

Newsletter

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Jan 2015



NEWS - 2015 dawns with very little frost.

We have had a very mild winter at the moment which is extending the life of many field crops. It's been incredibly warm when you look back a few years.

The Met Office have recently confirmed that **2014** was yet again the "**warmest year on record**" and also the warmest in the Central England Temperature series, the longest running temperature record in the world which stretches back to 1659.

It was also the fourth wettest year, and the driest September in records dating back to 1910.

Eight of the UK's top 10 warmest years have occurred since 2002, and this pattern is clear evidence of the impact of man-made climate change on the UK the weather and climate experts said.

It's been great for all of us out harvesting in the fields. Only a few days in the last month have we felt really cold whilst trying to bring in the produce for your boxes.

However all the pests and fungal diseases that in the past would have been set back by a cold winter have continued to survive and multiply, there are still black fly on some crops. So perhaps it will prove to be a mixed blessing in the spring.

The chaotic and unpredictable weather is making growing an increasing challenge. We hope we will be able to continue to produce great crops for you all in 2015.

Countries given right to decide on GM Crops. Meanwhile MEPs have voted to allow countries to choose whether to grow GM crops



overturning a pan European ban in force for the last 15 years.

This is a particular worry to Organic producers as both the current Government and Labour have both expressed wishes to allow more use of **GMO** crops in the UK. Without strict separation and sufficient distance between crops under current rules this can mean that neighbouring farms utilising **GM** crops risk contamination of Organic fields and the loss of Organic certification.

It's a difficult area of debate. **GM** might provide some advantages for certain crops in extreme situations. However many **GM** crops encourage the use of herbicides and pesticides; the long term effects of which have not been studied sufficiently. Customers may want to look at <http://www.enveurope.com/content/26/1/14> Republished study: long-term toxicity of a Roundup herbicide and a Roundup-tolerant genetically modified maize, to explore some of the concerns this raises.

GM animal feed is used extensively in the UK - it has pretty much priced organic, feed out of the market - so even where **GM** crops are banned, **GM** feed is not, so everyone in the UK is eating **GM** food (beef, pork, lamb, chicken, farmed trout and salmon) unless it is organic.

January Recipe - Kohl- Rabi Salad

2-3 kohl-rabi
50 g goats cheese
1/2 tsp lemon juice
1 tbsp olive oil
1 sprig thyme
Salt and pepper.

Thinly slice the kohl-rabi or make in to shavings with a veg peeler, scatter across the plate adding a few bruised fresh thyme leaves, shave over the goats cheese using the veg peeler. Drizzle with lemon juice and oil before seasoning with salt and pepper