

# Kitchen Garden

## Seasonal Update - October 2025

We are now well and truly into Autumn, and the amazing abundance we have seen through the last few months is only just starting to fade. The **tomatoes** from the polytunnel have been cleared to make way for winter salads, although there will be a couple more deliveries coming from the glasshouse.

The **courgettes** are (thankfully?!) slowing down now too, although they still seem to be able to turn into marrows at a moment's notice. They will be available in limited quantity until around the end of October. **French and Climbing beans** are finished - these were a bit of a trial this year but seem to have been enjoyed, so will plan on a few more plants next year. **Peas** have had a good summer too, and despite being a challenge to keep up with the picking, have kept on producing nonetheless. We've had a similar story with the **chillies** in the glasshouse - it will be interesting to see what the kitchen have made with over 5kg of them!

**Chard** and **perpetual spinach** soldier on; these staples steadily produce throughout the year, although with the diminishing light levels they will begin to slow down going towards winter.

The **squash** harvest marks a real turning point in the season - when we mark the shift from summer crops into autumn flavours. Thanks to a team of volunteers, we managed to bring in the remainder of the squash for a fantastic total of 590kg! of over five different varieties. These are currently curing in the glasshouse to help harden their stalks and skins for protection in storage and to continue developing the starches into sugars to then improve flavours. They will then be distributed amongst the kitchens around campus.

Talking of numbers, we also passed a milestone of harvesting over two tonnes of fresh produce this year, all from a little under half an acre!

Autumn crops to look forward to now include a return of **salad leaves and chicory**, although they are still trying to go to flower with the continued warm weather, a selection of **radishes** and another round of **beetroot** and **kohl rabi**.

The normally hardy **kales** have fed a large population of caterpillars, flea beetles and pigeons this summer, so will be less going into winter. The same with the **purple sprouting broccoli**, although there is still one bed left unharmed. And hopefully, finally, we will see if the **oca** have produced again this year sometime in November.