

PLOT 3 EDIBLE CAMPUS SITE: GRAND PARADE

Brief

When we took over our bed there were 2 types of plants already established in the plot. They were Pansies and Spring Onions. We harvested the onions and dispersed the Pansies around the edges of the bed. We then set about planning what we were going to plant in the bed that would fit under a few criteria they were:

- Able to survive under direct sunlight
- Dont need a large amount of water
- With stand fairly high winds.



Pansies

Our initial thought was to extract the Pansies from the plot because we thought they were useless and they were taking up a large part of the space we had to work with. However after talking to Hedvig we were advised to keep them as the plant can be used as part of a salad. So we transplanted the plants to the outside of the plot so as to free up some space in the middle so we could plan it out.



The plot

When planning what to introduce to the bed we thought about which plants would complement others. Our discussions concluded with the fact we need some low level and high level plants to maximise the usage of the space. The next step we took was to find some species that would introduce more nitrogen into the soil, because it's a raised bed the soil does not gain from essential nutrients introduced into surrounding land as if it were not raised. Therefore we introduced runner beans which increase levels of nitrogen in the soil making it more fertile, therefore more efficient.



Current Status

Our plot is currently at 2 different stages of growth. The first is the Pansies which are well established around the borders of the space. These can be regularly picked and eaten without much impact on the rest of the plant. The second is the fledgling stage of the cucumbers and different variety of beans we have planted. The cucumbers have just gained their true leaves and should continue to grow for 2-2 1/2 months before being picked. The runner beans have just germinated.

Future Plan

The plan for our space is based on how much space is used up by the different species of plant when their all fully grown. Once all the plants are well established we can assess how much room we have to plant new types of vegetation. We are planning to introduce some more low level plants such as strawberries as one of our fellow grows has an excess of seeds.

Problems Encountered

The biggest problem we faced from the very beginnings of taking over our edible campus plot was the low levels of water the plants were getting. Because we only attended the site on average maximum twice a week the plants suffered from dehydration. Another problem we could have encountered but avoided were that of pests. We managed to avoid our plants being completely destroyed by pests such as the bean weevil and aphids by introducing different species of plant amongst each other for example we planted different types of beans like royal reds and white lady.