GLOSSARY

Blanching
Excluding light from growth to produce tender, usually less bitter and pale coloured growth, e.g. celery.

Bolting
To produce flowers prematurely, usually leafy crops; resistant varieties available.

Bud
Immature/condensed shoots containing leaves or flowers ready to grow.

Bulb
Compressed leaves acting as a storage organ for a developing plant, e.g. onion.

Cane (fruit context)
Fruiting stem, e.g. raspberry.

Cloche
Portable structure for protecting plants from cold weather, advancing growth and warming up the soil. Useful for early and late season sowing. Made from glass or plastic covering over a framework or steel hoop tunnel.

Compost
Material from decomposed organic materials, e.g. plant remains. Used for potting and improving soil.

Earthing up
Pulling soil around the base of the plants and stems to encourage rooting, blanch stems and prevent wind-rock (destabilisation of roots).

Edible flower
Edible blossom of certain plants (always check).

Established
When plants have grown roots and top growth after sowing/transplanting and are less dependent.

Fruit
Mature ovary of a plant, e.g. apples with seeds, but classification often reflects longstanding associations, e.g. rhubarb is a vegetable known as a fruit; pumpkin is a fruit known as a vegetable.

Feeding
Suppling plant nutrients for healthy and vigorous growth, e.g. adding compost. Can also add 'concentrated' fertilisers, e.g. organic tomato feed.

Forcing
Inducing plant growth by changing growing conditions, e.g. rhubarb under pots for early stems and Witloof chicory indoors for early leaves.
Fruiting stems
Growth that bears fruits, eg blackberry plants fruit on one-year-old wood. This is pruned to soil level after fruiting in its second year. Meanwhile, the plant produces new one-year-wood that fruits the year afterwards, and so on.

Greenhouse/polytunnel
Protected growing environment for plants. Greenhouses have glass or plastic glazing over a framework; polytunnels have plastic sheet covering over metal hoops.

Green manure
Plants grown to improve soil, add nutrients and suppress weeds. They are cut down and dug into soil before the space is needed for a crop.

Harden off
Acclimatising plants to a new growing environment, e.g. moving plants from a greenhouse to a sheltered place outdoors during the day and returning at night. Repeat for two weeks, gradually leaving plants outside all the time, e.g. before planting.

Head
Dense group of flowers (e.g. cauliflower) or inner compact leaves (e.g. cabbage). Latter also known as 'hearts'.

Herb
Plants grown for their medicinal, culinary and/or aromatic qualities.

Horticultural fleece
Light fabric for protecting plants against frost and some pests by providing a physical barrier. Available in different grades.

Humidity
Amount of water vapour in the air. Important to increase for some crops by spraying water over the floor which then evaporates, e.g. for tomatoes growing in a greenhouse or polytunnel.

Long term crop/perennial
Plants that live for more than three years, e.g. asparagus, fruit bushes, etc.

Mulching
Laying material over the soil surface to conserve moisture, suppress weeds and insulate roots, e.g. 2-5cm of compost or well-rotted manure around fruit trees, vegetables, etc.

Pinching out
Removing the growing tip of a plant shoot, i.e. where new leaves are produced. Useful for stopping growth, removing pest populations and prompting bushy growth with multiple stems.

Planting/transplanting
Putting something in the soil, eg tuber, fruit bush. Includes moving plants from one location to another, usually where they can grow to maturity, eg from a pot or seedbed into the soil or container.
**Pot on/re-pot**
Moving plants into larger pots or trays to give them more space to continue growing.

**Pruning**
Cutting off or shortening unwanted growth, e.g. removing diseased material, reducing length of side shoots and encouraging fruiting stems/canes.

**Rootstock**
Plant used to supply roots for chosen variety, e.g. ‘Golden Delicious’ on ‘M26’.

**Row**
Lines in the soil for sowing seeds or transplanting. Seeds are sown in narrow channels at the right depth for the seed, called a ‘drill’.

**Sets**
Small bulbs planted for an earlier crop, e.g. shallot.

**Seedbed**
Area of soil for sowing seed. After thinning in situ, young plants are transplanted at final spacing, e.g. leeks.

**Side shoot**
Growth arising from a plant stem. Also known as ‘laterals’.

**Sowing**
Planting seed in a pot or row and giving it the right conditions to germinate (start growing).

**Spur (fruit context)**
A short stem that flowers and produces fruit, e.g. on apple trees.

**Taking cuttings**
Removing pieces of plant to use for increasing numbers, e.g. stems

**Thinning**
Removing crowded seedlings to give room for remainder to grow on. In rows, thin alternate plants in stages until final spacing. In pots, remove weakest seedlings.

**Tuber**
Swollen underground food storage organ, e.g. potato.

**Vegetable**
Edible plant part that isn’t the fruit, i.e. ‘vegetative’/non-flowering, e.g. roots like carrots, stems like celery.

**Weeding**
Removing plants growing where you don’t want them and that can otherwise take nutrients, water, space and light from crops, reducing harvests.