

## About the survey

### Responses

2019 Annual Survey of Australian  
Community Gardens and City Farms

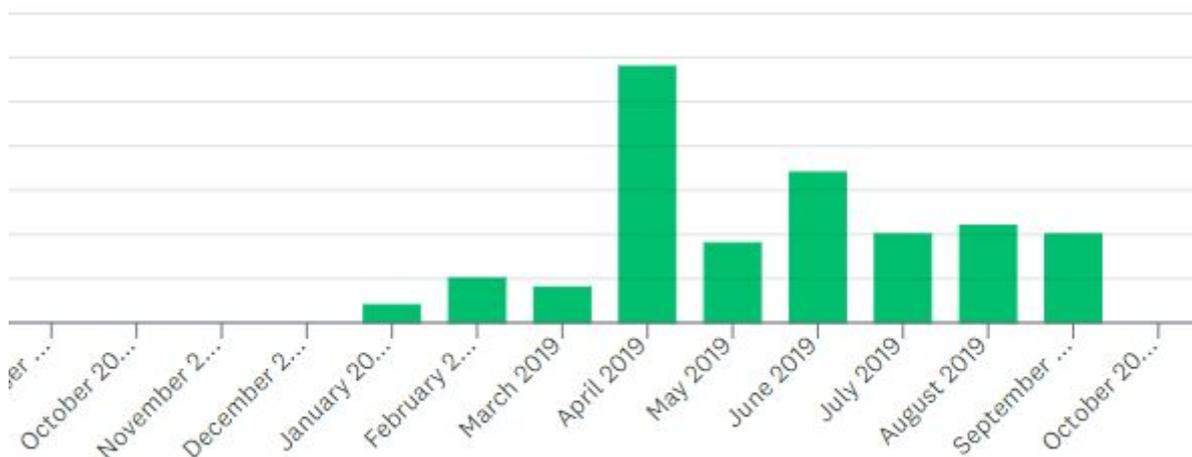
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96  
Responses

69%  
Completion rate

11 mins  
Typical time spent

### Response volume over time



### Multiplier: 5

The number of gardens in our database is about 650, and we think this is about half the actual total in Australia. We received about 100 responses. These will be from a (generally) more motivated and organised group of gardens. The 100 survey results are further reduced since only 70% of gardens completed all questions.

To estimate a national activity level, we need to extrapolate our results. If we assume that there are actually 1300 gardens in Australia, the multiplier would be  $1300 / (100 / 0.7)$  or about 9. Just to be conservative, we will suggest that all the figures here could be multiplied by \*5\* to get an estimated national figure. In the results following, these figures will be shown as (est: xxx)

## Survey: Garden details

What stage is your garden in?

Planning stages	4%
Under construction	8%
Open and active: early days	19%
Well established	51%
Dormant: awaiting revival	3%

How big is the area under your garden's administration?

Range of area (SqM)	Count of Gardens
1-100	6
100-200	6
200-1000	18
1000-3000	24
3000-10,000	9

Total area of all gardens responding: 96,000 SqM (9.6ha) (est: 50ha)

What is the management style of your garden plots?

All individual plots	13%
Mostly individual plots	29%
Mostly commons	33%
All Commons	16%

Total number of individual plots reported: 774 (est: 3,870)

People visiting and tending the garden (weekly)

Weekly range	Count of gardens
1-10	17
10-30	20
30-100	18
100+	4

Total visitors and gardeners, per week: 2230 (est: 11,150)

People visiting for special events (annually)

Total visitors for special events, per year: 34,289 (est: 170,000)

## Survey: Activities in the Garden

Types of activities in the garden

Type of activity	Gardens
Food production for individual gardeners and households	82%
Informal composting and/or wormfarming	73%
Workshops and informal training	70%
Visits and tours	54%
Shared meals in the garden	45%
Food swapping and trading	38%
Large-scale composting or green-waste processing	31%
Food for community events	30%
Food donations to food banks, soup kitchens, charities	21%
Food grown for cash sales	15%
Accredited training	3%

## Water conservation measures

Type of conservation	Gardens
Mulching of garden beds	94%
Improving soil to increase water holding capacity	80%
Rainwater tanks	59%
Drip or seepage watering systems	43%
Wicking beds	43%
Stormwater retained on site	20%
Greywater re-use	3%

## Policy on organics and biodynamics

Type of policy	Gardens
Policy of organic production is strongly encouraged.	46%
Garden meets formal standards, but is not certified.	27%
Use of chemicals is discouraged.	18%
No specific policy. Gardeners make their own decisions.	6%
Garden is certified organic or biodynamic.	0%

## Survey: Funding and Staffing

How many volunteer hours per week are contributed to the garden's administration?

Range of hrs	Count of Gardens
1-10	32
10-20	14
20-100	10
100+	3

Total volunteer hours, per week: 1433 (est: 7,165)

How many volunteer hours are contributed for special events per year?

Total volunteer hours, per week: 11,470 (est: 57,350)

How many hours per week do you have paid staff?

Count of gardens with paid staff: 10

Total weekly hours paid: 123 (est: 615)

What is your primary funding model?

