

## June 2018: You Are Now Entering The Great Scottish Summer



## Measure Your Harvest: Talk On The 12th



*MY Harvest team member Jill Edmondson appearing on BBC Breakfast.*

A University of Sheffield research team, MY Harvest, are working across the UK with people growing food in allotments, private gardens and community growing spaces to understand the typical yield of staple fruit and vegetable crops. In Edinburgh they are working with allotment holders at Warriston, Bridgend, Saughton Mains and Inverleith. Participants are contributing to the first national estimate of own-grown food production this century and, more importantly, helping develop understanding about how much allotment and garden space will be needed in the future to ensure sufficient access for the growing number of people (currently around 80%) living in our towns and cities. Food security is an issue that goes around and comes around. With reports that a “no deal” Brexit might have a disastrous effect on all manner of imports we have another factor to add to the list of potential concerns. This study will inform future decisions affecting allotment and other growing space provision.

*(For news of an alternative method of urban food production, click [here.](#))*

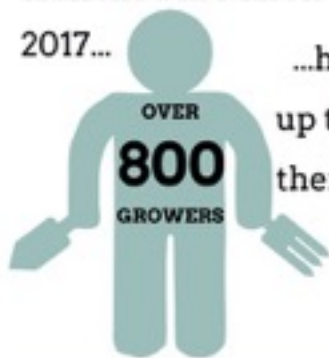
The study will also look at soil health. Due to industrial farming practices, agricultural land has been degraded so that now allotment soil is generally in better condition. However, urban land is closer to sources of pollution and how it is being affected by that is of interest. FEDAGA invites all members to a talk by a MY Harvest research team member on **Tuesday 12th June starting at 7.30pm at the Southside Community Centre** (117 Nicolson Street, EH8 9RU). The meeting will commence at 7.15 for a brief meeting to deal with regular business which all members are also welcome to attend.



**MYHarvest** (Measure Your Harvest) collects information on how much own-grown fruit and vegetables people grow, helping us understand how this contributes to UK food security and the future growing space requirements in our towns and cities.

Since MYHarvest launched in March

2017...



...have signed up to measure their harvests.

They grow their own fruit and veg in their...

ALLOTMENTS



GARDENS

OTHER SPACES...

...in 3000 growing spaces: an area equivalent to 60 TENNIS COURTS.



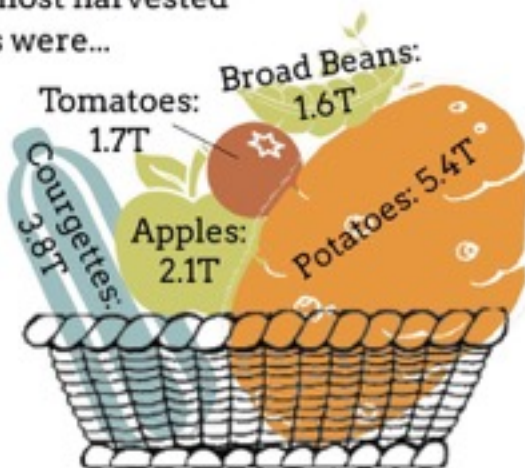
They grow...



59% ORGANICALLY,

41% NON- ORGANICALLY.

The most harvested crops were...



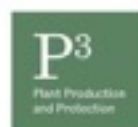
So far, growers have already submitted...



April 2018

Get involved and find out more:

[myharvest.org.uk](http://myharvest.org.uk) [myharvest@sheffield.ac.uk](mailto:myharvest@sheffield.ac.uk) [MYHarvest](https://www.facebook.com/MYHarvest) [@MYHarvestUK](https://twitter.com/MYHarvestUK)



Update: There are now over 1100 participants.

More about MY Harvest [here](#).

# Book Your Place On The Dundee Flower Show Bus



A luxury coach has been arranged to take Edinburgh plot holders and partners/spouses to the famous **Dundee Flower and Food Festival on Saturday 1st September**. On this occasion the excursion is open to adults only.

You will also have the opportunity to visit the National Vegetable Society Scottish Championships in the Exhibition Marquee. The size and quality of vegetables grown by NVS enthusiasts is admirable and the event is definitely worth visiting. Two for one! A perfect day out for allotment holders - especially if the sun shines on us. Unfortunately, guaranteed good weather is not included with the ticket!

The coach will leave Edinburgh at pick-up points to be arranged from around 10am and return from the Show at around 4pm.

## **Tickets for the coach journey**

FEDAGA is subsidising the cost of travel to the Show. The price of the return journey has been reduced to **£6 per person**. Tickets, which are non refundable, must be purchased in advance. Details of the payment process will be forwarded to successful applicants promptly. Ticket applications can be made from **Monday 4 June**. Please send an e-mail with your name, number of tickets required and allotment site to [dundee@fedaga.org.uk](mailto:dundee@fedaga.org.uk).

