

SLI Sowing and plant protection training

Sat 16th May 2020

Growing Vegetables Part 1 <https://youtu.be/MV-p7F-2A1I> (9m 13s)

How to sow vegetable seeds and plant ready-to-go-out seedlings

Growing Vegetables Part 2 <https://youtu.be/a0F34Ri9jiU> (about 2m)

How to protect plants from birds and make plant supports using our own coppiced products

MEETING NOTES

Questions from growers

@Frost protection

Everyone noticed potato plants had frost damage on the leaves last week - showing black wilted leaves with varying amounts of damage. Plants at home were less damaged as the proximity to buildings can protect them from frosts - MP and Bluebell are more open and prone to frosts.

- There are still some seed potatoes in the big shed at Bluebell, replant them in a slightly different place. Frost damaged plants may recover depending on how severely they were frosted, but yields may be lower than expected.
- Best way to protect plants is to use fleece or other things to gently cover for them, even cardboard can offer sufficient protection.
- A nest of grass clippings around the plant that works as a mulch can also be fluffed up over the plants as a very temporary quick frost protection.

@video content discussion Q and A Netting

Bird and other pest protection netting is needed for brassicas, chard, spinach and soft fruit (gooseberries, strawberries and raspberries - except autumn fruiting raspberries which the birds usually won't get). You can just drape netting on the berries for a quick solution, but a cage is good.

Protection is not needed for beans, sweetcorn, potatoes or beetroot.

@ Is there netting availablex?

Bluebell - Some lengths (cut 4m x 4m) are available in the big shed. The roll of netting is kept in tin shed - ask if you need access.

Marlpit - netting is available in the container on Tuesdays and Thursdays, ask if you need access at other times.

Feedback on the first training video

We have an SLI YouTube channel where we can store the videos. The first ones have been done using a mobile phone. We'd like to keep the technology easy to use and accessible without the need for professional editing. If you have skills to offer please contact the office.

Content/length:

- People liked short clips and the length (2-9 mins) is appropriate.
- Preference for short clips on different topics rather than a long 30 min video so people can find the topic they want quickly.
- Content was very accessible, the video clear and advice straight forward. It's very beneficial to hear Mahesh's experience on this and tips.
- Seeing how a process works can be an easier way to learn than reading about it.

Members are invited to suggest specific topics for future videos. These can then be uploaded onto the channel eventually providing us with possibly 30 or 40 videos that can be referred to at the relevant times in following years. They will form a valuable learning resource.

Zoom training meetings going forward

Zoom training meetings to be held fortnightly for the next two months at 9.30 am on a Saturday.

Members will be invited by email to each training session and can view the new video clips which will be uploaded beforehand to stimulate discussion. The Q&A session will cover the video topic and other topical issues raised by members at the Zoom meeting.