In-kind support	81%
Self-funding activities	63%
Government support	51%

Support from non-government organisations	48%
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## Memberships and affiliations

Independently managed (no host organisation)	41%
Managed through a local council or State programme	17%
Affiliated with a church or school	11%

## Survey: Support and comments

### How can we better support you?

*Please tell us how we can support your garden and your growing community.*

1. Ability to share news and views and assistance with identifying funding opportunities. Guidance on membership and management matters.
2. advise on managing volunteers, coordinating efficiently. We have 15-30 volunteers who come weekly, lots of work falls on shoulder of a few.
3. Advocating for local governments to financially support community gardens in their municipality because of the many benefits to physical, mental, environment health, community and social wellbeing, community connectivity.
4. An active facebook and or instagram presence and encourage participation of all ACFCGN member gardens
5. Contact with other community gardens and garden groups
6. Creating awareness for our garden. Helping us learn how to grow and build this space for the future. We are still in our infancy.
7. Finding a cheaper Public liability insurance. Currently paying \$200 premium with a \$150 brokerage fee.
8. Give us any advice on how we can grow our market and who to be associated with
9. Group insurance policy
10. Have a greater presence in Victoria
11. Help in getting grants to replace aging infrastructure. Help in writing up memorandum of understanding to have a legal tenancy. Help in translating documents to involve refugees who have lesser available languages.

12. Help share the community garden network to others. Thanks!
13. I am an ex psychotherapist, I'm retired and 50 years old. I use my garden to grow food and share it for free with people in the community and family. I am trying to save money to buy more land but only have 100k. If I were to get help to purchase land in my area, I would do this on a larger scale and teach sustainable living from making grafting paste, to worm farming and more. If there is any assistance around lysterfield or Selby in Victoria. Please let me know, I'm bursting to do more and only confined by the space in my garden. Thank you for asking, you are an angel ♥
14. I don't know..we are open to the elements on crown land so we often have produce taken..we feel that if someone is hungry, as a community group sharing is the way to go. we would love some nice organic soil and mulch as our beds are all raised and every season depletes the soil. We have compost bays and gather donations from the community to process it into compost. RE grant funding..as we are on the banks of the hunter river, many companies offer grants and my group would love funding, but we don't have an abn and are not incorporated. The companies that offer grants are all environmental degrading...ie the coal companies and chemical processing plants, and many of our members are not willing to be linked with damaging industries..so we self fund almost everything.
15. I would like to get help more volunteer to work in the garden. So advertisement.
16. Information.
17. Keep up the good work, you have a wealth of resources on your site, it's great. Come out and visit us one day, we are hoping to grow, grow grow..
18. Keep us networked & in mind when there are opportunities that might benefit our little community garden & volunteers
19. Listing us and our future workshops, events on your website. Generally its the promotion and getting the word out to the relevant communities and interested parties that seems to be a stumbling block for us at the moment.
20. Many years ago you had a conference/workshops in Collingwood Vic.. It was expensive, but great. You seem to have dropped off our radar since. Staying connected is especially good for the many new groups that need mentoring.
21. Networking. We live in a remote area from other community gardens. Information sharing is limited to online FB pages. A physical catch-up with other groups would be very beneficial, if affordable. PS: The area of our garden is 4060sq.m.
22. Newsletters, etc.
23. Offer ideas for fundraising /funding. Opportunities for cheap garden materials. Information for organising work shops.

24. Our biggest problem is burnout of the main members. Small group of about 8. People want the garden at their convenience without contributing regularly or in emergencies (eg emergency summer watering).
25. Please add this community garden to your list.
26. Practical and governance information
27. Promote us by making our information available for online searches. Thank you.
28. Publicity
29. Seeing stories on the website about other community gardens and how they organise their gardens, open days etc and find good solutions to problems.
30. Thank you. We have appreciated the support from ACFGN even though we have not formally become a member. The best support we have received is networking and publicity as this is important - only people who are already interested in community or gardening are keen to come and help out on the ground. We get plenty of people to events! As an organisation, if you could provide support to help with the bureaucracy aspect of these ventures I am sure that would be very much appreciated indeed.
31. The ACFGN could help support our community garden by connecting our garden with other community gardens through establishing better networks within the community garden community. Maybe hosting a national community garden convention could be a good thing? I believe that the Men Shed do an annual conference which connects other menshed groups together, and it has been quite successful. Anyway, I hope this information helps in some way. Cheers!
32. The garden was started in 2013 and has developed the area over that period where we now have over 100 fruit trees. We will be continuing to develop compost(wet/dry) areas, worm farms- waste recycling, art installations, plant propagation, chickens and bees. For the last 3 years we have been organising funding for the community kitchen. The structure has been built and we are in the process of organising the next stage- power/water - internal fit-out. Support through publicity and providing expertise for 'publicised' workshops[both garden related and cooking]. Providing knowledge of garden specific grants or companies known to support community gardens. Providing or encouraging companies to donate solar facilities (ie panels & batteries). Lastly advocating to encourage the Department of Education to become more proactive in supporting school gardens.
33. This community garden is only in its initial set up phase. We would love some support in how we could set up our garden and also a revenue generation model. We will be applying for a few grants in the next month so any assistance in this space would be appreciated. Also what other support networks are out there that we can tap into.
34. Through sharing information on organisations who can support us financially and through mentor-ship around organisational structures and level matters.

35. We are a 100% volunteer-run and managed group and we don't need support but thank you so much anyway! We love what you do.
36. We are looking for resources to help raise interest and volunteer support for our garden. At present the garden is maintained by only a few very hardworking volunteers
37. We find it difficult to get people involved. A lot of people in Port Fairy have their own gardens at home. We have support from the community & many wander & collect the produce but don't wish to be involved on a weekly basis. It's a wonderful space but just a few dedicated members now. We're in the process of revamping it to include more perennial, sensory, medicinal plants.
38. We would like to join the Network please and include us in your Gardens map and Directory. Thanks.
39. We're still a formative garden. So any information or formats for community garden guidelines and organisational structures might be useful. We will be seeking to establish membership with your network
40. We'd love to become members, have support for conducting workshops, educational materials and marketing Jack's Paddock as we are the first in our Shire and a little isolated