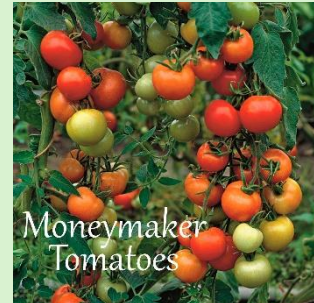




VEGETABLE GROUP NEWSLETTER
JUNE 8TH, 2026

PROGRESS IN THE POTAGER

Val told us that she had grown tomatoes from seed including Early Fordham, Moneymaker, cherry and yellow varieties. Cucumbers had been disappointing so she has reseeded. Other vegetables being grown include shallot, beetroot, radish, chillies, kale, lettuce, beans, courgette, aubergine and leeks. Val was delighted that her new raised beds are really doing well.



Moneymaker Tomatoes

shade), melon, courgette and squash. Cucumbers were behaving rather oddly.

Liz reported that she had grown broad beans and purple mangetout - the latter being particularly good. Sweetcorn, French beans (didn't germinate), runner beans (scarlet emperor) have all been sown. Vegetable plants bought in include tomatoes, aubergine, butternut, beetroot, peppers, cucumber and courgette.



Scarlet emperor runner beans

Barbara has planted potimarron which is doing well along with lots of self seeded tomatoes. Soft fruit including strawberries, gooseberries and rhubarb have been successful together with a good show of herbs. Barbara is planning on planting some more seeds.

Paul has grown mange-tout, peppers, fennel (particularly good), squash, broad beans, garlic, courgettes, aubergine, butternut and melon which was also good. Sadly, the beetroot sowing failed. His new raised bed built with cardboard, sticks and compost have enabled currants and some vegetables to be transplanted, but he was disappointed that the bed is draining too well. Cucumbers have at last started to grow.

John's new lasagne bed is doing really well - he has added to it all winter and will continue to do so. He found it beneficial to cover it during winter with an old duvet.

Di is growing tomatoes, peppers, potimarron and courgettes in containers. Slugs and snails are causing problems and members suggested raising the pots onto tables if possible, putting a band of self-adhesive copper tape (sold specifically as a snail/slug deterrent) around the outside of the pots or using a garlic spray.





Clare told us that although a lot of vegetables had been slow to start this year, she is successfully growing tomatoes, chillies, beetroot, peppers, courgette and squashes, okra, rhubarb and redcurrants.

Ian has 4 tomatoes growing, although not as well as he had expected. He also has melon and butternut plants which are doing well.

Jane is growing potatoes, sweetcorn, butternut, onions and tomatoes, (including Roma and Moneymaker), aubergines, pumpkins and rhubarb, which are doing well. Beetroot have been a failure and Jane was very disheartened about the state of her cabbage, which appeared to be going mouldy around the central 'ball'. Several suggestions were made to rectify the situation including removing the protective cover over the plant, which might well be causing condensation to form.

Ann is doing well with tomatoes and cucumbers, which she is training up poles rather than leaving them on the ground, where in previous years they have not done well. She is experimenting with using raised beds - concerned that they are a bit dry but she is keeping an eye on them.

Peter did not have a very successful broad bean harvest - perhaps because they were grown in a different bed from previous years. Tomatoes, potatoes, carrots, courgettes, spring onions, cucumbers, watermelon, onions, garlic, beetroot, mangetout peas, butternut, pumpkin, peppers, leeks and aubergine have all been grown from seed and are progressing well. The new raised bed being used for the first time is producing some excellent results, whilst other beds are still a struggle to get a good crop.



Health and Safety in the Garden

Clare gave us an insight into what we as gardeners should be doing to help reduce the risks to life and limb when working in the garden. From wearing the 'right' clothes and safety equipment to taking regular breaks and using the correct tools for the job we're all covered. As suggested by members, Clare's notes are now on the IGC website for all members to access whenever memories need to be refreshed!

EL NIÑO - should we be prepared?

Peter commented that he had added this to the Agenda because of increasing mentions in the Press of the imminent arrival of El Niño in Europe and that it is considered by the World Meteorological Organisation that it may rival the strongest on record.

It is likely to happen during June to August and will continue until at least November. Paul pointed out that it was quite possible, based on previous episodes, that it will last until Spring 2027.

A greater probability of extreme weather - drought, heatwaves and heavy rainfall are possible. After general discussion on the topic, suggestions were made including: looking after ourselves in extreme weather conditions, consider plants regarding location (shade/sun), regular watering, water storage and harvesting crops earlier to reduce the strain on plants.



There were no volunteers to research 'growing brassicas' before the next meeting, so Peter volunteered to report back.