

# Researching Forest Gardening practice: Current extent and potential

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Forest Gardening in Practice

An Illustrated Practical Guide for Homes, Communities and Enterprises





# The surveys

Site information	Other information
Location	Goals
Climate zone	Perceived achievement
Altitude	Species
Area of forest garden	Challenges & Learning
Age of site	Time/Labour inputs
Use type	Site records

3 online surveys 2010-17

Site visits and interviews

All in English; 2017 also French, Spanish, Portuguese

Focus on “new” temperate systems (not traditional/indigenous practices)

Participants self-identified as forest gardeners

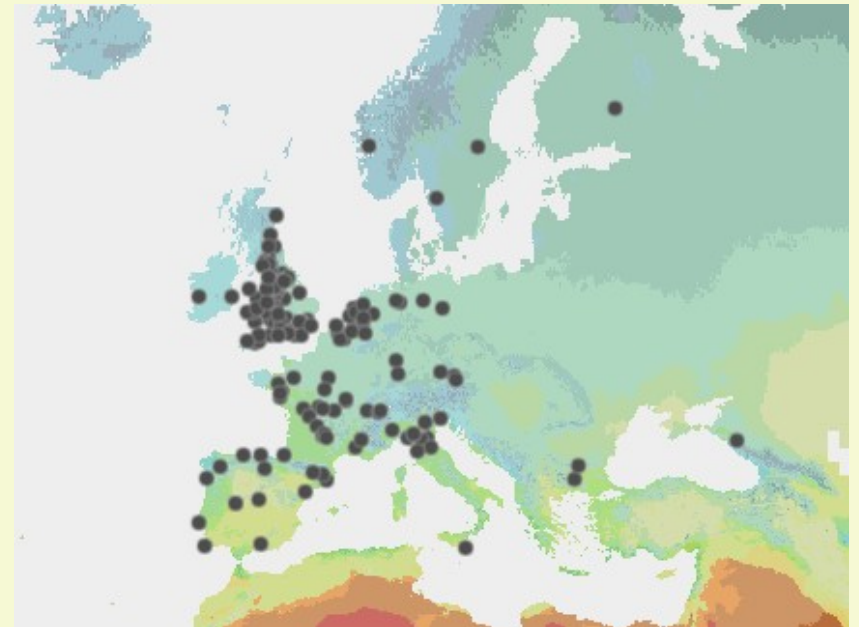


# Results





# Geographical Spread



**244 valid responses**

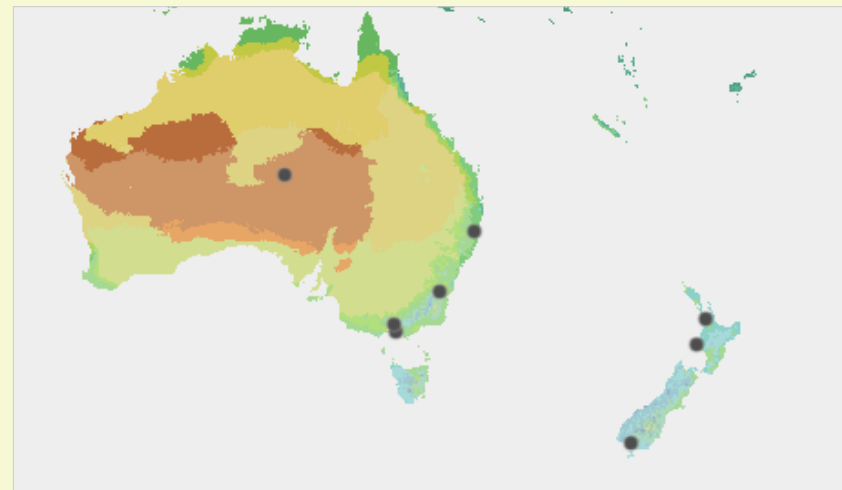
84 UK

88 Europe without UK

47 US

17 Americas outside US

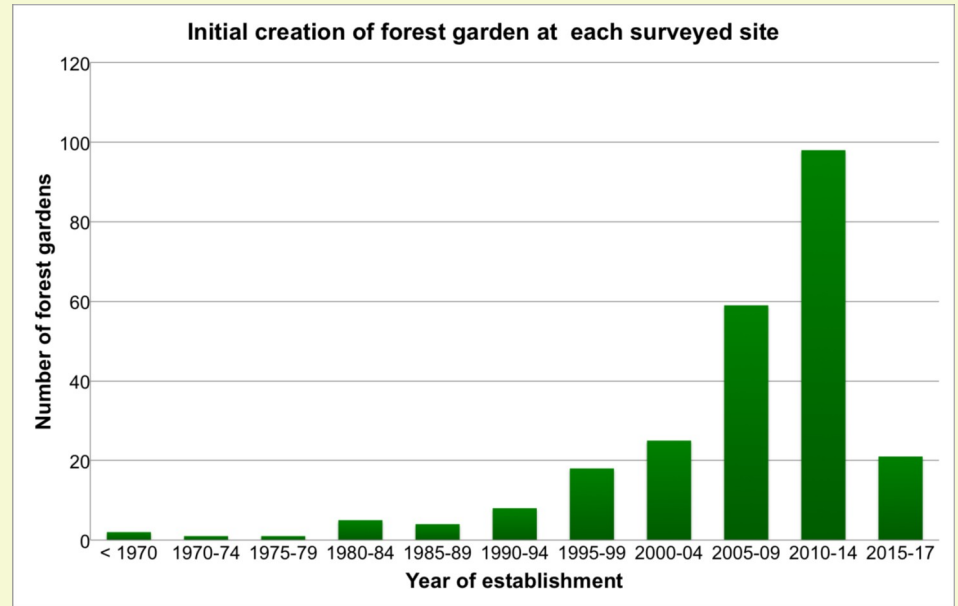
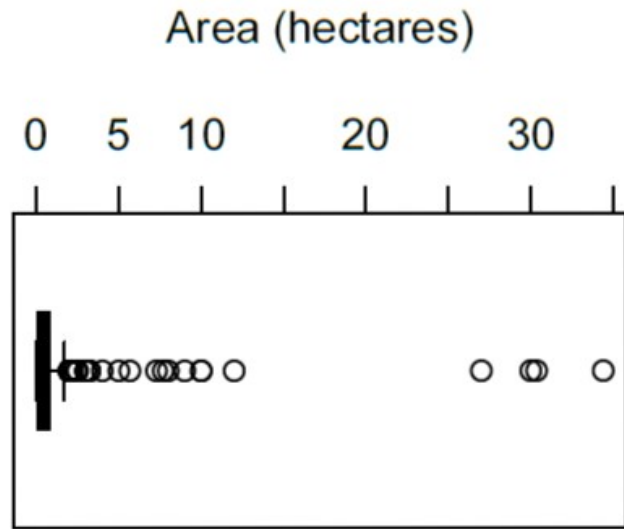
8 Australasia



Background shows climate zones based on temperature and aridity (Esri, Metzger et al., 2012)



