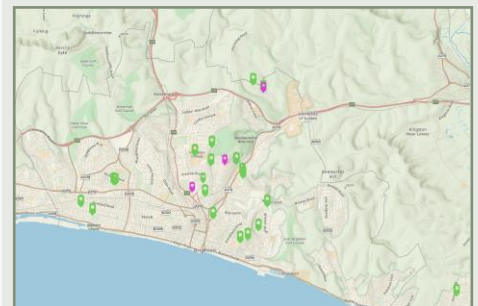
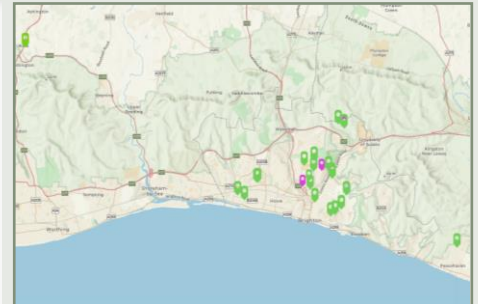


# Community Food Gardens in Brighton & Hove – A Snapshot

- **24 community gardens (CGs)** took part in an online survey, over half have been operating for more than **ten years**, and almost half are less than 250m<sup>2</sup> (1 allotment plot).
- The CGs **engage** many different groups of society, the most reported include the general public (67%), people with mental health challenges (38%), people with long-term health issues (29%), and children (25%).
- CGs grow a **large diversity of crops** (up to 17 broad crop types), with smaller CGs tending to grow a slightly more diverse range.
- The food grown by CGs is mostly **shared** among volunteers, although 58% also at times **donate food to food support** providers in the city.
- CGs are **environmentally conscious**, with the majority following organic farming methods, making their own compost, and using companion planting as their main pest control method.
- CGs report **providing many benefits**, the most reported include improving mental health and social connection.
- The biggest challenges CGs report are securing **funding**, maintaining a consistent **volunteer base**, and **drought** and land use challenges.
- **Read the full report [here](#)**

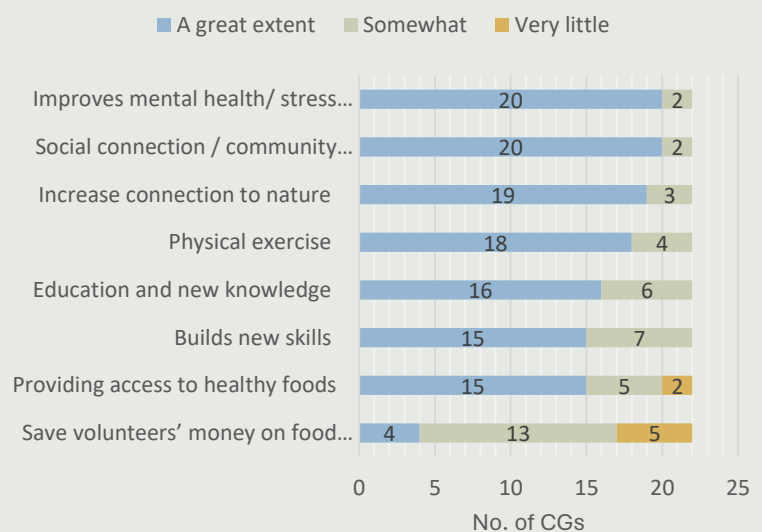
## CGs that took part, and locations across Brighton & Hove

- 📍 Rock Farm
- 📍 PLOT 22
- 📍 Nurture Through Nature
- 📍 Bristol Estate Leaseholders and Tenants
- 📍 Wish Park Community Vegetable Garden
- 📍 Brighton & Hove Organic Gardening Group
- 📍 Stanford and Cleveland Community Garden
- 📍 Race Hill Community Orchard
- 📍 London Road Station Partnership
- 📍 Brighton Unemployed Centre Families...
- 📍 Wellsbourne Community Garden
- 📍 The Secret Garden
- 📍 Peacehaven Community Garden
- 📍 Mousecomb Forest Garden & Wildlife...
- 📍 Permaculture Forest garden Land s...
- 📍 Stanmer Community Garden Group
- 📍 Dorothy Stringer Community Allotment
- 📍 Phoenix Food Growing Program
- 📍 New Roots
- 📍 The Old Green (Growing Hollingdean)
- 📍 Migrant English Project

