

Researching Forest Gardening practice: Current extent and potential



What we did

| 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 |

4 surveys between 2010 and 2017

3 online, 1 site visits and interviews

All in English; 2017 also French, Spanish, Portuguese

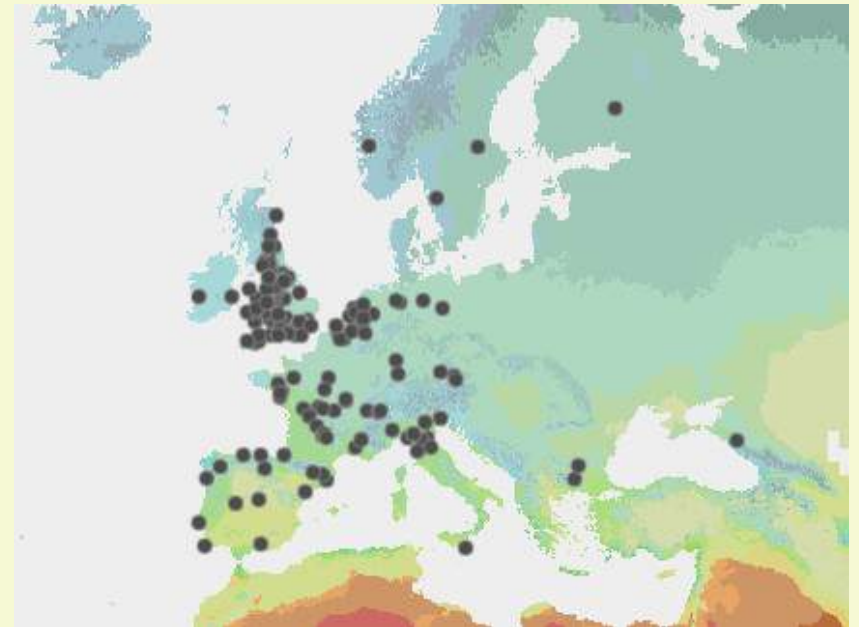
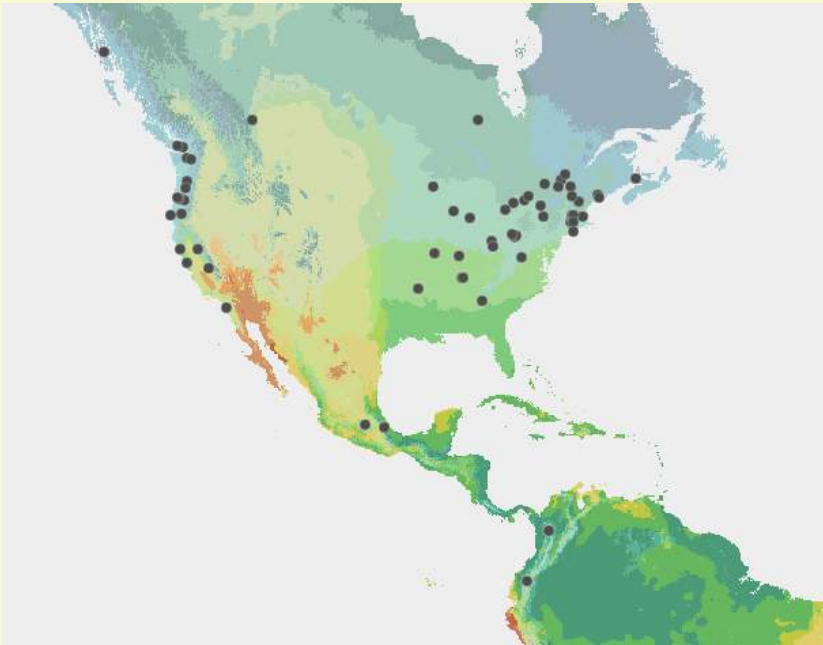
Focus on temperate zones as “unexplored territory”

