



## Garden Ramblings

Well, at last, the leaves in the garden are starting to change colour. Two weeks ago I was in Dorset and so many trees had the start of what promised to be a very colourful event. As we tend to notice the south is warmer in Spring I thought it would have a later autumn too, but no. All was still green here

Of course the poplars were doing their own thing. For about two seconds- be quick or you miss it - the leaves are yellow then dried up and brown and at the slightest hint of wind they manage to get everywhere in great quantities. More on the ground than ever there were on the trees unless someone brings extra in the dead of night.

The fig leaves had made it to the kitchen window and were acting as an outside curtain although the figs were still delicious . I fear it will be worse than usual for me this year as in a few days as the leaves will go yellow and floppy and feel like a wet chamois leather which is my worst experience **ever**. I need a rubbish picker to remove them.

Today ( 16th Oct ) I picked a few French beans, a cabbage, carrots and parsnips and also made a great beetroot soup. As usual I just put in what I thought was the right amount of beetroot, tomato, shallots, sweet red pepper and vegetable stock and the result is so tasty and is bagged ready for a cold day when bright nearly purple soup will brighten the day and my jumper.

The tidying up will still be ongoing until next November. I just wish I could stick to my plan but although I suggest being organised is great I think I need to come to terms with "Being totally disorganised means you keep making exciting discoveries."  
I did discover a tulip bulb that had been nibbled despite a wire netting cover. I couldn't decide if the culprit was a mouse or larger or squirrel but I am certain I saw teeth marks. I have sort of replanted it where I found it but feel most guilty now as I covered all the unseen part of the bulb with mustard. You can be sure whatever it was will actually think it more tasty and will bring friends.

Now for a great tip. Go and buy an enormous Amaryllis bulb, not in a kit but as loose bulb. Those are usually bigger and plant it now so it should be nearly ready by that C word. You will have endless fun finding a pot, measuring the leaves each day as they grow, finding a way to stop it falling over and staying in the pot, more measuring of the flower and its stem.....

If you let the seeds set you can grow your own if you are prepared to wait at least seven years.

