



Echo Eternal Curriculum Garden



No surprise here!

Hardly surprising news but the Met Office have announced officially that the summer of 2025 was the hottest on record with four official heat waves included in this spell of hot summer weather.....

What next?

Now that summer has drawn to a close, farmers and growers in this country must be thinking what kind of weather are we going to get next?

How will autumn be, indeed, what kind of winter will we get?

Will hot dry summers become the norm – so many questions to answer.....

These are all questions that will prove difficult to answer until the weather actually - unfolds, but I am sure that there is plenty of thought going into what alternative crops can we grow, crops that are more drought tolerant too. Plus, how can we save more water in readiness for hot dry summer's?

Acorns are plentiful.....



There appears to be an absolute glut of acorns this year which is often referred to as a mast year... This is where oak trees produce more acorns than usual to ensure that plenty survive, it is a natural phenomenon influenced by warm temperatures, adequate rainfall and good pollination given favourable spring weather conditions.....

Crab apples are plentiful too.....

It appears that lots of fruit trees have produced large crops of fruit this summer – trees that are established with deep root systems that have been able to extract water have been able to adapt to lack of rainfall, but young, newly planted trees have suffered in the hot dry summer conditions.

Here you can see the crab apple tree that is growing in the garden – there is plenty of fruit on this tree. Now, although crab apples are edible, they taste bitter and very dry too. If you do try to eat them raw, DO NOT eat the core or the seeds as they contain amounts of cyanide.....

Best cooked as they contain a high level of pectin, so they make excellent jam and jelly. They can also be used to make wine and cordial.....



Appletini crop is huge.....

Again, looking at well established fruit trees, after the extremely hot summer, you can see that our appletini tree has produced a huge crop of fruit – not to be confused with our crab apple tree, these fruits are bigger than the crab apples, almost golf ball sized are ideal for children or they can be used to make toffee apples. The appletini tree produces masses of gorgeous pink blossom in the spring and is also self – fertile making it an easy fruit tree to grow, also, it is a dwarf tree that only grows to 2 metres.....

Here you can see a branch that is laden with plenty of fruit.....



Teddy Bear Sunflowers still going strong.....



Even at the end of September, these Teddy Bear sunflowers are still flowering.....

Probably, testimony to the mild temperatures that we are still experiencing.....

Herbs are still growing.....

There are still plenty of herbs growing in and around the garden areas.....

Here you can see three examples – Lavender, Thyme and Blackcurrant Sage – all three of these herbs have their own distinctive aromas.....



Thyme.....



Lavender.....



Herbs.....

Blackcurrant Sage.....

Cyclamens provide some stunning colour.....

At this time of the year with autumn approaching with usually many changes in leaf colour, there are also plenty of autumnal plants that provide some really vibrant splashes of colour, not least cyclamens which come in a variety of bright colours that brighten up our autumn garden spaces.....



More subtle cyclamen colours.....



Not only do the cyclamens provide some gorgeous colours and some delicate flower petals but if you look at the plants foliage you will also see some striking colours in all of the leaves too.....



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Braeburn apples are looking great.....

Here you can see our Braeburn eating apple tree – it has so much fruit on it, that one of the main branches on this tree has actually - bent almost down to the ground – it will be great to harvest this fruit and see how it tastes.....



Braeburn apples.....

A mix of garden planting.....

At the front entrance to the garden, we have planted up a mixture of plants including perennial herbs such as Rosemary, Lavender, Thyme and Bay.....

Also, at the entrance we have planted cyclamens, cordylines and a mix of evergreen euonymus – all of this planting has created an excellent mix of different colours and different textures.....



Colourful Calendula.....



Autumn is a time to showcase produce.....

Autumn is most definitely a time to showcase any produce that has been grown whether it be in your own garden or allotment space or indeed some of the giant vegetables that some growers take so much pride in and then they take the opportunity to showcase their endeavours.....

One such platform to showcase giant vegetables is the Malvern Autumn Show, set in the back - drop of the Malvern Hills. Below you will see some absolutely huge vegetables that the growers must have dedicated so much time to nurture and grow.....



This cabbage is huge!

More from the Malvern Autumn Show.....

