

WELSH ONIONS

by Mike Mason

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Continuing with the onion theme here is another useful perennial vegetable which could occupy an odd corner of your vegetable plot or a place in a flower bed. Welsh onions grow to about 2 feet tall and propagate like shallots on the surface of the soil. One can therefore carefully take complete onions from the cluster including their long green stalks or simply take the stalks for salads or cooking. They can be cropped most of the year but the stalks are beaten down by frosts in winter. They survive the harshest of winters with no protection and do not appear to be affected by pests or diseases.

I have had my patch of Welsh onions since 1990. I grew them from a packet of seeds with no problems. They produce flower heads in May – I remove them to divert their energy into producing more bulbs. They transplant easily. They are a great standby for those occasions when one runs out of onions – and the green stems can be used in salads like spring onions.

Good gardening!

MIKE MASON