



Natural
Environment
Research Council



Experiences of involving communities in citizen science

Projects that attracted high numbers of participants

- Anything that gives out free seeds for people to try
 - Novel crop
 - Attractant plants



Projects that attracted high numbers of participants

- Trials with a clear benefit to the gardener eg
 - Soils testing method
 - Testing liquid feeds
 - Testing slug control methods



Attracting diversity

- Publicise outside your normal comfort zone
- Go and see people and talk to them
- Offer people something relevant
- Take an interest in what they do



Attracting diversity

- Offer a clear learning experience
- Go to existing sessions
- Offer other benefits:
 - Games
 - Family activities
 - Food





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Removing barriers

- Address negative perceptions of science
- Location
- Cost
- Language
- Cultural barriers
- Time
- Public holidays

Sustaining engagement

- Design of experiment:
 - Clear instructions
 - Realistic expectations
 - Length of time

Members' Experiments 2020

Getting a head start with green manures

Background

One of the most important elements of organic growing is to care for the soil not just the plants you are growing. This ensures that you will continue to grow healthy food plants in future years. Green manures play an important part of soil care, but are often neglected by growers. Growing a green manure over the winter rather than leaving the soil bare is where they can have most benefit. They protect the soil, improve soil structure and prevent nutrients from being leached out by rainfall.



Tigerente

Yellow trefoil

Winter green manures are ideally established in early September. The problem is, that at this time, we are often still harvesting from our food plants, so the space isn't ready for sowing a green manure. By the time we have cleared the plot, it is often well into October. This is usually too late to get a green manure to establish reliably.

We would like to look at the possibility of sowing a green manure much earlier, under the food plants in the spring as an alternative method of getting a green manure going ready for the winter. The idea sounds simple:

1. Plant out the food crop
2. Establish the green manure underneath the food crop at a similar time
3. The green manure grows slowly underneath the food crop
4. Harvest and remove the food crop, allowing the green manure, which is already established, to grow over the winter.

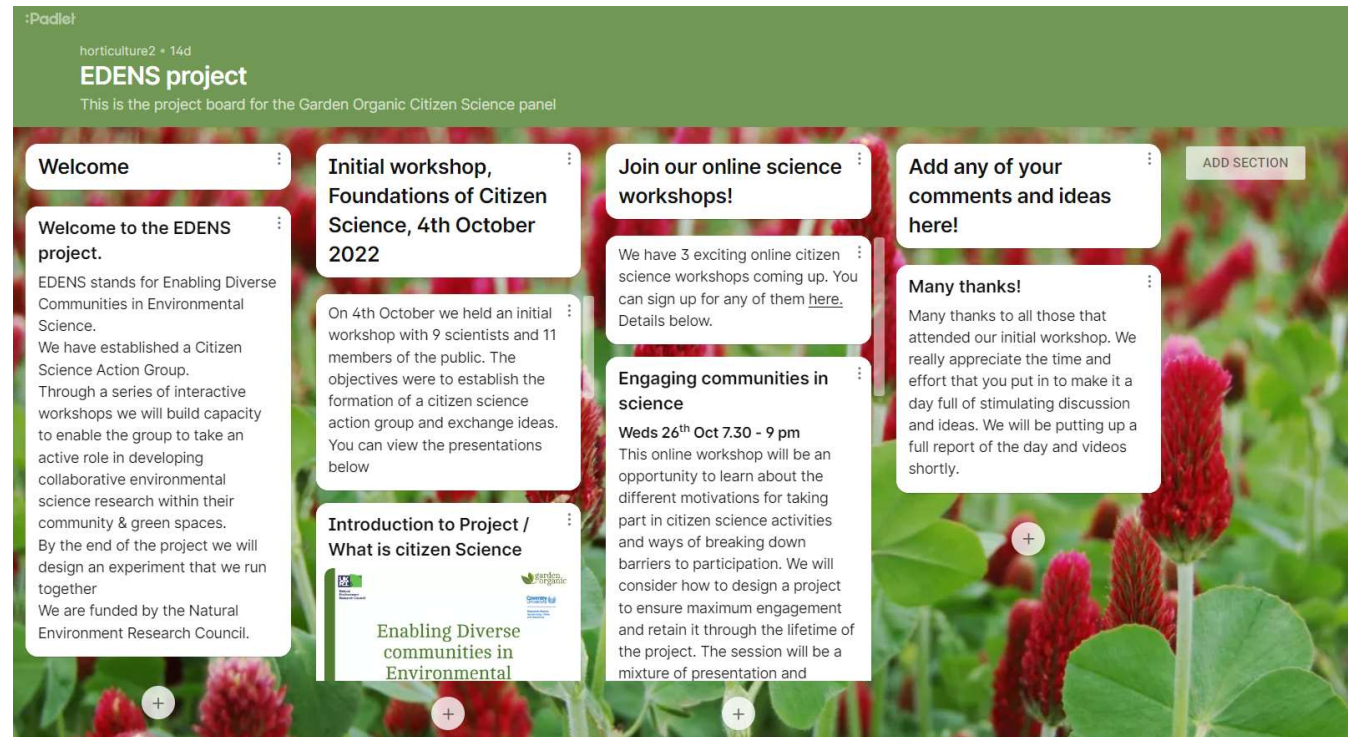
This is not always as easy as it sounds. We want to get the green manure to establish well, but not so well that it competes against the food crop. Achieving this balance can depend on the timing of sowing of both the food crop and the green manure, the soil conditions and the vigour of both plants.

