harvest summer squashes, marrows and courgettes when the fruit is still quite small – marrows 25cm (10in) long, courgettes 10-12.5cm (4-5in).
For pumpkins, winter squashes and marrows for overwintering, let the fruit mature on the plant and remove before the first frost strikes.

Courgettes
• **'Green Bush' –** Bush variety. Striped fruits. Pick as standard sized courgettes or leave to mature into marrows.
• **'Patio Star' –** Compact variety suitable for growing in containers. Produces a heavy crop of dark green, standard sized fruits.
• **'Atena' –** Produces a heavy crop of golden-yellow courgettes. Sweet flavour.
Summer Squash
• **'Summer Ball' –** Bush variety. Suitable for growing in containers. Yellow-orange round squashes.
Pumpkin
• **'Jack O' Lantern' –** 4 – 7kg fruit of medium orange colour and sweet flavoured flesh. Perfect for Hallowe'en. Available late May.
Winter Squash
• **'Hunter' –** Butternut squash developed for the UK market. Produces 6-7 fruits of 1kg each per plant. Available late May.
• **'Uchiki Kuri' –** 3 – 5 Small pumpkin-like fruits of intense orange-red and golden flesh, averaging 1.5kg. Available late May.

Beets – Beetroot, Spinach, Chard

SOIL: Sunny spot in moisture retentive soil. Can be grown in containers and troughs.

CULVITATION: Plant 10cm apart and 30cm between rows. Keep area weed free and water moderately during dry periods.

HARVEST: Pull out beetroots when they are about cricket ball size. For perpetual spinach and chard, pick outer leaves carefully and regularly while they are young and fresh, leaving the central foliage to develop for later pickings.

Beetroot
• '**Boltardy' – Globe variety.** Smooth skin with deep red flesh.
Beet leaf
• **Perpetual spinach –** Similar to spinach, but the leaves are larger, darker and fleshier.
• **Chard 'Bright Lights' –** Grows 45cm high with attractive coloured leafstalks. Can be used as an ornamental plant.

Lettuce – All are 'cut and come again' varieties. This year we are selling them in a mixture of the different varieties.

SOIL: Choose a sunny or lightly shaded site.

CULTIVATION: Grow 30cm apart and keep well-watered.

HARVEST: Pick outer leaves carefully and regularly, leaving the central foliage to develop for late pickings.

• **'Matador' –** A red Lollo Rossa variety. Heavy and voluminous head with deeply cut intense red leaves.
• **'Isira' –** Bright blonde oak-leaf variety. The head is voluminous, flat and compact.
• **'Cancan' –** Bright green lettuce with a frisee appearance.

Cucumber

SOIL: A sunny spot protected from strong winds and well-drained soil.

CULTIVATION: Pinch out the growing tip when the plant has developed 6-7 leaves. Side shoots will then develop which can be left to trail over the ground or trained up stout netting and where the cucumbers will form. Keep the soil moist by watering around the plant, not on them. Once the first fruits start to swell, feed with a high potash liquid fertiliser. Fertilisation is essential so never remove the male flowers.

HARVEST: Cut the cucumbers when they are 15-20cm long. June to October if grown in the greenhouse or July to September outdoors.

• **'Telegraph Improved' –** Greenhouse or Outdoor variety.
• **'Burpless Tasty Green' –** A favourite variety for outdoor production. Dark green medium to long fruits.

Sweet Corn

SOIL: Full sun and away for strong wind.

CULTIVATION: Must be grown in a rectangular block 45cm apart to ensure wind pollination of the female flowers. Water well in dry weather.

HARVEST: Test for ripeness when the silks have turned chocolate brown. Pull back part of the sheath and squeeze a couple of grains between thumbnail and fingernail. If a watery liquid squirts out then the cob is unripe. If the liquid is creamy then the cob is just right for picking but if the liquid is thick and doughy you have waited too long!
Carefully twist off the ripe cob from the stem, ideally just before it is required for cooking.

• **'Incredible' –** Medium long cobs, sugar enhanced type with good flavour and sweetness.16-18 rows per cob. Available late May.
• **'Luscious' –** A tall, bicolour, sugar enhanced variety with medium to large sized cobs with 16-18 rows of yellow and white coloured grains. Good flavour and texture. Available late May.

Hot Peppers

SOIL: Sheltered, sunny position in moist, fertile soil or in containers. Can be grown indoors on a sunny windowsill and hand pollinated to ensure a good crop - simply move from flower to flower tickling the centre of each one with a fine paint brush

CULTIVATION: Water chilli pepper plants regularly throughout the growing season and feed weekly with a high potash tomato fertiliser once the first fruits have set. Pinch out the growing tip of the first flowering shoots to promote more branching and therefore increase your harvest. When growing chilli plants it's best to keep them a little on the dry side as stressing them very slightly helps to produce hotter peppers!

HARVEST: Chillies need warmth and long sunny days to ripen properly. Harvest chillies singly by cutting them from the plant. If grown outdoors they must be harvested before the first frosts. If your plants have a lot of flowers/unripe fruit in September, bring the pots indoors and let them ripen on a warm sunny windowsill. Hand pollinate the flowers to ensure fruit.

• **'Apache' –** Dwarf, chilli pepper producing high yields on compact plants over a long period. Available late May.
• **'Cayenne' –** A hot, pungent pepper with long, thin fruits maturing from green to red. Available late May.
• **'Big Jim' –** Largest New Mexican type. Produces pods up to 30cm long and 6cm wide. They mature from green to red. Height: 60cm. Medium to hot variety. Available late May.
• **'Scotch Bonnet' –** Habanero type2.5 – 4cm long and up to 1cm wide. Upright pods. Matures from green to red. Very hot with strong pungency. Available late May.

Celeriac

SOIL: Celeriac is a moisture-loving plant that needs fertile, organic rich, moisture retentive soil and prefers full sun.

CULTIVATION: Keep the soil constantly moist and the ground weed free. As the plants mature, remove the outer leaves as they fall horizontal, to expose the crown and allow it to develop. Remove side shoots if they appear.

HARVEST: Harvest from October to the following March.
Leave in the ground until required, and cover with a thick layer of bracken or straw during the cold winter months to prevent the ground from freezing.

- **'Giant Prague' –** Well shaped smooth celeriac, vigorous roots. Available late May.

Edible flowers

Nasturtiums - Great ornamental plant with edible leaves and flowers. Grow in sun or partial shade.

- **Tall Single-flowered mixed –** Single flowers for climbing up fences or trailing from baskets.
- **Jewel of Africa –** Variegated foliage. Trailing type for baskets and containers
- **Empress of India –** Crimson-scarlet flowers over dark foliage. Compact type.

Pot Marigolds – Orange edible flowers throughout the summer. Dead-head to prolong flowering. Bees love it!

Pansies and Violas – various varieties available throughout the year.