

# Hope allotments blog –September 2020



Early August was very hot and dry unlike last year which was pretty wet after a very dry July and led to blight which devastated the outdoor tomatoes.

The only remedy for blight is/was to pre-empt it by spraying the tomatoes with Bordeaux mixture. Due to overuse by farmers (a recurring theme in modern farming!) Bordeaux mixture, which is based on copper sulphate, ended up being banned because the soil was getting poisoned by the copper.

You would have thought that farmers would have learnt by now that the overuse of chemicals is not only expensive but potentially destructive for the soil but no! they keep on spraying away madly, killing everything in sight, to the extent that the doomsday scientists have said that we may only have 30 years left before the soil is so badly polluted that we can't grow anything!

Anyway, on a happier note our main crop potatoes, which are grown without the use of chemical pesticides or fertilisers, have passed the taste test with Harry (one of our vegetarian volunteers) declaring that they are the best potatoes that he has ever tasted.

So there you go. Not only are our potatoes great tasting, we don't destroy the environment growing them either.

Looking forward to October, the glasshouse cucumbers, which we thought had succumbed to Mosaic virus, have recovered and are now producing little fruits that hopefully will have time to mature. We also have a nice crop of pumpkins which should be perfect for Halloween.



Finally, we have an Eco-therapist starting at the end of September but when I asked Robin (our CEO) if I could have a session with her as I am beginning to feel like a billiard ball. He said I would have to go to the end of the queue!

Have a happy gardening month and see you in October.

**Joe - the Hope gardener**