

# A history of Garden Organic

Lawrence Hills (1911 – 1990)  
Founder of Henry Doubleday Research Association (HDRA) . Set up to study comfrey and improve ways of growing organically. Based in Essex.

1958

HDRA becomes a charity

1975

3,300 Members

1977

Heritage Seed Library established

1985/86

HDRA moves to Ryton and Ryton Organic Gardens open  
5 Staff, 6,500 members

1988

HRH Prince of Wales visits Ryton and becomes a patron.  
Channel 4 'All Muck & Magic' filmed. Significant growth  
in membership and visitor numbers

1989/90

70 staff, 18,000 members

1995

Adopt a veg launched

1999

First edition of 'The Organic way' issued

2000

Launch of the Schools Organic Network

2002

Membership 30,000

2004

Organic Food for All Project

2005

A new working name 'Garden Organic' and logo

2009

Master Gardener Program begins

2011

Food growing in schools Taskforce led by Garden  
Organic launches

2013

James Campbell appointed Chief Executive