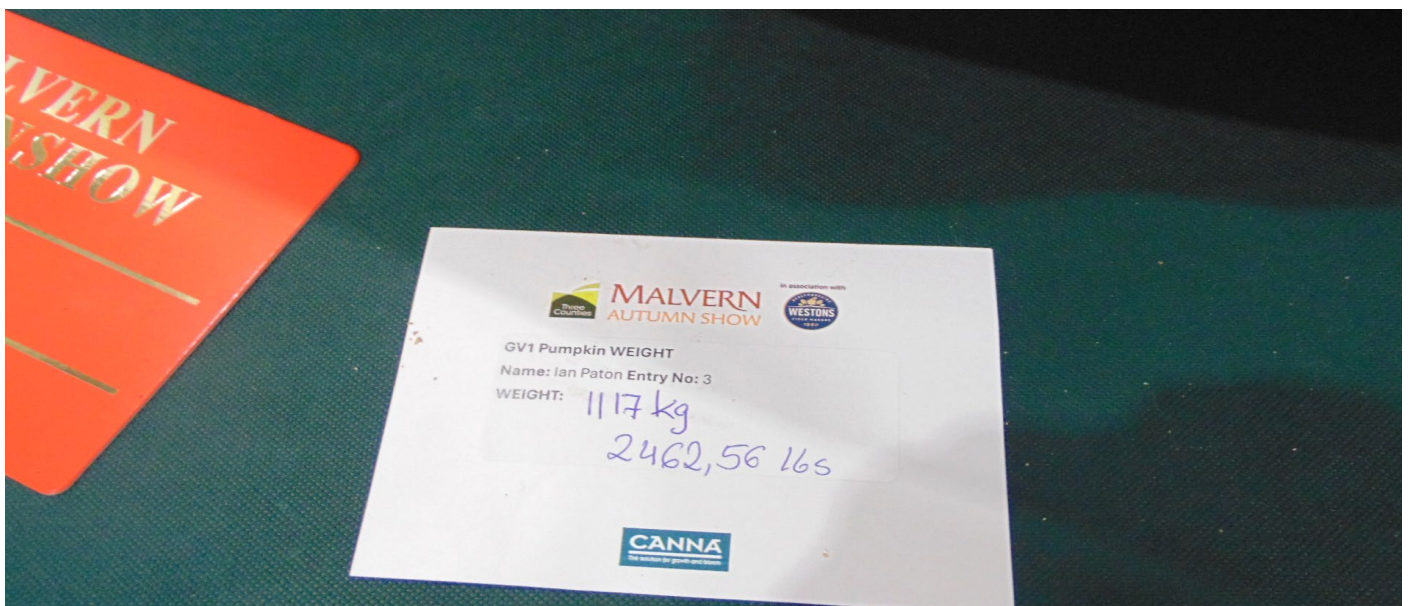


Leeks.....
Magnificent looking
Carrots.....

How big is this pumpkin?

Now, we have grown some “big” pumpkins in our time but nothing that is anywhere near approaching this absolute monster!

