

## CALU – Gwlad – February 2008

### Time to think about propagating vegetables

*By Amy Dutton - CALU*

With the weather getting warmer now is the time for farmers and growers to clear out a propagation area, order some seeds and get the first batch of vegetables propagated. For those living in an area with good soil and which is fairly frost free, why not plant some early potatoes from late February to early March? Brassicas do need a long growing season, so as soon as it is safe to do so these can also be sown. As we move into April more direct sowings can take place, for example swede, beetroot, carrots and onions. Before farmers or growers sow any crops, however, they should consider where they are going to sell them. It is a good idea to contact a local vegetable box scheme or farm shop to see what their requirements are. Remember to stagger the sowing of crops such as salad leaves to prolong the time that they can be produced. Horticulture now has a multi billion pound turnover in the UK and a large part of this comes in from fruit and vegetables. It is no longer the case that all produce comes from one area or is flown in from abroad; more farmers are expanding into the production of root vegetables, potatoes and top fruit. All these crops can fit in around the main commercial output of a farm. In 2007 production did not come close to meeting the demand for local, fresh Welsh produce. Hopefully in 2008 with an increase in Welsh producers there will be a marked increase in the quality and quantity of Welsh produce available. For more information please go to the CALU web pages [www.calu.bangor.ac.uk](http://www.calu.bangor.ac.uk) and download the crop information leaflets or request a copy by phoning 01248 680450 or email [calu@bangor.ac.uk](mailto:calu@bangor.ac.uk).