

THE ORGANIC GARDENING SURVEY

What do you really think??

We have had 60 responses to the survey which was circulated early this year in the newsletter.

This is not a wonderful response and only represents 28% of the membership

Of the 112 plot holders only 40% of plot holder returned questionnaires

We have represented the answer to the survey as % of the responses please remember that this doesn't represent the whole membership or indeed all the plot holders

So What do you think about gardening organically ?

PLOT HOLDERS

77% of plot holders who responded currently garden organically

62% felt their allotment site should be nominated organic

80% felt if the majority of plot holders on a specific site were to vote for organic status the site should be nominated organic

95% felt that if a site was nominated organic they would be prepared to garden organically.

53% of non organic gardeners would not be prepared to move sites if their site were nominated organic.

NON PLOT HOLDERS

68 % of those who responded would like the option of an all organic site. 21 % had no preference and 11% did not want an option.

36% felt things should stay as they are with individual plot holders deciding on how they garden. 45% are happy for change, 19% have no preference.

93% of those who responded felt if a site were nominated organic the offer should be conditional on agreeing to garden organically.

In addition to your responses to the questions there were some interesting comments from members and some common themes which we hope these extracts summarise.

“... although an organic gardener...we do not win people over to our beliefs with strong arm tactics.....1 would prefer a gradualist approach, as existing plot holders give up new plot holders agree to garden organically”

“... strongly against non-organic gardeners being forced to move against their wishes. Organic debate is strong enough to win hearts and minds on own merit”

“ you can't garden organically if your neighbour is using pesticides”

“ education through the news letter on good organic gardening is the best approach”

“ I use pesticides very rarely when all else fails. If all plot holders worked their sites more efficiently and regularly I think it would be possible to go organic.....neglected site harbour weeds and pests”

“ it would be difficult to impose and organic culture.. there are a lot of education issues”

“ my only worry....slug control”

“ I am hoping that a more culturally diverse group of people eventually have allotments and I think being too “ precious” about organics may inhibit this”

“ might be difficult to enforce.... being totally organic can be costly”

Where do we go from here ?

The results of this survey have raised some interesting questions for the Society. At the end of the day its up to the membership to decide where we go from here.

The A.G.M is coming up in October. Its up to you to come along and take part in the debate.