# Size, Age & Use Types

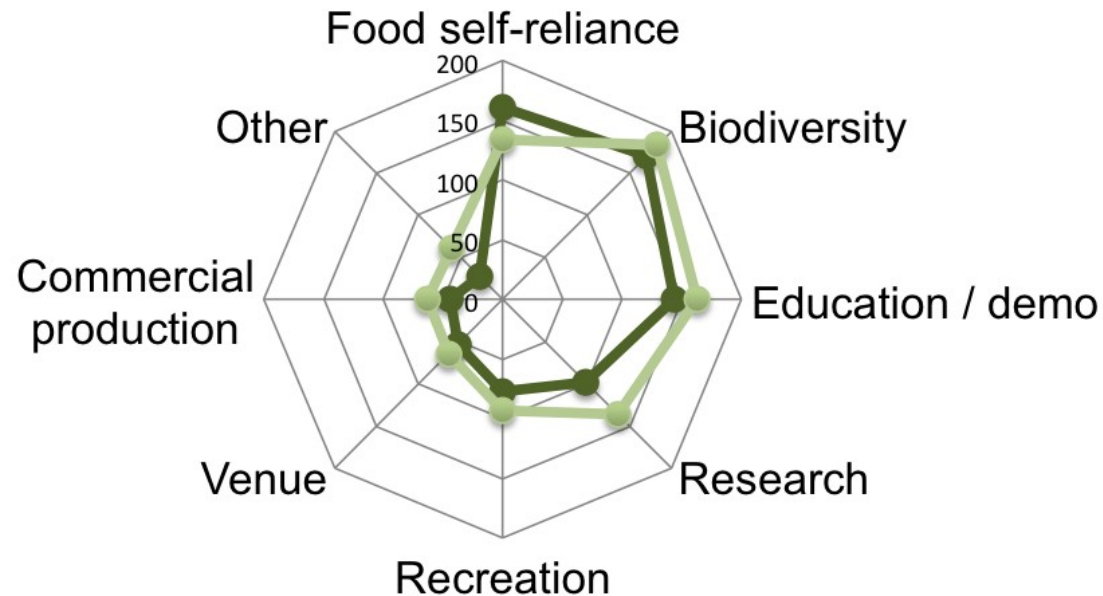


USE TYPE	Sites	Percent	Median size (ha)
Private garden	129	52.9%	0.25
(without outlier)	128	52.5%	0.2
Community garden	43	17.6%	0.25
Commercial project	32	13.1%	0.8
Other (exclusively)	2	0.9%	
Mixed	38	15.6%	



