



Wantage Market Garden



Autumn 2021

The change in weather signals that summer is over and autumn is here. The garden is slowing down, but there are still lots of things to do and enjoy. It is a time to remove this summer's crops of tomatoes, beans and squash. Hopefully they have produced well. Autumn colours are amongst the loveliest, with their yellows, oranges and reds. The trees put on a magical display before shedding their leaves.

At the Market Garden, our summer crops have also finished. Our tomatoes did very well, as did our snake gourds. We have yet to weigh the biggest! We are planting salad plants in one poly tunnel and spring flowers in the other to overwinter for us to enjoy next year.



Some jobs for the autumn:

Make leaf mould

Rake up fallen leaves and fill a bin bag or compost bag. Make holes in the side, water the leaves to make them damp, tie off the top and leave in a corner until this time next year. Then it can be spread around plants and makes lovely mulch



Collect leaves, and seeds to make a collage

The leaves from sycamores and acers turn amazing colours. Make a rainbow of their leaves and include seeds, nuts and berries for texture.

Collect seeds for sowing next year

Wait for a dry day and collect seed pods. Put in an envelope, seal and, most importantly, label. Remember to sow them next spring.

Cook something delicious with autumn produce

We are taking part in the Oxfordshire Pumpkin Festival, which aims to reduce food waste by encouraging people to cook with their pumpkins, rather than just carve them and bin the flesh. To find out more visit:

<https://goodfoodoxford.org/oxfordshire-pumpkin-festival/>



Go for a walk in a wood

Enjoy the autumn colours and smells. Look for mushrooms, but don't touch unless you are with an expert. At the Market Garden we have fairy alley (pictured right)



Keep feeding the wildlife

Hedgehogs need to fatten up before the winter, so if you have been feeding them, keep going for a bit longer. Remember, no milk or mealworms. Meaty cat or dog food or ready made hedgehog food is perfect. Birds need extra help as well, so put out seeds, fat balls or mealworms for them.

If you have a garden, remember to keep one corner messy, with leaves and bits of branches for animals (such as hedgehogs) and insects to over winter in.



'Red Kite in Flight'

In mid October we had a visit from David Johnston MP. He was welcomed by both Style Acre and Sustainable Wantage gardeners. Hannah Crabb, one of our regular Friday gardeners gave him a very informative tour of the garden. Then we had the grand unveiling of Mark Ebsworth's mosaic, a beautiful work of art he created for the garden called 'Red Kite in Flight'. We think it looks at home under the pergola and will treasure it.



Enquiries:

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