

# The Oak Tree Veg Survey Results 2014

How much spring cabbage would you like spring 2015, compared to spring 2013? Typically there were one or two per box during the hungry gap – if you don't know what I mean please take a look at the "veg share" pages on the farm website: These are also known as collards or spring greens - Remember that spring cabbage appears in the hungry gap (April/May), so there may not be much else available then! So I strongly recommend "the same" or "more"

	Responses	Percentage
None	0	0%
Less	3	11.11%
Same	21	77.78%
More	3	11.11%
Much more	0	0%

How many Brussels sprouts would you like? We've not had a great deal of joy with them so far - I wonder whether it is because we are still working on the fertility of the soil? I suggest aiming for three or so decent sized sprout stalks for each box before Christmas, and if that goes well we consider increasing the amount in future years. How does that sound? Remember - if we go for more sprouts, we'll have fewer later brassicas which are such important winter and hungry gap staples!

	Responses	Percentage
I don't like sprouts so as few as possible	6	22.22%
Let's aim for three just before Christmas	17	62.96%
I'd like to try for more than three stalks.	4	14.81%

We've hopefully got about three or four cauliflowers per share for this year to go in the boxes during May 2014, ie the hungry gap. Would you like more next year? They take up quite a bit of space, so we would have to reduce other brassicas..... and if we sow more they may all come at once, ie two (or more!) per share in a week.

	Responses	Percentage
None	2	7.41%
Fewer	2	7.41%
Same (ie three to four)	20	74.07%
More	3	11.11%

Winter cabbage - savoy and white cabbage - we do a mix to reduce the risk if one of them does badly. I think they are a useful winter bulk veg - great in coleslaw and I also make saurkraut. Are they something you like or dislike?

	Responses	Percentage
Dislike	4	14.81%
They're ok	13	48.15%
They're great!	10	37.04%

Sprouting broccolli comes at a useful time - into the beginning of the hungry gap. How do you feel about it?

	Responses	Percentage
Yuk - sprouting broccolli, no thanks.	0	0%
It's ok 	1	3.7%
I quite like it 	11	40.74%
It is one of my favourites! 	15	55.56%




New this year! Kale. Personally I dislike the big leafy stuff to be cooked as cabbage, but it was requested as a trial crop last year, and it should be a useful crop into the hungry gap if all goes well. What do you think.

	Responses	Percentage
Kale is great - more of the big leafy stuff please 	8	30.77%
I can tolerate about the amount we have had this year. 	8	30.77%
I agree with you - dreadful stuff. 	10	38.46%


Have you noticed the fluffy, slightly pinkish leaves in the salad bags recently? If you're not getting a box yet, feel free to visit the farm to try one. It is kale! Now I actually really like that, and again it comes at a really useful time of year! What do you think?

	Responses	Percentage
Hmmm - no thanks. 	1	3.7%
It is ok. 	13	48.15%
I really like this as a salad leaf. 	13	48.15%

Onions. Ordinary cooking onions. My strong preference is not to grow them at all. Why? They are grown on a field scale locally and are incredibly cheap, they are lots and lots of work to hoe for not much reward. But this is your CSA - if a majority of members are willing to do the hoeing and accept fewer other crops on this page, then we'll grow them.

	Responses	Percentage
I can live without CSA onions. 	20	76.92%
Can we have a few please. I'm ok with some weeding 	4	15.38%
I love onions, and it is important to me to grow as many as possible at The Oak Tree. Weeding - no worries! 	2	7.69%

Our garlic failed again this year. This year it simply didn't grow. I am coming to the conclusion that it isn't worth the work to risk a third failed crop. But what do you think?

	Responses	Percentage
I'd like to try again. 	2	7.69%
Why don't we try just a few. 	9	34.62%
OK- let's drop trying garlic. 	15	57.69%

How do you feel about beetroot?

	Responses	Percentage
I don't like beetroot 	3	11.54%
It's ok from time to time 	12	46.15%
Beetroot is great. Lots please! 	11	42.31%

We use spinach during the winter as a baby salad leaf, but here I am asking about summer true spinach. We'll grow some for use as leaf spinach in the hungry gap when there isn't much else. How do you feel about it during the rest of the year?

