

Imperial units

Measurements

Market gardeners operated in a world where lengths were measured in inches, feet, yards and miles. Produce baskets were made in standard sizes for ease. Various different baskets were used over the years, but the original type used by early market gardeners was called a pot hamper.

Pot hampers: 20 inches long x 14 inches wide x 12 inches deep



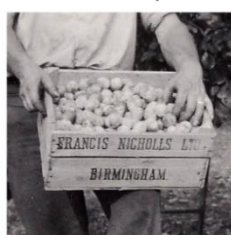
Pot hamper



Net



Flat



Crate



Sieve



Chip basket

Imperial unit	Metric unit	Equivalence
inch	millimetre	1 inch = 25.4 mm
foot	centimetre	1 foot = 30.5 cm
yard	metre	1 yard = 0.9 m
mile	kilometre	1 mile = 1.6 km

Weights

To begin with, market gardeners filled pot hampers with different amounts of produce. This caused problems with selling, as buyers didn't know what quantity they were paying for. To solve this issue, standard weights for different crops were agreed so that '5 pots of plums' was always a set quantity.

Crop	Weight of filled pot hamper
Plums and pears	72 lbs
Apples and onions	64 lbs
Cherries, redcurrants and gooseberries	63 lbs
Turnips	60 lbs
Beans, peas and sprouts	40 lbs
Parsley and spinach	20 lbs

Pot hampers were enormously heavy when filled – **a pot of plums weighted the same as the average 10 year old (32.7kg)!** Over time, smaller and lighter baskets were introduced.

Pre-decimalisation currency

Until 1971, Britain's currency was divided into pennies (d), shillings (s) and pounds (£). Pennies could also be divided into quarters (farthings).

12 pennies = 1 shilling

20 shillings = 1 pound

Wages Rates.

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Dr.				Cr.			
Date	Pots	$\frac{1}{2}$ -Pots	Shillings	Date	$\frac{1}{2}$ -Pots	Shillings	
Balance For'd Name			Shillings to deduct	Week	Day	Hour	Overtime
Bacon			-	100/-	-	-	-
Beckett			1/9	45/-	-	10	1/-
Smith			9	50/-	2/1	11	1/2
Hutchinson							
Mills							
Grove							
G.E. Thornton			9	35/-	6/4	8	9
Lampitt					2/1	3/4	
S. Thornton							
Dolphin							
Hill							
Styler			9	35/-	6/4	8	9
S. Thornton when at P.H.C.S.			9	40/-	7/3	9	1/-
Gould			9	30/-	5/5	7	9
Kight			9	40/-	6/8	9	10
Eden			9	45/9	6/4	7 1/2	9
Howard			9	42/-	7/1	-	-
H. Sparrow			9	32/-	5/9	7	9
V. Sparrow					2/1	3/3	
Women			6	-	4/-	6	-

The numbers above record amounts of money in pounds, shillings and pence - in the past, these were often shortened to £ (pounds), s (shillings) and d (pence).

42/- = 42 shillings
 6/8 = 6 shillings and 8 pence
 9- = 9 whole pence
 7 1/2 = 7 and a half pence
 (there were half & quarter penny coins)

Rates of pay for each worker on the market garden at Oxstalls Farm, Evesham - courtesy of the Rowland family.