

REVIEW

August 2023



Values

- Embracing complexity and experimentation
- Organic and no dig
- Knowledge sharing
- Avoidance of fossil fuels
- Polyculture of plants
- Try to include as many people as possible
- Repurposing waste materials and minimizing single use materials

Vision

A financially viable, productive and biodiverse space where people can learn and feel connected to food production, nature and each other. Edible Eastbrook effectively raises awareness of its land management experiments and pioneering food products.

Mission

To create an engaging exploration of land management experiments that extend culinary boundaries.



Successes

We have worked hard...

- 7 rows prepared and planted since Jo moved to Bishopstone on 20th January.
- Over 50 different types of plant grown, with about 30 doing well.
- Jo and 10 volunteers have worked a total of 117 days with over 90% of the work being physical.
- 2.3K invested in infrastructure: seeds, irrigation, membrane, compost, tools and equipment.
- 152 blackcurrant plants mulched, 81 cherry trees pruned and mulched.

and to some extent this has paid off.

- 20 foraged harvests for the pub: nettles, dandelions, hogweed and salad burnet.
- 37kg blackcurrants harvested and 6kg of other edibles (chard, rocket, red mustard, nasturtiums, calendula, borage, radish flowers, red mustard flowers)

The 'back office' is doing a great job:

- Excellent record keeping, e.g. of grass death experiments.
- www.edibleeastbrook.org.uk created in February which has had 458 visitors.
- @edibleeastbrook profile building momentum on Instagram.
- @JojoHoman Youtube profile has 32 videos and shorts, some with >100 views
- Developing relationships with local groups and people, e.g. Al Fresco Nursery, Bishopstone Village Hall, Gardening Club, Shrivenham Allotments, Caravan Club.
- Values, Vision and Mission clarified.

Challenges

Sometimes it's been hard..

- Voles, rabbits, slugs and snails led to high plant casualties in 3 rows.
- Birds pecking cherry leaves and eating fruit, even netted trees.
- Dry weather in May and June made it hard to establish plants.
- Wet and windy weather July and August didn't help.

and I've had to learn a lot in a short space of time

- Lack of existing infrastructure/experience to protect plants against challenges.
- Design has 1.2km of edges to maintain against encroaching grass, dandelions, thistles etc.
- Training days x 2 were poorly attended. Too expensive? Need to build reputation?



Successful plants

Row	Common Name	Botanical Name	Variety
1 Red	Callaloo	<i>Amaranthus viridis</i>	
1 Red	Nasturtium	<i>Tropaeolum majus</i>	Cherry Rose Jewel
1 Red	Radish	<i>Raphanus sativus</i>	Red Top
1 Red	Radish	<i>Raphanus sativus</i>	Rudi
1 Red	Rhubarb	<i>Rheum rhubarb</i>	Victoria
1 Red	Rhubarb Chard	<i>Beta vulgaris</i>	
2 Orange	French marigold	<i>Tagetes patula</i>	Orange Boy
2 Orange	Nasturtium	<i>Tropaeolum majus</i>	Baby Orange
2 Orange	Nasturtium	<i>Tropaeolum majus</i>	Empress of India
2 Orange	Pot Marigold	<i>Calendula officinalis</i>	
2 Orange	Winter Squash	<i>Cucurbita maxima</i>	Uchiki Kuri
3 Yellow	Nasturtium	<i>Tropaeolum majus</i>	
3 Yellow	Oregano	<i>Oregano aureum</i>	
3 Yellow	Ox eye daisy	<i>Leucanthemum vulgare</i>	
3 Yellow	Poached egg plant	<i>Limnanthes douglasii</i>	
3 Yellow	Scorzonera	<i>Scorzonera hispanica</i>	Russian Giant
3 Yellow	Yellow Chard	<i>Beta vulgaris</i> subsp. <i>vulgaris</i>	Golden chard
3 Yellow	Oca	<i>Oxalis</i> <i>tuberosa</i>	
4 Green	Corn salad	<i>Valerianella locusta</i>	
4 Green	Courgette	<i>Cucurbita pepo</i>	Keesha F1
4 Green	French sorrel	<i>Rumex acetosa</i>	
4 Green	Lovage	<i>Levisticum officinalis</i>	
4 Green	Oca	<i>Oxalis</i> <i>tuberosa</i>	
4 Green	Red mustard	<i>Brassica juncea</i>	
4 Green	Salad burnet	<i>Sanguisorba minor</i>	
4 Green	Shasta daisy	<i>Leucanthemum x superbum</i>	Alaska
4 Green	Wild rocket	<i>Diplotaxis tenuifolia</i>	
5 Blue	Borage	<i>Borago officinalis</i>	
5 Indigo	Viola	<i>Viola cornuta</i>	Back to Black
5 Indigo	Viola	<i>Viola tricolor</i>	Bowles Black
7 Violet	Echinacea	<i>Echinacea purpurea</i>	
7 Violet	Salsify	<i>Tragopogon porrifolius</i>	
7 Violet	Sweet pea	<i>Lathyrus odoratus</i>	
7 Violet	Wild pansy	<i>Viola tricolor</i>	