Some differences between surveys

Results



Geographical Spread



244 valid responses

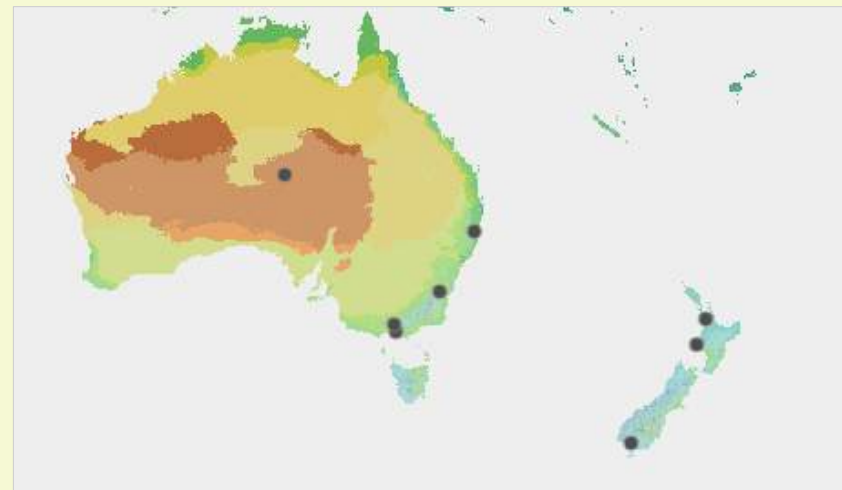
84 UK

88 Europe without UK

47 US

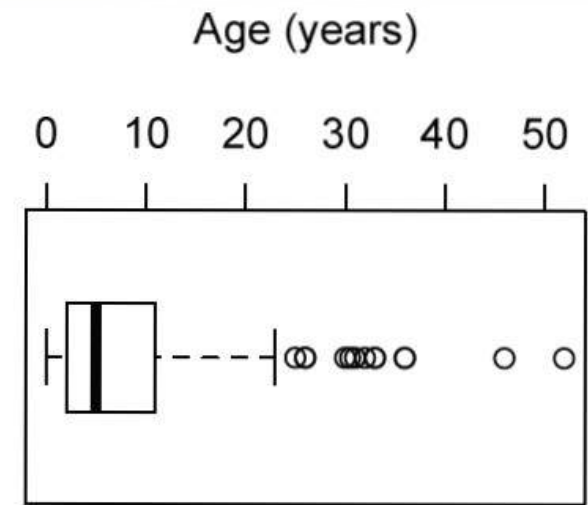
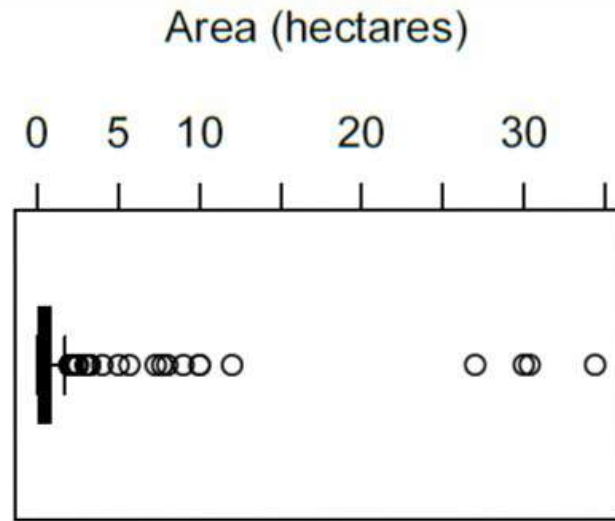
17 Americas outside US

