

The Allotment Project by Casson & Friends
20 minute performance
Transcript

PLOT DESCRIPTIONS 1

Lucy: There's a little bit of a pathway that goes split. We have a half an allotment, which means someone else has the other side, and...

Beth: So I grow everything from seed. So cabbages, Courgettes, flowers for the bees, because they've got to pollinate everything. Cauliflowers, pumpkins...

Lucy: We have a shed in the corner and er... I'll make a diagram

Beth: At the moment in the plot is early potatoes, new potatoes and also I've got onions

Lucy: There's like an L shape of a pear tree, three apple trees with two cherry trees, and then there's the I think an artichoke.

Beth: Bit later on in that green house will be tomatoes, cucumbers you know the Mediterranean type things that like the heat.

Lucy: To your left, is all like these fruits those strawberries, blackcurrants which I thought when I planted them were redcurrants, there's gooseberries the red variety.

Beth: I do like the flowers. I do like to see flowers on the plot. You know, for the pollinators and the bees.

Lucy: There's rhubarb there. And then the next one along that's got my overwintered broad beans.

Beth: There'll be lillies, I've got dahlias
Through the spring I'll have the daffodils and tulips. I think it looks pretty as well.

Lucy: The one after that is just got a pond on there and a few daffodils. And yeah, that's basically the gist of it.

Beth: Potatoes, And then the cabbages will go up the top. Y'know cauliflowers, where all the bean poles are. That's all my beans to pear trees.

Lucy: Diagram! that's not going to mean anything. Plot plot, plot, plot shed trees

SEASONS (Pre-recorded Male Voice)

Autumn and Winter is kind of the time for sorting out projects. I like I kind of like winter because everything kind of almost everything disappears below ground. And you can really see what the plot is like. And you can kind of plan your space.

So winter is the time for big projects, like if you're going to rebuild a shed or put up some new water butts or change the layout or lay a new path or something, you want to do that in the winter, so it's ready for the spring.

So I guess like the quietest time of year is it's probably like December when it's just wet. Wet and dark, because also daylength has a big effect. So say, Yeah, December, January is quite quiet. And then february, march really builds up.

I guess spring till sort of the middle of June is like a really critical really busy time. That's the point where you need to have soil ready for sowing you need to so your stuff, you need to plant stuff out, you've grown in the greenhouse, you need. This is the point of year, really, where about about 70/80% of crops need to go in, in the next couple of months really. So this is the kind of the frantic the busy time

And then summer you're busy but you're busy in a different way because you're watering stuff, it takes a bit of time to do it. But you know, it's it's less physical work because you just stay with a hose and you know, you're pruning a little bit or you're weeding a little bit but it is gentler over the summer.

The main work in kind of August time is just harvesting and keeping up with stuff that's, you know, you've got to make sure you actually have the time to harvest everything and process it freeze it or or cook it or whatever.

Yeah, November people will still be harvesting and clearing stuff and whatnot.

Yeah, does that answer your question?

PLOT DESCRIPTIONS 2

Beth: Okay, um... so you come, you come down the entrance path and you'll see a line of wicker fencing.

It's called pollarding and it's traditionally used for basket weaving.

So there's this willow out the back. And so we've woven this fence and this archway.

Lucy: on the right, you've got this massive cage that my partner has built and that's got all the cabbages and cauliflowers and stuff that can easily get eaten by things to help protect them

Beth: At the moment there's lots of something called Red dead-nettle.

Which is this little tiny weed, only about this high, has beautiful deep purple flowers, and the early bees go absolutely nuts for it.

Lucy: a little bit on from that you've got where we sometimes have potatoes, and then you've got like four or five or six raised beds

Beth: I've got a greenhouse full of like winter salads, because that's one of the things that I really enjoy

To be able to pick something every day. To have something fresh and plant based in your diet every day.

Lucy: Currently, there's like a couple of baby like fruit trees that are planted and now half of it surrounded by all these like wonderful blackberry bushes so it's really cool in like late summer we can have all the lovely berries for free

Beth: So I've got a greenhouse. The greenhouse is like bursting with green stuff.

Outside, It's a little bit weedy.

I've got a bay tree that we've trimmed into a heart shape, and a couple of fruit cages.

So I've got loads of kale in there and fruit bushes

Lucy: then this is my favourite bit because I've got a raised bed that I made from scratch with my father in law and we upcycled bits of wood and I've got herbs and edible flowers in there, and then I've upcycled some tires and there's many edible flowers like calendulas and rosemary and lavender

Beth: And then I've got like a really ramshackle shed that was there when I got there. And my old neighbour kind of rebuilt for me.

Everything's like really kind of homemade.

Like the door is an old panel from a shower enclosure.

And we've got spirit levels superglued either side, and they're the handles, and the roof is made of bits of old corrugated plastic and old fence panels and things.

Lucy: and then right at the back we've got rhubarb, and weeds - and weeds are not bad. And sheds and stuff

Beth: Yeah, it's messy, but in a nice way.

I guess it's quite homely.

Lucy: I want to show you! I'm a visual person, so I want to like, that's why I was like - come to the allotment and I'll show you around

Beth: Yeah, and then there's a compost heap and ponds, and I've got a chicken enclosure, but I haven't got any chickens at the moment. Um... But I'm gonna get some later in the year.

Lucy: That's really a bad tour! I wouldn't I wouldn't go to that allotment plot.

Beth: So it's a little bit messy

and it's so funny, I mean the other guys must think I'm such a hippy

It's, it's just so, it's so different everyone else's