# Goals and Achievements

## Forest garden goals and achievements



—●— Importance (ranking as first or second goal or very/important)

—●— Achievement (goal met as/better than expected)

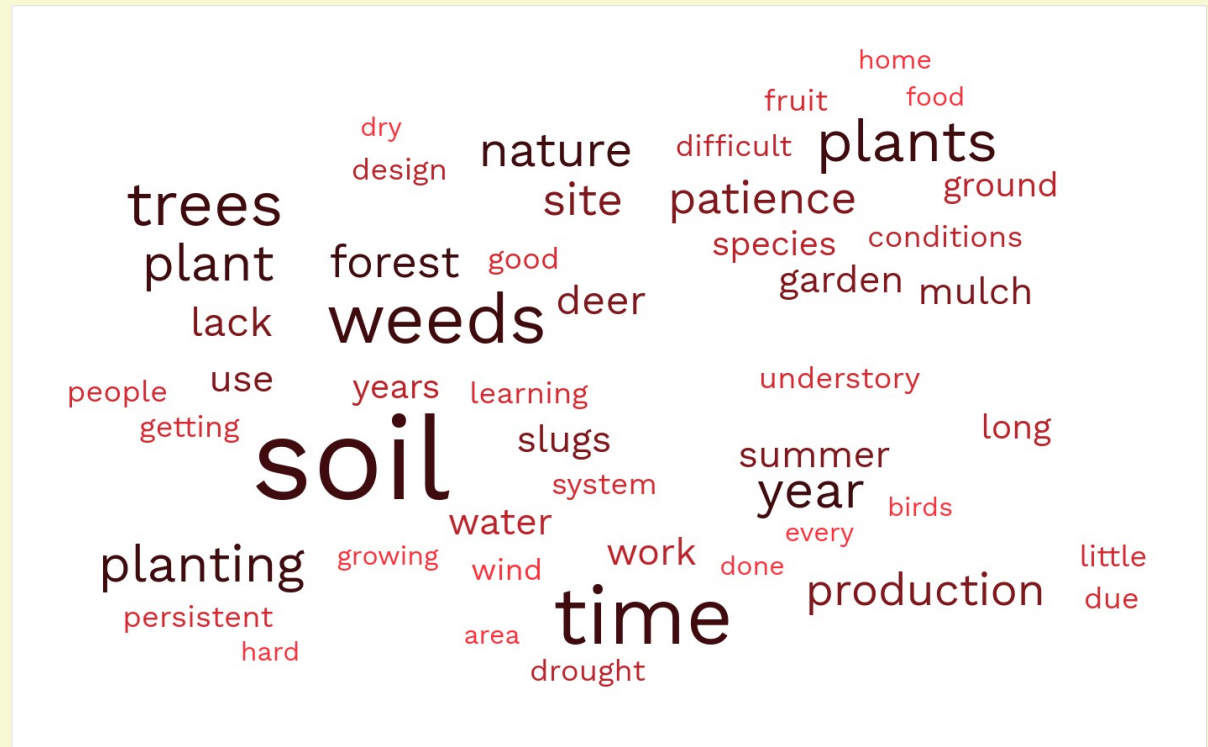
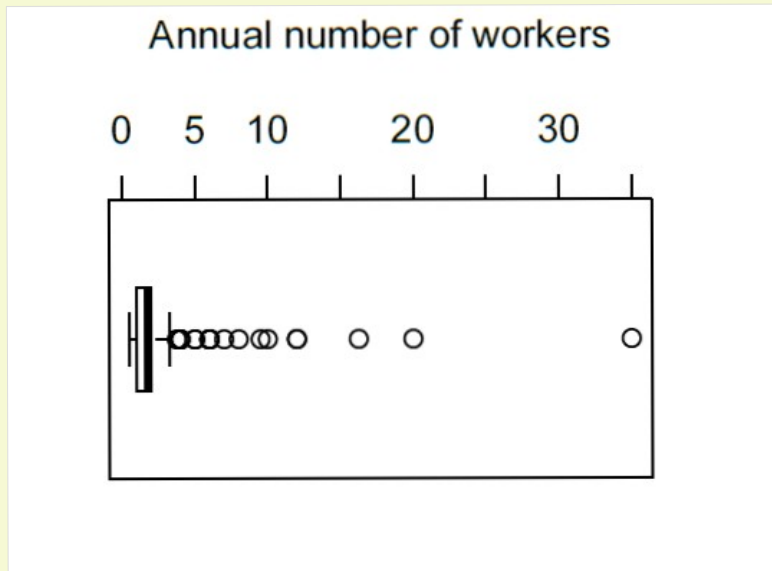
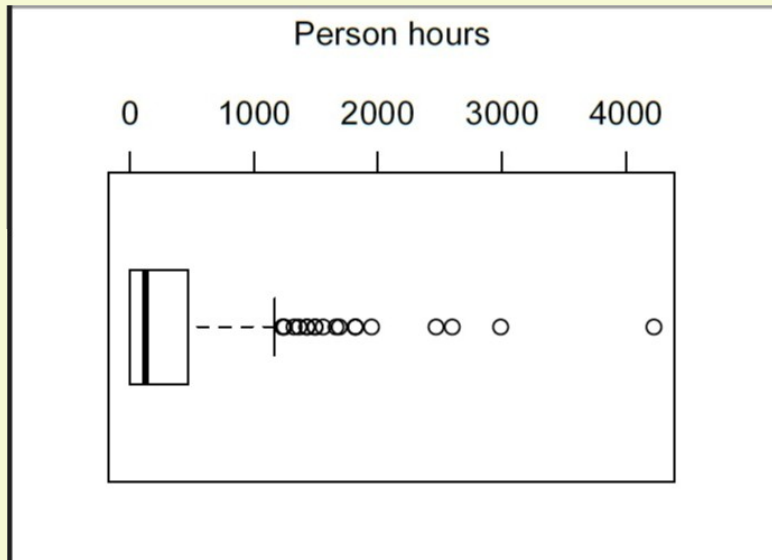