Unsuccessful Plants

Reason	Row	Common Name	Botanical Name	Variety
Didn't germinate at home.	1 Red	Red perilla	<i>Perilla frutescens</i>	
	3 Yellow	Day lily	<i>Hemerocallis lilioasphodelus</i>	
	4 Green	Ramson	<i>Allium ursinum</i>	
	5 Blue	Trailing bellflower	<i>Campanula poscharskyana</i>	
Germinated well, died at home.	2 Orange	Boston squash	<i>Cucurbita maxima</i>	
	4 Green	Tarragon	<i>Artemisia dracunculus</i>	
	5 Blue	Hyssop	<i>Hyssopus officinalis</i>	
Still establishing.	4 Green	Asparagus	<i>Asparagus officinalis</i>	Ariane F1
Didn't germinate in field.	1 Red	Red orach	<i>Atriplex hortensis</i>	
	1 Red	Radicchio	<i>Cichorium intybus</i>	Rosso di Treviso
	4 Green	Huauzontle	<i>Chenopodium berlandieri</i>	
	5 Indigo	Granny's bonnet	<i>Aquilegia alpina</i>	
	7 Violet	Granny's bonnet	<i>Aquilegia vulgaris</i>	Hensol Harebell
Didn't establish well in field.	1 Red	Red clover	<i>Trifolium repens</i>	Rozeta
	3 Yellow	Manipur sweetcorn	<i>Zea mays</i>	
	3 Yellow	Chamomile	<i>Matricaria chamomilla</i>	
	3 Yellow	Sunflower	<i>Helianthus annuus</i>	
	7 Violet	Chinese violet cress	<i>Orychophragmus violaceus</i>	
Eaten in field: slugs, voles & rabbits.	2 Orange	Mexican sunflower	<i>Tithonia rotundifolia</i>	
	3 Yellow	Florence fennel	<i>Foeniculum vulgare</i>	Fino
	3 Yellow	Bean	<i>Phaseolus vulgaris</i>	Coco bicolor
	5 Blue	Clary sage	<i>Salvia sclarea</i>	
	5 Blue	Korean mint	<i>Agastache rugosa</i>	
	5 Blue	Lupin	<i>Lupinus albus</i>	Dieta
	5 Indigo	Pole bean	<i>Phaseolus vulgaris</i>	Purple queen
	5 Indigo	Pea	<i>Pisum sativum</i>	Blauschokker
	5 Indigo	Salvia	<i>Salvia guaranitica</i>	Black and Blue
	7 Violet	Cardoon	<i>Cynara cardunculus</i>	Giant of Romagna
	7 Violet	Artichoke	<i>Cynara scolymus</i>	Imperial Star

Blackcurrant Yields 2023

Date	Row	Rita	Cassis	Notes
25/06/2023	Red	2953		
26/06/2023	Red	408		
27/06/2023	Yellow	1968		previously had this down as red
29/06/2023	Red	7740		
01/07/2023	Red	1415		
01/07/2023	Yellow	1416		
05/07/2023	Yellow		2991	
09/07/2023	Green		4600	
11/07/2023	Green	2307		Al Fresco kids
11/07/2023	Red	2201		
12/07/2023	Green	3638		
13/07/2023	Green		1300	
16/07/2023	Green		718	
16/07/2023	Yellow		718	
23/07/2023	Green		2460	
23/07/2023	Yellow		500	
TOTAL		24046	13287	
GRAND TOTAL			37333	

Bush Analysis	Quantity	Yield	Yield/bush
Total Red	55	14717	267.5818
Total Yellow	40	7593	189.825
Total Green	57	15023	263.5614

Volunteer Feedback

<https://www.woofing.org.uk/en/host/46309>

 Hosts About Legal and Visa

France • August 2023

It was my first wwoofing experience and the best I could ever hope ! How wonderful was my host, the village and the people who where living in. If you are looking for amazing people with beautiful mindsets, you should definitely message Jo !

It was a pleasure working with Jo, given that she is so hardworking and organized. I love her beautiful ethics work which is based on experimentation, so you will learn so many things as she does every single day.

She is so kind, patient and took the time to explain so many things to me. Furthermore, something I find remarkable with Jo is her ability to find solutions for every single tricky issue ; she is very skilful.

Thus, it was so easy feeling at home in the tiny lovely house of such a welcoming person !

What is more, she is so knowledgeable, and thanks to her excellent teaching skills it was so pleasant learning from her. We planted vegetables and flowers as courgettes, lupins, beans, peas, pumpkins, chicories, poppies. We harvested rocket and red mustard leaves, picked black currants and raspberries.

