

## Calling all Garden Organic Experimenters!

### Garden Organic Members' Experiments – celebrating 60 years (almost) of citizen science in organic horticulture

Since the beginning of the organisation in 1958 research conducted by Garden Organic members has played a vital role in the research and development of organic gardening and horticulture.

Thousands of you have taken part in Members' Experiments in your own gardens and allotments, testing new varieties, different organic gardening techniques and undertaking surveys. To celebrate our achievements over the last 60 years, we are currently reviewing this important collection of citizen science, with support from the Centre for Agroecology, Water and Resilience at Coventry University. As part of this we would like to find out more from you – **the experimenters**. We would be very grateful if you could spare a few minutes to answer the questions below. Thank you.

#### Your Garden Organic Membership

1. How long have you been a member of Garden Organic/Henry Doubleday Research Association											
1-2 yrs	<input type="checkbox"/>	3-5 yrs	<input type="checkbox"/>	6-10 yrs	<input type="checkbox"/>	11-20 yrs	<input type="checkbox"/>	21-30 yrs	<input type="checkbox"/>	31-50 yrs	<input type="checkbox"/>

#### Taking part in Members' Experiments

2. Do you, or have you in the past, taken part in the Members' Experiments? Please tick as apply.											
I am a <b>regular experimenter</b> and have taken part in many years.	<input type="checkbox"/>										
I am an <b>occasional experimenter</b> and have taken part in some years	<input type="checkbox"/>										
I used to take part, but not in recent years.	<input type="checkbox"/>										
I have never taken part in any of the Members' Experiment, please go to Q 11	<input type="checkbox"/>										
Other											
3. How long have you been taking part in the Members' Experiments?											
1-2 yrs	<input type="checkbox"/>	3-5 yrs	<input type="checkbox"/>	6-10 yrs	<input type="checkbox"/>	11-20 yrs	<input type="checkbox"/>	21-30 yrs	<input type="checkbox"/>	31-50 yrs	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Where do you undertake the experiments? Please tick all that apply.											
In my garden	<input type="checkbox"/>	On the allotment	<input type="checkbox"/>	In a local community garden	<input type="checkbox"/>	In a school	<input type="checkbox"/>				

**5. Who do you undertake the experiment with?**

On my own <input type="checkbox"/>	With a family member(s) <input type="checkbox"/>	With my children / grandchildren <input type="checkbox"/>	With a friend(s) <input type="checkbox"/>	Other: <input type="checkbox"/>
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**6. Do you find the topics of the experiments of interest and relevance to you?**

**7. Can you recall an experiment that was particularly memorable? If so, please tell us more about it and why you remember it.**

**8. Do you find that the experiments are easy to complete or are they problematic? Please tell us about your experiences.**

**9. How do you report your results?**

I complete the record sheets provided <input type="checkbox"/>	I use the on-line Survey Monkey option, that has been available in the last couple of years <input type="checkbox"/>	I normally forget to do the recordings and to send in my feedback <input type="checkbox"/>
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Other comments

## Your motivations for taking part, or not taking part, in Members' Experiments

10. Why do you take part in the Members' Experiments? Please tick all that apply.	
It is an important part of being a Garden Organic member <input type="checkbox"/>	This is why I joined Garden Organic <input type="checkbox"/>
I like to test new plants and varieties and techniques <input type="checkbox"/>	I like to test new techniques and practices <input type="checkbox"/>
I like to help with research and innovation in organic gardening <input type="checkbox"/>	I like to learn new things <input type="checkbox"/>
I like to find out more about my garden e.g. about wildlife <input type="checkbox"/>	It is enjoyable <input type="checkbox"/>
Other comment:	
11. If you don't take part in the Members Experiments, please tell us why you don't or why you have stopped.	
It is not something that I am interested in <input type="checkbox"/>	
The topics are not of interest to me <input type="checkbox"/>	
The experiments are too complicated and time consuming <input type="checkbox"/>	
I don't think it is worthwhile <input type="checkbox"/>	
Other comment:	

## Your influence on the research topics

12. Do you ever suggest new topics for the Members' Experiments?	
Yes, I usually make suggestions for new topics on the record sheets <input type="checkbox"/>	
Yes, I make suggestions in response to articles in <i>The Organic Way</i> <input type="checkbox"/>	
Yes, by asking questions to the Garden Organic advisory service <input type="checkbox"/>	
No <input type="checkbox"/>	
Other comment:	

13. Do you feel you are able to influence the topics of research of the Members' Experiments?	
Yes, my suggestions have been used <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes, but I have not made suggestions <input type="checkbox"/>
No, but I would like to be able to. <input type="checkbox"/>	No, but it does not matter to me <input type="checkbox"/>
Other comment	

### Learning from Members' Experiments

14. Do you read about the results from the experiments in <i>The Organic Way</i> or on the website?	
Yes, I read the articles in the <i>Organic Way</i> for the experiment that I took part in. <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes, I read most of the articles about Members' experiments, whether I took part or not <input type="checkbox"/>
Yes, I read the write-ups on the website <input type="checkbox"/>	No, I don't normally read the articles <input type="checkbox"/>
Any comments about the write-ups or the dissemination of the results:	
<p><b>15. How has your involvement with the Members' Experiments influenced what you grow and how you manage your garden? Please explain below.</b></p>	
<p><b>16. Can you recall a Members' Experiment that you think was particularly innovative or has led to change and improvement in organic gardening practice. Please explain below.</b></p>	

### Other comments

<p><b>17. Please tell us what you like most about the Members' Experiments Scheme.</b></p>

18. Please tell us what you don't like about the Members' Experiments scheme or what you would like to change about it.
19. Any other comments.
20. Copies of old documents related to Members' Experiments
We have copies of all of the HDRA Newsletters and The Organic Way, but we are missing copies of some of the other documents that were produced to disseminate information concerning the Members' Experiments, particularly those conducted pre-1990. We would really appreciate it if you could let us know if you have copies of any of the following:
<b>Experimental protocols, record sheets and details of any other resources that were provided (pre-1990)</b>
<b>Summary reports eg 'Comfrey Report' (1, 2, 3, 4 or 5), Perfumes against Pests etc</b>
<b>Reference to the experiments in books or other publications</b>
<b>Others</b>

**THANK YOU very much for taking the time to complete this questionnaire.**

All of the information provided in this questionnaire will be kept anonymous, but we would be very grateful if you could provide your name and contact details, so that we could contact you for further information and to involve you in this celebration of the Members' Experiment Scheme.

<b>Name:</b>	<b>Membership number:</b>	<b>Address:</b>
<b>Telephone number:</b>	<b>e-mail address</b>	

**Please return your completed questionnaire by 17<sup>th</sup> October 2016 by post to:  
Margi Lennartsson, Garden Organic, Ryton Organic Gardens, Coventry, CV8 3LG**

**or by email to: [mlennartsson@gardenorganic.org.uk](mailto:mlennartsson@gardenorganic.org.uk)**