Traditionally in organic systems, farmers have sometimes undersown spring sown cereals. Usually less vigorous types of green manures are chosen such as yellow trefoil (*Medicago lupulina*), or small leaved varieties of white clover (*Trifolium repens*). However, this technique isn't commonly practised with vegetables in the UK.

We would like to look at whether it is possible to establish an overwinter green manure of yellow trefoil by sowing it underneath a plot of climbing French beans. Yellow trefoil is a low-growing biennial legume that is often considered an ideal candidate for undersowing.

Sustaining engagement

- Feedback and communication during the trial
- Key points / reminders
- Social media
- Project board
- Newsletters
- Events



Padlet

horticulture2 • 14d

EDENS project

This is the project board for the Garden Organic Citizen Science panel

Welcome

Welcome to the EDENS project.

EDENS stands for Enabling Diverse Communities in Environmental Science.

We have established a Citizen Science Action Group. Through a series of interactive workshops we will build capacity to enable the group to take an active role in developing collaborative environmental science research within their community & green spaces.

By the end of the project we will design an experiment that we run together

We are funded by the Natural Environment Research Council.

Initial workshop, Foundations of Citizen Science, 4th October 2022

On 4th October we held an initial workshop with 9 scientists and 11 members of the public. The objectives were to establish the formation of a citizen science action group and exchange ideas. You can view the presentations below

Join our online science workshops!

We have 3 exciting online citizen science workshops coming up. You can sign up for any of them [here](#). Details below.

Engaging communities in science

Weds 26th Oct 7.30 - 9 pm

This online workshop will be an opportunity to learn about the different motivations for taking part in citizen science activities and ways of breaking down barriers to participation. We will consider how to design a project to ensure maximum engagement and retain it through the lifetime of the project. The session will be a mixture of presentation and

Add any of your comments and ideas here!

Many thanks!

Many thanks to all those that attended our initial workshop. We really appreciate the time and effort that you put in to make it a day full of stimulating discussion and ideas. We will be putting up a full report of the day and videos shortly.

ADD SECTION



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Taking the messages out to communities

Taking science out to communities

Headline grabbing facts



One teaspoon of soil can hold more organisms than there are people on the planet

Taking science out to communities

Relevant comparisons



Activities invoking discussion



In situ demonstrations



Hold an event



Tell people's stories

Carmen from Malta



Carmen grew up in the historic area of Rabat in Malta, in a close knit community. Her family grew their own food on the terraces of the family home, which they shared with their rabbits, chickens and pigeons.

Carmen's earliest childhood memories involve the delicious tomatoes the family grew, ate, preserved and sundried.

In the 1970s Carmen moved to England and clearly remembers the mist, damp and the cuisine which she found difficult to adjust to.

Carmen now grows her own food on her Midlands allotment, including a wide array of traditional Maltese produce.

Find out more about Maltese tomatoes, growing watermelons in the Midlands and Carmen's thoughts on English tomatoes by following the audio clips below.

<p>Growing up in Malta</p>	<p>Growing tomatoes in Malta</p>
<p>Carmen talks about buying to...</p>	<p>Carmen talks about getting us...</p>
<p>Carmen talks about growing a...</p>	<p>Carmen talks about growing ...</p>
<p>Carmen talks about seed saving</p>	

To return to the main Growing From Your Roots page please [click here](#).



Hold a quiz

Compost quiz time!



1. How much waste does an average compost bin divert away from landfill?
- A) 10 kg
 - B) 50 kg
 - C) 150 kg
 - D) 300 kg



6. Which of the following would make the best mix for sowing seeds into?
- A) 1 part coir and 1 part leafmould
 - B) 1 part home compost and 1 part loam
 - C) 1 part worm compost and 1 part home compost
 - D) 1 part loam and 1 part horse manure



9. Which of the following is most likely to survive in a home compost bin?
- A) Blight on tomato leaves
 - B) Clubroot on brassica roots
 - C) Powdery mildew on courgette leaves
 - D) Rust on French beans



Games



Top of the heap

Worms and ladders

62 	61	You leave 60 your wormery in the sun	59	58	58	57
50	51		52	53	54	55
49	48		47	Your 46 wormery is full of fruit flies	You 45 produce lovely worm compost	44
36	37		38	39		41
35	Your 34 wormery doesn't smell	Your 33 wormery is full of ants	32	31	30	
22	23		24	25	26	27
21	20		19	18	Your 17 worms try and escape	You 16 can go on holiday for 2 weeks
Your 8 wormery fits nicely in your kitchen	9	10	You 11 feed the worms little and often	12	13	14
7	6	5	4		3	2
						1

Travel up the worms and fall down the broken ladders
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