## **Tickets for the Show**

Tickets will soon be available at [www.dundeebox.co.uk](http://www.dundeebox.co.uk). Before 28th August a discounted price applies: Adult: £10, Concession for Pensioners: £9. Tickets purchased on the day at Festival Gate will cost: Adult: £12, Concession: £11.

The Festival's website can be seen [here](#).



Scottish Allotments and Gardens Society

# *Still* DIGGING FOR VICTORY



Looking back,  
enjoying the present  
and moving to the  
future

SAGS celebrates  
its centenary  
this year

Come and join  
us at our Annual  
Gathering

**Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> June 2018 Registration 9.30am  
at the Victoria Halls Dunblane FK15 9EX**

For more details, including the conference programme and registration form, click [here](#).

# An Interesting Project For A Joiner or Carpenter

Fiona Manson of Warriston writes:

I have a very ancient shed which is needing replaced however rather than just buying a new one, I would like to see what could be salvaged from the old one and see if a new shed could be built around that. I would need help from a skilled joiner/carpenter who would be interested in a 'project'. It is just such a lovely shed made at a time when people used what they had and it would be lovely to be able to retain some of that ethos.

If you could help out with skills and time, contact Fiona at [fionajm05@gmail.com](mailto:fionajm05@gmail.com)

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## The Edinburgh Allotment Show



...is coming at the start of September.

Venue - **The City of Edinburgh Methodist Church, 25 Nicolson Square, EH8 9BX.**

Date - **Saturday 8th September 2018.**

More details including a Show Schedule will be issued shortly.

The Show Committee is about to make final decisions on the programme, but the word is that there will be non-competitive display tables for those wanting to share their produce but not submit to the judge's opinion, display tables especially for interesting apples and SASA heritage potatoes, gardening advice from an expert and a display/swap table for antiquarian gardening books. The "Plot To Plate" category will be apple pie and there will be a demonstration of the Apple Press.

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# Zoo Poo - How It Works



Regular readers will know that Edinburgh Zoo have kindly offered free zoo poo to FEDAGA members. By prior arrangement (\*) you can turn up and fill your boots, car, carrier bags, whatever with the stuff. But you might not want to. Instead...

Saughton Mains have made a bulk purchase for their allotment holders. The logistics may be of interest to others. For £96 Neil Williams Haulage will pick up and deliver a 20 tonne-load of zoo poo. The committee at Saughton Mains decided to charge members £1 for 3 barrow-load for the manure and very nearly broke even. Next time they will charge £1 for 2 barrow-loads to ensure they cover their costs.

The veggies out at Saughton are now brimming with vigour.

(\* - Details on how to order are in the September 2017 "extra" issue [here.](#))

Contact details for NWH are [here.](#)

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## Welcome To New Members



*Killandean Community Allotments, Simpson Parkway, Livingston*

FEDAGA is pleased to welcome new members from Duddingston and Killandean allotments. More information about Duddingston Village Community Garden can be seen [here](#) and [here](#). Killandean's Facebook page is [here](#).

FEDAGA comprises 5 independent sites: Portobello East Junction, Craigentiny Telferton, Dean, Duddingston and Killandean and all of the City of Edinburgh Council-managed sites. If you are reading this and are on an unaffiliated site in or around Edinburgh and would like to join FEDAGA, please contact the Secretary [here](#).

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## Snippets

### Feed The 1000

Thanks to those who contributed veg to this worthwhile enterprise. A brief report and photos can be seen [here](#).

### West Mains Open Day

Sunday 5th August. More details next month.

### The Power Of Food Festival

Takes place 16th and 17th June. Read the programme [here](#).

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## Dalefoot Composts at Bargain Prices





Dalefoot produce excellent composts from the wool of their Herdwick sheep and the local bracken around their farm in the English Lake District. FEDAGA has publicised them in the past and helped sites buy in bulk for their ploholders. The current offer is for a pallet load of 60 bags for £375 including delivery. This makes the price of a bag of compost just £6.25. Their mail order price per bag is £10.99.

This compost is of special interest to allotment holders who would like to use totally sustainably-sourced compost. Harvesting bracken helps biodiversity, and of course this is a good alternative to peat-based products.

If your site would like to club together and buy a pallet load then their contact details are - [sales@dalefootcomposts.co.uk](mailto:sales@dalefootcomposts.co.uk) or telephone 01931 713281/291.

Full details of each of their composts at [www.dalefootcomposts.co.uk](http://www.dalefootcomposts.co.uk). You can mix different types in your order.