



Vegetable Plants

April 2023

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

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.

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 'Matador' – A red Lollo Rossa variety. Heavy and voluminous head with deeply cut intense red leaves. |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 'Isira' – Bright blonde oak-leaf variety. The head is voluminous, flat and compact. |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 'Cancan' – Bright green lettuce with a frisee appearance. |

Tomatoes - Eleven 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 'Tumbler'** - Trailing cherry tomatoes. Produces 2kg of fruit per plant! One plant per 12" basket.
- **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.

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 'Sweet Aperitif'** - Tasty bite sized fruits. Shiny red colour, thin skins and a sweet flavour.
- **Tomato 'Sungold'** - Small, delicious tasting orange coloured fruit on long trusses. Ideal for salads.
- **'Black Cherry'** - An old variety. Blackish-purple skinned cherry sized fruit with dark red flesh. Sweet and juicy flavour.

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. Red cherry tomatoes.
- **Tomato 'BushSteak'** - A compact bush variety that typically grows to 50 - 60cm in height. Produces a bountiful crop of large red fruits that weight up to 180 grams each! Good flavour.

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.

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Brussels Sprouts 'Bedford Darkmar 21' - Pick from bottom of stem and work upwards. Harvest: mid-August – early April. |
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Cabbage

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• '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. |
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Calabrese 'Marathon' - Produces small, evenly sized buds with good bud colour. Deep well formed heads. Tolerant to downy mildew. Matures after 75 – 95 days. |
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Cauliflower

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 'Snowball' – Early variety and also suitable for successional growing. Harvest: July – August. |
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Kale 'Black Magic' – Cavalo Nero type. Striking dark, narrow, well-textured leaves. |
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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.

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

- **Onion 'Red Baron'** - Superb quality red onion. Strong flavour. Harvest: August – September.

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.

- **Broad Bean 'The Sutton'** - Dwarf variety, growing to 45cm in height. A good choice for exposed areas. Harvest: June – September.
- **Climbing Dwarf French Bean 'Fasold'** – Long, round stringless pods with black seeds. Quick to mature. Superb flavour. Harvest: July – October.
- **Pea 'Hurst Greenshaff'** - High yielding variety with 8-10 peas per pod. Height: 75cm. Harvest: May – September.

Beets – Beetroot, Spinach, Chard

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

CULTIVATION: 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
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 'Boltardy' – Globe variety. Smooth skin with deep red flesh.

Beet leaf
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Perpetual spinach – Similar to spinach, but the leaves are larger, darker and fleshier. Use as a 'cut and come again' crop.• Chard 'Bright Lights' – Grows 45cm high with attractive coloured leafstalks. Can be used as an ornamental plant.

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
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 'Green Bush' – Bush variety. Striped fruits. Pick as standard sized courgettes or leave to mature into marrows.