

## Garden Ramblings

I read a poem that started by describing October as a piper. It took me ages to reckon it meant that the piper was playing a lament for the loss of Summer. It is rather better, I think to look back without regretting the things not achieved but to delight in the things that went well. The cucumbers loved the heat and I loved them. As for a similar plant, the courgettes took over the garden. Admittedly many are on the compost heap returning sunshine to the soil and if I am lucky at least one will dry out beautifully and make a shaker, a natural maraca!



October really is the start of the beginning as it is a good time to move plants around and to sort out the thugs and give the pathetic ones a better place to grow next year, and to give them a good talking to about their future. just don't upset them too much but consider that you are imparting extra carbon dioxide to encourage growth.

The cutting garden has turned into grass and a gravelled area where I can grow potatoes in bags and hopefully remember to water them. I have some growing that may be fine to eat in the winter. The tomato plants are finished so potatoes can go in the greenhouse now. They don't seem to get on well. some I harvested earlier were stored in a cotton bag, under the sink in the dark. A mouse nibbled a bit off each one. It must have taken time to scabble about moving them to get another juicy one.

There have been some good figs some shared with blackbirds. I did wash them - figs not birds. I totally forgot just how much fig trees get excited by water. I am supposed to cover the roots, that are in a sunken container, with strong plastic to limit the water. The tree is about twice the size it was and envelops anyone sitting at the outside table and is attempting to get in the kitchen.

Spring bulbs can still be planted especially tulips of which I have become exceedingly fond. planting them with fine metal mesh can deter the squirrels but it can be a bit of a pain if you attempt to lift and store them when they have finished growing. Do look for tulips that are described as long lived or something like that as some only seem to last a season or two. Some smaller varieties can spread about especially botanical tulips.

Enjoy the autumn leaves and remember that as you sweep them up that they will make delicious leaf mould for your garden. Using a lawnmower is not cheating and the mixture of grass cuttings and leaves speeds up the process.



A mystery picture!