Bishopstone is a small, charming and amazingly dynamic village. And if you decide to come here, you must try the amazing cider with coconut and pineapple at the pub; you won't regret it, it's like orange juice ! In short, it is outrageously easy fading into the background, adopting the lifestyle of people who are living here.

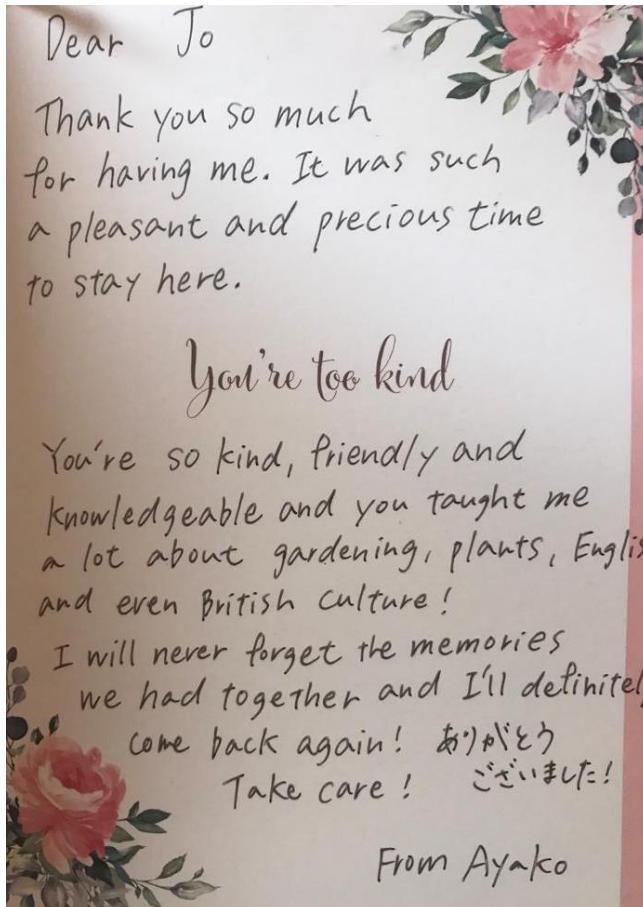
And I'm so grateful to you Jo, for introducing me to such nice people. It would be an honour to come back!

[Reply](#)

 Elisa

France • June 2023

I spent one week with Jo and another volunteer. I really appreciate this week, discovering the big project Jo is managing by her own ! We mainly prepared the long beds for planting (adding woodchip for example). The accommodation is very cosy, and Jo share her house with us, which offer an immersive experience :) I really curious to see the first plants growing and so one ! Good luck Jo and thank you again for this very good week !



Grass Death Results: to 16th May 2023

Mulch material and Description	Timings		Cost (£)			Chlorosis Readings																	
						Reading 1 12/03/2023			Reading 2 24/03/2023			Reading 3 03/04/2023			Reading 4 15/04/2023			Reading 5 28/04/2023					
	hrs	m	m/hr	Lab Cost	Mats Cost	Total Cost	£/m	No Dads	1	2	No Dads	1	2	No Dads	1	2	No Dads	1	2	No Dads	1	2	
o1 RED 2 x parallel plastic strips from silage wrap with 30cm gap topped with mound of woodchip c 60cm wide and 20cm deep	28 Jan	15	55	3.67	225	0	225	4.09	43	8	7	55	0	0	65	0	0	77	0	0	90	0	0
o2 ORANGE Wool (20cm deep, 1m wide) with 2m wide strip of plastic on top.	16 Feb	11.8	94.5	8.01	177	72	249	1.87	24	4	3	36	3	4	46	5	0	58	0	0	71	0	0
o3 YELLOW Grass stripped with lawn turfer, flipped upside down, covered with 2m wide strip of plastic.	27 Mar	13	100	7.69	195	147	342	1.95										7	15	15	19	10	12
o4 GREEN 2m wide strip of plastic	03 Mar	3	96.8	32.3	45	72	117	0.46	9	17	13	21	11	10	31	3	0	43	0	0	56	0	0
o5 BLUE Grass stripped with lawn turfer, flipped upside down, covered with woodchip	07 Apr	18.2	100	5.49	273	75	348	2.73										8	12	13	21	0	0
o6 INDIGO Well rotted woodchip (15cm deep, 1m wide) covered with 5cm fresh woodchip.	02 Mar	17.2	78	4.53	258	0	258	3.31	10	16	15	22	5	8	32	0	0	44	0	0	57	0	0
o7 VIOLET Wool (20cm deep, 1.5m wide) with 5cm woodchip on top.	29 Jan	17	70.5	4.15	255	0	255	3.62	42	9	11	54	17	17	64	0	0	76	0	0	89	0	0
TOTAL								1,793															