



EM treated 'Scarlet Emperor' runner beans showing outstanding root development

therefore greater potential for the plants to take up food and moisture.

I have had to tie back the apricots because of the winds, and they are standing up well, so we are looking forward towards some fresh apricots for breakfast. The wind is a big problem on this site, as some of you may remember me saying before, so I have invested in wind screening along the south-western side of the allotment.

This may obscure a small percentage of sunlight, but with the reflective ground cover (mentioned last month) I think I will make up the loss, and maintain a degree of soil moisture. So the benefits I am looking for are less damage to the soft fruits and reduced wind burn on the vegetable leaves. I am lucky to have a fence to attach it to, and with cable ties the job was easy, even on a windy day.

I suppose I have invested in a lot of 'extras', many of which my plot neighbour Ron would think unnecessary – such as the windbreak fabric, reflective ground cover under the soft fruit, and weed-suppressing fabric. Many of these 'extras' are widely used on allotments in Europe.

My theory is that if EM suppresses disease-inducing organisms, then planting distances can be closer. If the distances are less, then shade could become a greater problem, so reflective ground cover becomes a sensible option. Also, growing tall plants closer together raises the argument for wind protection because there is more resistance from denser planting and therefore an increased chance of damage. The weed control mat is also needed to stop a repetition of the cow parsley syndrome occurring in the rows or paths on the allotment.

I think the cost of these extras will partly be covered by the greater amount of produce. We will see.

Andrew

Kitchen GARDEN

SAVE £6.60

Subscribed!

at the old price

The cover price of *Kitchen Garden* has had to be increased from this issue, but subscription rates are being held down until **July 28**, offering a last opportunity to subscribe at the old rate of just £34*. This makes a subscription even better value – saving you £5.60 on the new shop price. As a subscriber you will...

- Have your copy delivered straight to your door every month.

- Receive your copy days before it goes on sale.

- Never miss an issue.

- Avoid any price rise that may occur.

Postage is included and there's

nothing more to pay.

To subscribe, simply call the credit card hotline **01778 392030**, quoting your Visa/Mastercard/Switch details, and you will receive your copy of *Kitchen Garden* magazine from the next available issue.

Or, fill in the form and return it, together with your payment, to:

Kitchen Garden Subscription Dept, FREEPOST PE211, Bourne, PE10 9BR.

* *Eire and Europe* £43 *Worldwide* £53.

(We regret we cannot accept payment by euro or EU cheques due to prohibitive bank administration charges)



KG SUBSCRIPTION/BINDER

Your name

Address

Postcode

Tel

I wish to start a ONE YEAR subscription @ £34.00

Please also send me ☐ **KG Binders @ £7.95.**

I enclose a cheque/PO for
made payable to The Kitchen Garden Magazine.

OR charge my Visa/Mastercard/Switch

Start date

Expiry Date

Issue No (Switch only)

Today's Date

Signature

PLEASE SEND THIS ORDER FORM TO:

**Kitchen Garden Subscription Dept, FREEPOST PE211,
Bourne, PE10 9BR.**

If you do not wish to receive offers of other products or services, please tick box. ☐