# Plant choices

<b>Trees</b>	#	%		<b>Shrubs</b>	#	%				
Apple	111	69		Currants	102	66				
Pear	93	58		Raspberry	90	58				
Plum	90	56		Blackberry	58	38				
Cherry	64	40		Gooseberry	36	56				
Hazel	62	39		Blueberry	34	22				
<b>Responses</b>	<b>161</b>			<b>Responses</b>	<b>154</b>					
<b>Herb layer</b>	#	%		<b>Roots</b>	#	%		<b>Climbers</b>	#	%
Strawberry	47	37		Jer. artichoke	30	33		Grape vine	55	49
Mint	45	35		Alliums	28	31		Kiwi	53	47
Comfrey	38	30		Potato	26	29		Hops	20	18
Lemon balm	25	20		Carrot	20	22				
Rhubarb	24	19		Horseradish	10	11				
<b>Responses</b>	<b>127</b>			<b>Responses</b>	<b>90</b>			<b>Responses</b>	<b>113</b>	



# Labour, challenges and learning





# Research potential

- Many people collect records
  - Layout, Species
  - Yields, Biodiversity, Labour
- Willingness to be involved & share
- Our datasets are available
- Information has already been shared



# Where next?

- Easier data access for researchers
- Ongoing recording of forest gardens – Citizen Science
- Online database
- Baseline and ongoing information
- Develop simple, shared recording protocols
- Collaborative effort; needs institutional support
- Get in touch!

## **Contacts**

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