

Allotment Diary

Plot 62A, Shepherds Hill Allotments

Stephen Cushnir

February – October 2020

February - April



Was offered the plot in February. A blank canvas, and a lot of work lay ahead. First step was to dig in the green manure on the site.

February



Started building some raised beds, using scaffolding boards. The children had built a scarecrow to keep me company.

March



Beds finished. Next step to fill them.

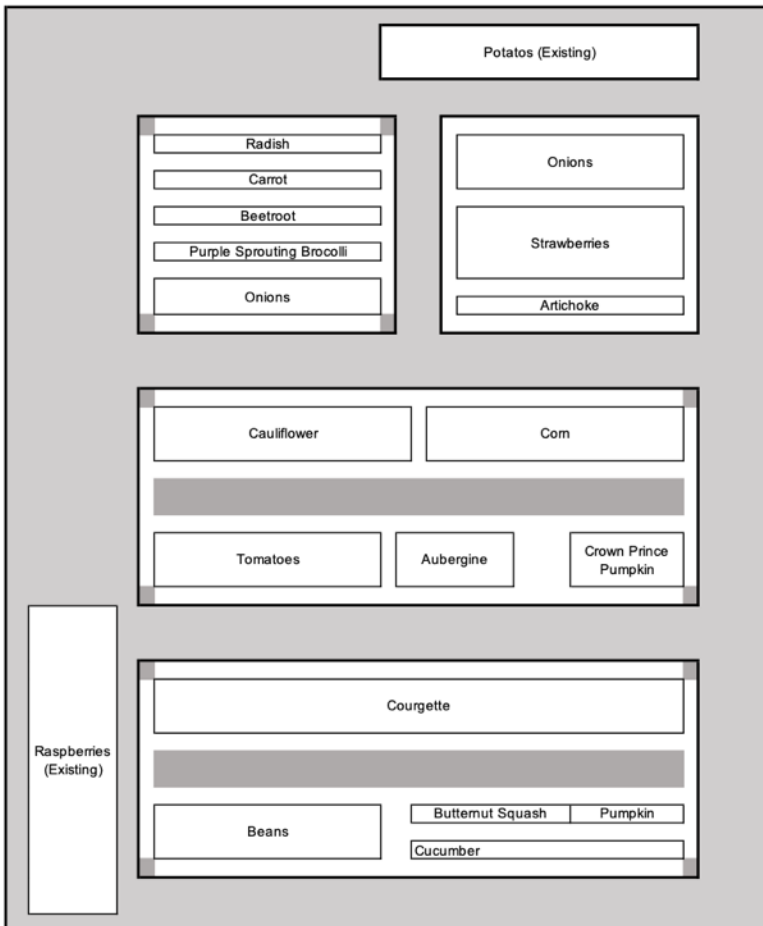
April

May



In early May, beds were filled with a mixture of compost, manure and existing earth – in total, about 3 tonnes worth.

After filling the beds the first planting was done.



By the end of May all plants were in. A late frost killed the first set of cucumber plants which were replaced at the end of the month.

June



By June all netting was put in place, as the weather began to get hot. Potatoes from previous year began to come through.

A family of foxes became regular visitors.....



The difference between the beginning and end of the month is hard to believe

July



The beans grew quickly, and the pumpkins set fruit.

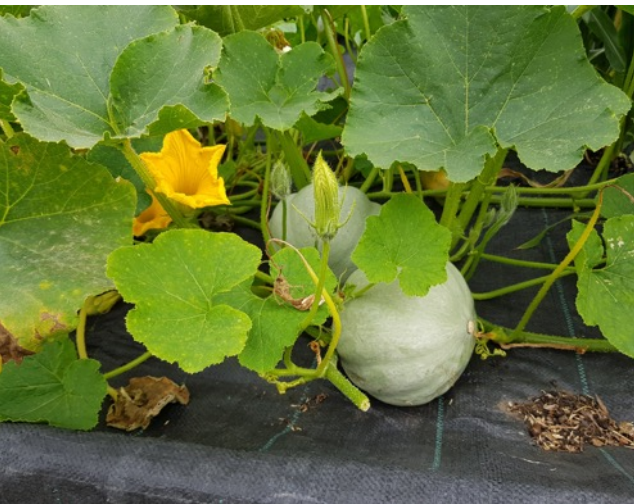


Two new beds built, one for asparagus to be planted next year.

August



Onions, squashes, cucumbers and pumpkins put on weight and ripened.



September - October



Built small shed at the bottom of the site, on a gravel base.



September



October

After harvesting had finished, raspberries were cut back, and all the beds were refilled with compost and manure. Garlic and onions were planted for over-wintering. Sprouting broccoli remains to harvest in spring.

June - July Produce



Early raspberries, lots of courgettes, purple beans, beetroot and cucumbers.



August Produce



Purple and borlotti beans, corn, carrots, beetroot, tomatoes, squashes, cucumbers, and early autumn raspberries.



September - October Produce



Corn, tomatoes, squashes, cucumbers, pumpkins, raspberries, borlotti beans, onions, artichokes and one, solitary butternut squash.

