

BOGS Notes from 21/09/2011 Meeting

- ⤴ The meeting opened with a discussion on potential topics for discussion and visits/visitors to BOGS over the winter season
 - Potential guest speakers include, Gordon Nelson (fête vegetable judge), Joe Maiden (AS to enquire), Mark Simmonds from CLOG to talk about fruit trees, grafting and fruit planting and perhaps to site visit to the horticultural project next to Gordon Rigg in Walsden
 - As a note to this Joe Maiden doesn't charge for visits but AS is struggling to get his contact details
- ⤴ Sue Oxley has been watching the horticultural channel on the internet particularly the self sufficiency features

Review of growing season

- ⤴ Steve has had a poor season for lettuce, although Roger and Pat have had good lettuces this year, and early crops too from early plantings. Two good varieties have been 'freckles' – good bolt resistance, and 'can-can' – also bolt resistant
- ⤴ Steve has had good brassicas, esp savoy cabbage, sprouts plus good pea crop
- ⤴ Both runner beans and courgettes were late although Clare thought her courgettes were good although they were planted out very early under protection
- ⤴ Some members experienced problems with their courgette plants looking healthy but not producing any courgettes – they either do not develop or rot before attaining any size
- ⤴ Steve has not had lettuce root aphid this year
- ⤴ Soft fruits generally a good year
- ⤴ Blight problems as usual, although struck in unpredictable pattern and not always at the same time
- ⤴ Roger and Pat had a lot of millipedes everywhere but thought that their flowers were generally excellent. Sue thought that her lupins and lilies have been spectacular also.
- ⤴ Phil has been battling with pheasants, moles and rabbits eating his vegetables particularly peas, broad beans and runner beans
- ⤴ Other members have had feral chicken problems, deer invasions and collared dove explosions all causing devastation in their gardens and veg patches
- ⤴ Generally thought that cabbage white caterpillars not such a problem this year although there were some exceptions. It was suggested that the protective netting has to be held away from the leaves of the cabbages etc to prevent the butterflies laying eggs through the mesh
- ⤴ Some veg patches have been overgrown with moss – Roger thought that this indicates a 'sour' patch. It could also be down to damp conditions and waterlogged soil
- ⤴ Debbie had good courgette crop but her leeks are behind (as they are with a few other members also)
- ⤴ Strawberry crop was generally about two weeks after Wimbledon fortnight. The group then had a discussion about replacing strawberry plants every three years using the runners from the older plants. This doesn't transfer any disease problems (according to Monty Don...)
- ⤴ Finn had good strawberries and peas but sweetcorn is behind
- ⤴ Pat and Roger had a good year with compost production – the key was getting the carbon:nitrogen ration correct – they added lots of broken up cardboard and turned the heap when it started to cool off

- ⤴ Phil had a good year for fruit however peas, beans, cabbage and cauliflowers were not as good as previous years. Onions OK but good potato crops

Topical tips

- ⤴ Plant onion and garlic sets now
- ⤴ Planting depth 1" above clove for garlic
- ⤴ Lift and bag any remaining unharvested potatoes and keep between 5-10C
- ⤴ Take hardwood cuttings from current bushes etc
- ⤴ Pat recommended taking herb cuttings, and from scented geraniums

Any other business

- ⤴ Daffodil bulbs are available for verge planting in Blackshaw
- ⤴ We discussed possibility of getting some more compost for the group – Calderdale have stopped producing black gold
- ⤴ Next meeting October 19th