

Crop Bulletin

June 2015



The first cut of globe artichokes took place w/c 8th June, with 4 or 5 more harvests expected, about every 10 days, as the artichokes develop. This Mediterranean plant is performing well considering how far it is from home in the Lincolnshire fens.

This year there are two courgette crops, both direct drilled. The first (pictured right) was drilled on 28th April, and was slow to emerge due to low soil temperatures. The farm was hit by strong winds and rain two weeks ago, which left the plants a little battered but they have recovered well and the first flowers are just starting to emerge.



A second crop was drilled 3 weeks later, and the first cotyledons have now emerged (pictured left). The second crop will help to ensure production continues through September.

Red, yellow and white-stemmed chard were drilled in mid-April, 10th May and 8th June. The second drilling also included a pink-stemmed variety called Lipstick. Although these are all types of chard, they do not all grow the same. Red stemmed varieties are more sensitive to the environment and will bolt more readily. White and yellow-stemmed have a heavier leaf and higher yield.



Fennel is being grown from 3 transplanted crops and 3 direct drilled crops. The earliest production at DGM is from transplants protected by fleece (see right), which creates a warm sheltered environment for the plants and helps to advance the crop. Harvest is expected to begin in early July. The direct drilled crops are also developing well (see below).



Direct drilled fennel crop (above)



The earliest celeriac crop (above) was covered with 'lay flat' plastic sheeting to increase growth, and has now reached the stage where it has been uncovered. The root is developing well, but was initially held back by the cool weather. This crop will be ready for harvesting around the middle of August, with a succession of crops to follow on to ensure a continuity of production.

Chard growing at DGM Growers (below)

