

The Vegetable Patch – 14th May 2020 – Malcolm Scriven

There have been big changes in the vegetable plot since the last report three weeks ago on 25th April. The raspberries have grown well. I don't know what the early variety are called (I acquired them as suckers from a friend who had forgotten their name) but they have started to produce tiny fruit. The later variety, Autumn Bliss, look healthy and will soon need a bit more support.



The raised beds getting ready for the beans with the Raspberries behind – Autumn Bliss on the left and the early fruiting ones on the right. We will put some tomatoes and a courgette plant behind the Raspberries. Then, we have the strawberries that are looking a bit scruffy this year.

The potatoes, (Kestrel in the veg patch, King Edwards in bags) have put on a real growth spurt. I have moved the bags out of the greenhouse, and they are now taking their chances on the 'beach' by the kitchen.



The King Edwards, looking a bit crowded on the 'beach'

The tomato seeds (Alicante and Roma) are turning into healthy little plants and we have a couple of cucumbers that are coming on well. We usually put a couple of tomato plants and a couple of cucumbers in the greenhouse while the rest brave the outdoors in the garden.

We have a little strip of clover between the strawberries and potatoes. This was unplanned and would normally have been removed by now, but we have left them. In the past, the resident wood pigeons have spent Spring happily stripping the leaves off our Victoria Plum tree but this year the clover has attracted their attention and the plum tree has been left alone – a happy coincidence.



The little clover patch to lure the Wood Pigeons away from the Plum Tree.

Things never go entirely according to plan in a garden. I am going to put runner beans (Polestar) in the two raised beds and planted the seeds in the greenhouse a few weeks ago. I planted eight and four have grown into healthy looking plants. Three were very late emerging, look weedy and have now been attacked by something that is making the leaves

crinkly. The last stubbornly remains as bare compost, so I only have enough for one raised bed. I have planted up four more pots and just hope I get enough to start the second raised bed.



The Runner Beans – four looked healthy to start with but are now being eaten by something. The three weedy ones are in front together with the complete failure. I have planted another four in the greenhouse and just hope enough survive to go into the raised beds.



The lettuce and carrots are making steady progress.