8 Australasia



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

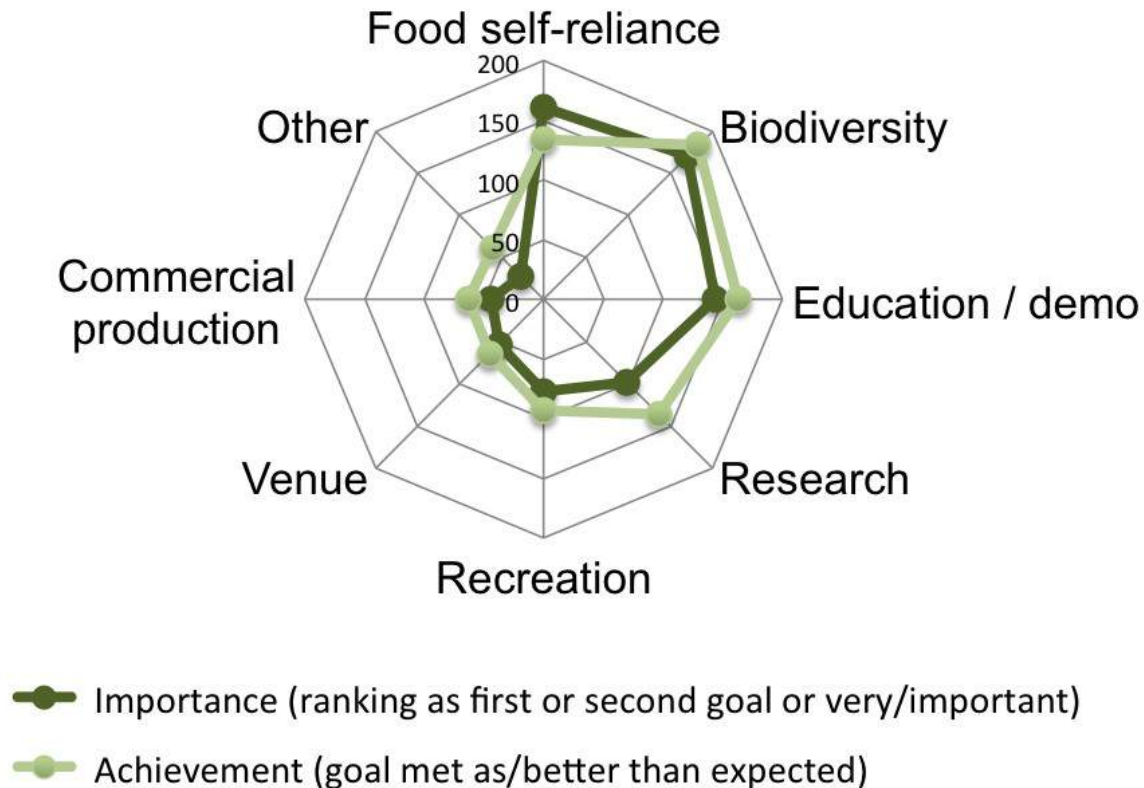
Size and age



| 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

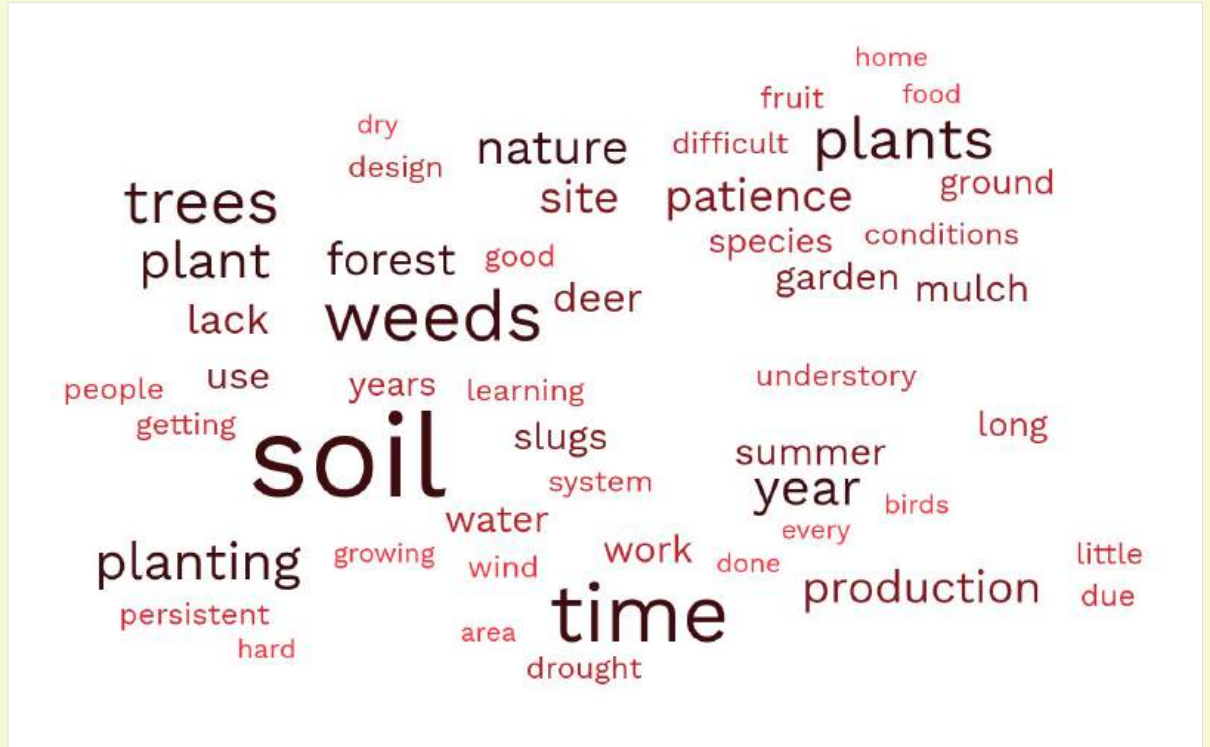
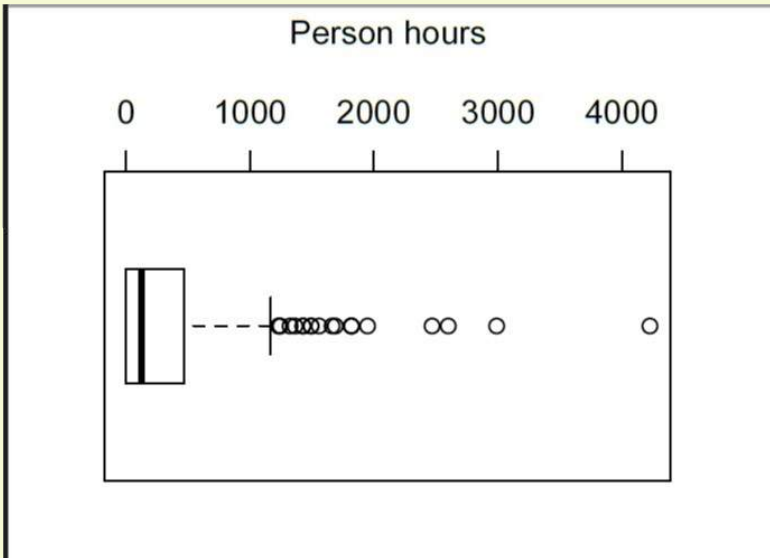
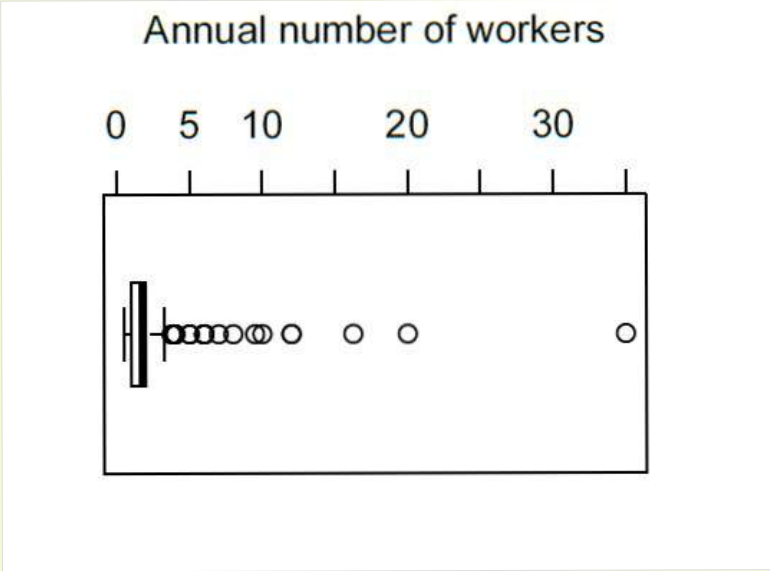
Forest garden goals and achievements



Plant choices

| Trees | # | % | | Shrubs | # | % | | | | |
|-------------------|------------|----|--|------------------|------------|----|--|------------------|------------|----|
| 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 | | | | |
| Responses | 161 | | | Responses | 154 | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | |
| Herb layer | # | % | | Roots | # | % | | Climbers | # | % |
| 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 | | | | |
| Responses | 127 | | | Responses | 90 | | | Responses | 113 | |

Labour, challenges and learning



Research potential

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

Where next?

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

Contacts

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