

# July already – quick get the potatoes pulled

This year seems to be whizzing by and to be honest, almost without me noticing.



I'm finding this year that the garden and its moods are not quite as obvious as it's been in previous years possibly because of the very mild winter we had where next to nothing died off and flowers continued to flower right through. This meant we didn't have the usual spring and instead have been hit with a summer where a lot of the flowers in the garden have already past and although everything is very green, there is not much in the way of colour about.

We've found also that this year has been a lot harder going for veggies too, with not nearly the success we've had in previous years. Our beetroots are no where near harvesting size yet, our carrots are all leaves and very little, well carrot! The tomatoes as well are green but nowhere near ripe yet. I suspect the lack of definitive winter, spring and summer has affected things. We've had a lot of warmth, not as much sunshine as previous years and more rain than previous years. Could this be it?

Our usual champion of the garden – courgettes – have just been rotting on the plants as babies and we haven't managed yet to eat any.

However it's not all doom and gloom. This year's trophy for fabulousness goes to the peas. We have had so many peas that the plants are now almost past and starting to die of, and I never thought I'd say it, but I'm kinda getting sick of peas from the pod. I know that is a sacrilegious thing for a gardener to say but I've been eating them in huge handfuls daily (along with help from colleagues at work).

The strawberries too have been incredibly tasty although we found a very amusing trait which may be of interest to those of you thinking about giving strawberries a try next year. DON'T plant them in the bed you used for garlic the previous year. Garlicky strawberries are a bit weird and trust me, a couple of our plants REALLY picked up on the garlic.



Potatoes have also been a success, my dad helped me pull a couple of batches yesterday which have really enjoyed all the rain, our salad potatoes ARE HUGE. Like baked potato size. Next weeks potato salad is going to be a stonker (next week is my annual birthday bbq).

So how do things stand, well check back in a few weeks, the weather is meant to be sunny for a bit, so hoping the tomatoes will ripen and the carrots and beetroot will catch up. I promise to keep you posted.