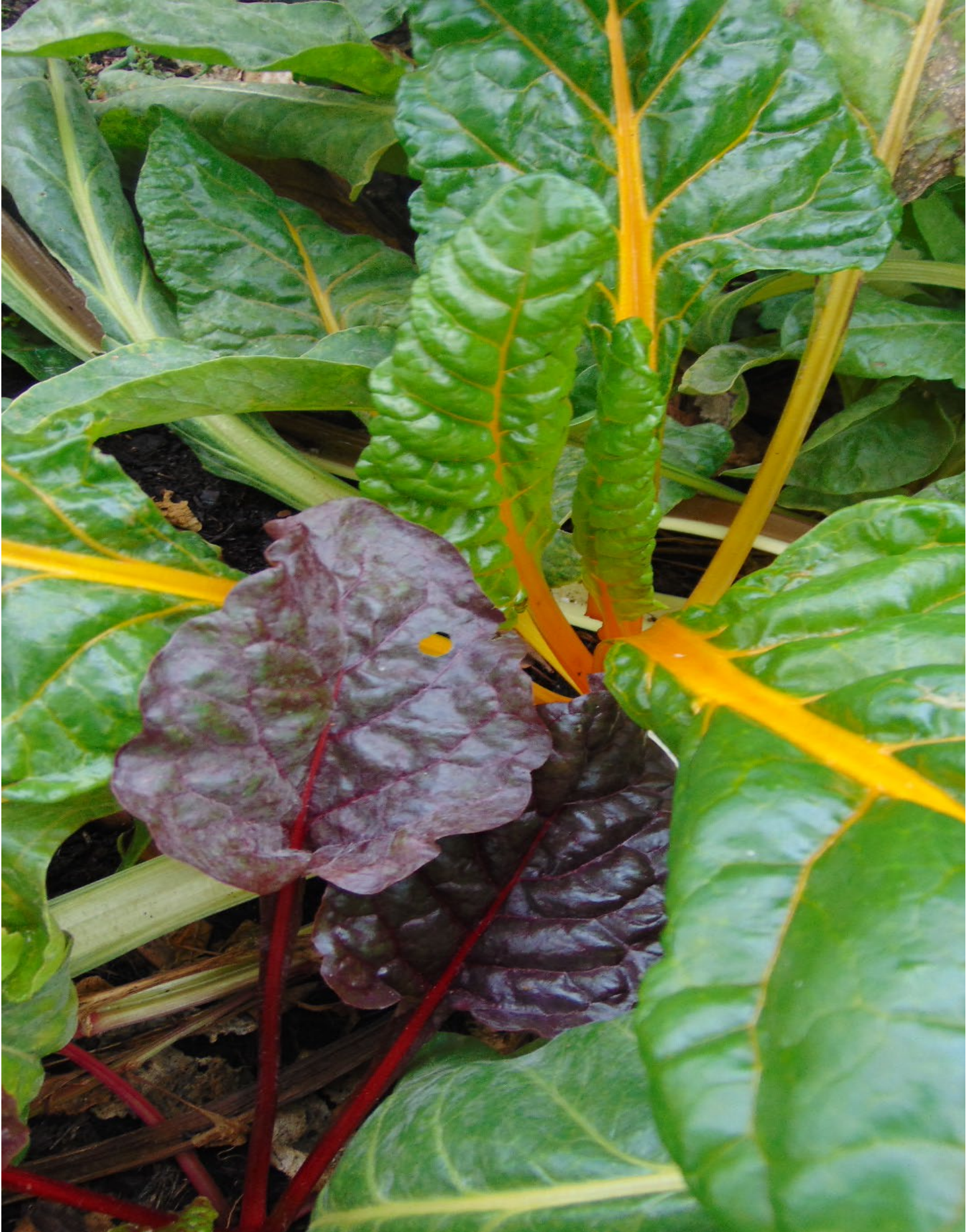
Indeed, the photograph does not really do justice to how big this is.....
It literally is huge!



Wow! What an absolute monster pumpkin.....

Rainbow Chard is so colourful.....

Here you can see some of our rainbow chard plants that bring so much colour to the garden area, indeed, these vegetable plants are not out of place in the flower garden such is the colour that they provide.....



An abundance of berries.....



Hawthorne Berries.....

Lots more berries.....

If you look on the previous page, you can see a mass of hawthorne berries and then in the photograph below you can see a massive amount of holly berries. Now, is there any significance to this abundance of autumn berries people might be asking – if you believe it or not, it is reckoned that a heavy crop of berries in the autumn signifies a hard, cold winter is ahead.....

Only time will tell on this one.....



Interesting! Carrots.....

The carrots shown below are interesting to say the least.....

Usually, the reason that carrots grow in this formation is that as the carrot grows, if the carrot plant or more essentially the root comes across anything in the ground that is hard such as a stone or several stones, that is probably what has happened here with both of these carrots, then the root continues to grow but it will have to navigate around these hard objects. So, the best growing medium to grow, long straight carrots is a soft, almost sandy soil.....



Carrots.....

Calendula in lots of different shades.....

Calendula are such stunning, easy to grow flowers that will usually readily self – seed to come back year after year. The more traditional colour is a rich bright orange but they are now found in many different shades as you can see from the photographs below.....



Calendula

Borage has some stunning detail.....

Borage is another plant that is easy to grow and just as calendula that we have already mentioned will readily self - seed.....

Some people call it Star Flower because of the star like shape of the petals.



Gorgeous Cosmos.....

Cosmos comes in many different colours providing plenty of bright, vivid colours through the summer months into the autumn. Part of the daisy family – they will normally last up until the first frost. Also, they will also self – seed so that they will often come back year after year.....