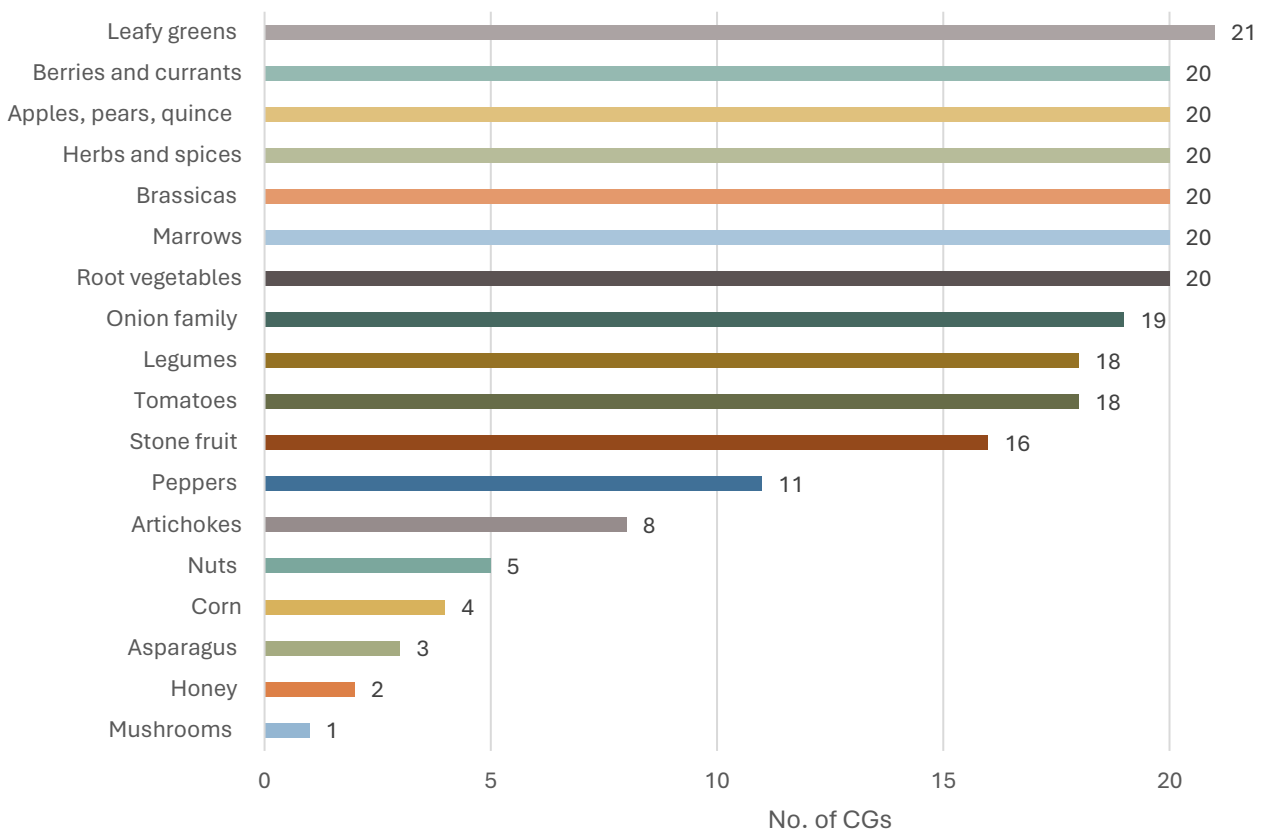


*“Our garden has become a really important feature in the local community and we have developed strong links with other community groups and organisations. We have all benefited physically, socially and mentally. It has been so much fun growing our own produce and being able to share it amongst ourselves and with local people and a food bank”* Respondent, Stanford and Cleveland Community Garden

## Perceived type and extent of benefits that CGs provide



## Diversity of crops grown in community gardens



### Innovation in the face of the climate crisis

Many describe “Having to adapt to drought-like conditions” and the “Constant innovation around climate-resilient growing methods (including water conservation, biodiversity enhancement and carbon-negative soil building)”. Others have introduced drought-tolerant plants and are increasing their perennial crops.

### Advice for others looking to set up a community garden

“Know your community first. It’s just as important as knowing your local ecosystem”. This includes the need to “Communicate with the local people and find out what they most want out of the garden. Some people have ideas and knowledge that will be invaluable”

The next phase of this project will work closely with growers both in community gardens and allotments to measure the diversity of crops being grown. A small group of growers will also record their *Plot Stories* through images and videos to bring to life what goes on behind the scenes of growing. This project also aims to explore what some of the barriers to accessing these spaces may be and how policy actions can help overcome them. If you would like more information or are a community food grower and would like to take part, please contact:

Leah Salm [l.salm@greenwich.ac.uk](mailto:l.salm@greenwich.ac.uk)

Download the full report about community gardens [here](#)