	Responses	Percentage
I'm not fond of spinach	0	0%
Some spinach is good.	10	40%
I really like spinach and I would like lots of it, please.	15	60%




To my mind, leeks are a vital winter staple. Now they have been great this year because they have been growing in the pond silt patch. Due to our crop rotation we are unlikely to grow them as big next year (though our soil is slowly improving!) What do you think about leeks?

	Responses	Percentage
I'm really not fussed about leeks.	1	3.85%
Leeks are good, but not in excess	12	46.15%
I'd really like plenty of leeks.	13	50%




Swiss chard is indeed a beet - just dig one up and you'll see! It has a long season, and can be plentiful. So a very useful crop from the point of view of keeping our veg supply as steady as possible. But the question is, do you like it?

	Responses	Percentage
No. 	3	11.54%
It's fine. 	14	53.85%
It's great - keep it coming. 	9	34.62%




Our summer carrots weren't great this year due to the cold start to the year, but I am quite pleased with our current winter carrots. How do you feel about carrots?

	Responses	Percentage
Not too keen.	0	0%
Some is good, but not too many 	3	11.54%
I would really like plenty of them through as much of the year as possible. 	21	80.77%
I'd be happy to just have carrots over the winter months. 	2	7.69%

Parsnips are, to my mind, another important winter staple. How do you feel about them?

	Responses	Percentage
I don't like them. 	1	3.85%
A steady supply of about 400g per week through the winter would be welcome (like now) 	22	84.62%
More, please 	3	11.54%

Some people love the bulb forming Florence fennel, some people hate them. This year most were too small - I think we need to really rush to plant them out after midsummer's day (before then they go to seed). How do you feel about Florence fennel?

	Responses	Percentage
I don't like florence fennel 	6	23.08%
I like some. 	12	46.15%
I'd like lots, please. 	8	30.77%



We've just grown little gem lettuces this year as they are reliable and resistant to slugs. The the similar "winter gem" ones we grow in the polytunnel are also a reliable winter crop. We can try different lettuces if you like, but it is a risk (note: I'm not talking about bagged salad leaves here) as we have lost crops of "fancy" lettuces before. Add a comment in the text box below if you have other comments - hard to put all the options in here!

	Responses	Percentage
I simply don't like any lettuce.	2	7.69%
Let's stick with the little gems much as before.	18	69.23%
Can we try some fancy ones too please?	6	23.08%

Sweetcorn starts slow, hits a period of plenty, then slows down again, even with the variety of cultivars we grow at The Oak Tree. Last year we hit a maximum of about 8 cobs per box. Does that sound good to you?

	Responses	Percentage
Less please	4	15.38%
About right	18	69.23%
More please, if possible	4	15.38%

Broad beans are a useful crop early in the year. We've got some in the ground now, which I hope will fruit in May. We can grow them in succession for a steady supply in late spring and early summer. Do you like them?



Runner beans come at a time of plenty, and they grow pretty enthusiastically. Do you like them?




French beans come later than broad beans, even when we sow them in the polytunnel. But they can be prolific in the summer months!  
What do you think of French beans.

	Responses	Percentage
No, thanks. 	1	3.85%
Some is good, more is not necessarily better. 	8	30.77%
Lots please! 	17	65.38%

Would you like...

	Responses	Percentage
More squash than suggested 	14	70%
More courgette than suggested 	6	30%

I have had some very strong opinions on Spaghetti squash, both for and against. Let's have a democratic vote!

	Responses	Percentage
I like spaghetti squash. 	2	8%
I don't mind either way. 	17	68%
Spaghetti Squash - YUK! No more! 	6	24%

I'd like:

	Responses	Percentage
Let's really go for it again and try for plenty of potatoes 	13	52%
Let's cut our losses and just sow a few. 	6	24%
Let's give potatoes up and use the space for something else. 	6	24%

Our sweet potatoes this year showed some promise, though they are unlikely to be a very productive crop. Two of our lovely members are overwintering some plants taken from cuttings last year - they are frost tender so there is nowhere on the farm to keep them. Are you keen?

	Responses	Percentage
Wow, sweet potatoes, fantastic!	12	48%
A few would be a welcome change	9	36%
I'm not really fond of sweet potatoes.	4	16%

Are you happy with this approach?

	Responses	Percentage
I'm happy with winter and hungry gap salad leaf bags when they are feasible.	19	73.08%
I'm not really that fond of salad leaves	1	3.85%
I'm very keen on salad leaves and would like a longer season, even if this reduces the work that can go into other crops.	6	23.08%