



Garden For Food Security

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Resources

- People are critical factor rather than land
- Limited land and skills
- Capital intensive unpopular
- Vast human capital
- Abundant ingenuity, enthusiasm and inventiveness
- Mutual help and support
- Networks of growers and consumers



What Resources Do Gardeners Have?

Where do you grow your veg?

•In the garden	1287	77%
•In containers on a patio	717	43%
•In containers on a balcony	20	1%
•On a windowsill	131	8%
•On an allotment	417	25%
•Other, please state where	248	15%



When did you start growing vegetables?

•When I was a child	495	30%
•Last year was my first year	171	10%
•Two to five years ago	324	19%
•Six to 10 years ago	142	8%
•More than 10 years ago	447	27%
•This year first time	94	6%
Total	1673	100%



How much time do you spend a week growing veg?

• Up to an hour	168	10%
• Two hours	340	20%
• Three hours	475	28%
• A day	325	19%
• More than a day	192	11%
• Other	171	10%
Total	1671	100%



How Many Will Grow Fruit and Veg?

- 60 Million UK Population
- 20 Million Gardens
- 4 Million Gardeners
- 360,000 RHS Members
- Networks of friends, family and neighbours



Anecdotally:

- Tomato and runner bean producers report reduced sales in August and September
- Asparagus, runner beans and tomatoes have been the most popular topics for the RHS Gardening Advice Service
- Recently courgettes, broad beans, potatoes are just as popular
- Giving away gluts of late summer produce long been popular and some impact on overall food consumption might be significant at this season
- Blueberries and raspberries have become the most popular soft fruits, but the media reports a fall in wild blackberry gathering and the high yielding red and black currants and gooseberries have not increased in popularity



How do you benefit from growing your own veg? (enter your top three reasons)

- I enjoy being outdoors tending my garden 1482 89%
- I am concerned for the environment (no packaging/transport costs on the environment) 752 45%
- The food tastes better as there are no chemicals involved and I know how it has been produced 1471 88%
- Saving money – quality vegetables are cheap to grow but expensive to buy 556 33%
- I mainly grow veg that I eat a lot 804 48%
- I grow unusual or exotic veg that is expensive to buy 236 14%



Next Steps

That's what we are here for but, tentatively, to get the ball rolling...

- Seasonal vs AYR – embrace gluts! Contrary to School Garden Programme!
- Use networks of gardeners to address restraints – plant raising, seed swapping
- Members of gardening organisations are local gardening experts – work through them to influence network of family and friends