

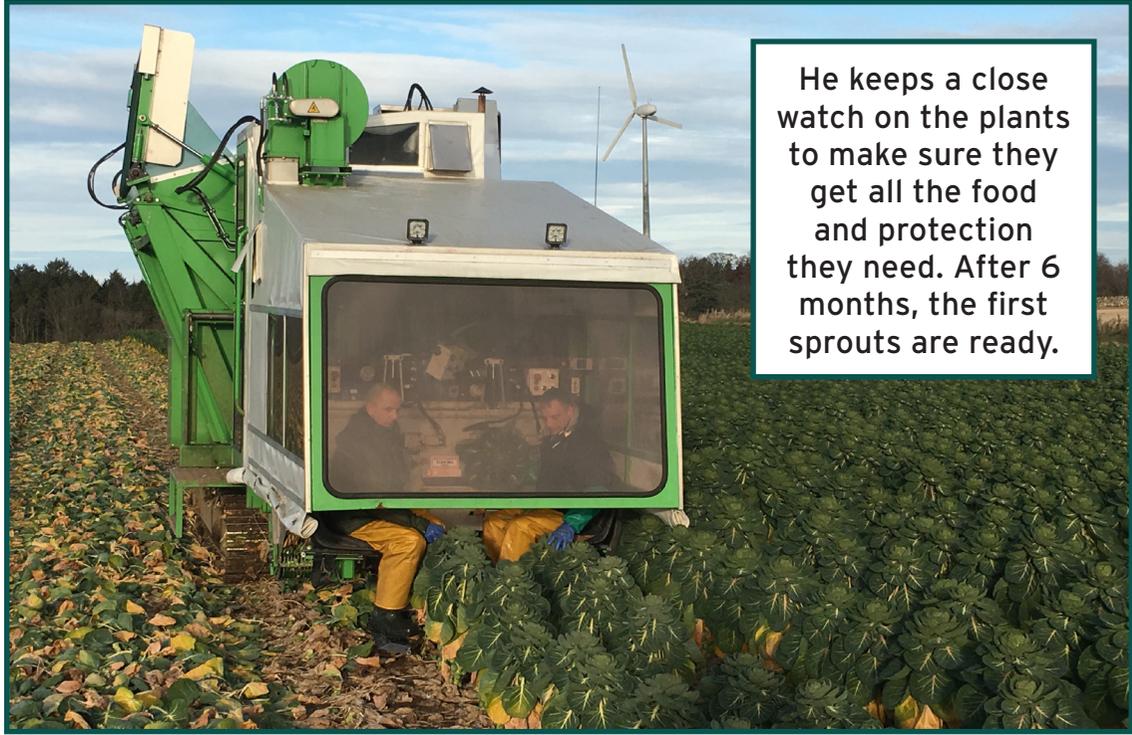
Meet Ian.



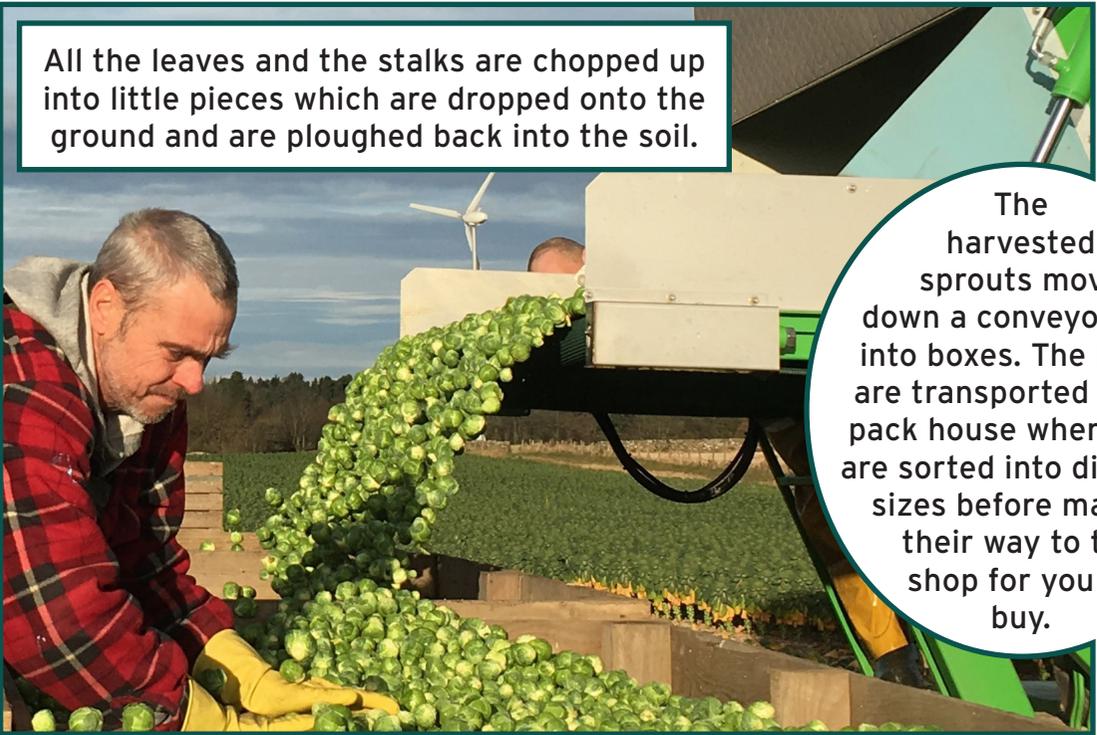
He and his family grow Brussels sprouts.

Brussels sprouts begin their journey as seeds. They are planted in greenhouses where they germinate and grow till they get to 10-15cm tall.

The baby Brussels sprouts are planted outdoors in mid April/May. Farmer Ian spaces them evenly apart in the field to give them all enough space.



He keeps a close watch on the plants to make sure they get all the food and protection they need. After 6 months, the first sprouts are ready.



All the leaves and the stalks are chopped up into little pieces which are dropped onto the ground and are ploughed back into the soil.

The harvested sprouts move down a conveyor belt into boxes. The boxes are transported to the pack house where they are sorted into different sizes before making their way to the shop for you to buy.



There are different varieties of sprout, which means sprouts are in season for 6 months from August through to early April.

QUESTION TIME!

Read about Brussels sprout production then have a go at answering the following questions:

- 1. How many months does it take for the sprout plants to grow?**
- 2. Sprouts are in season in late autumn/winter time. Can you list 3 other vegetables which are also in season at the same time?**
- 3. Can you explain why Ian would plough the leaves and left over stalks back into the soil?**
- 4. Based on what you can see in the pictures, can you describe how you think the sprout harvester works?**