

# Citizen Science Case Study

A citizen science trial to trial three varieties of amaranth was carried out with Garden Organic members over the summer of 2023. They were given seeds and instructions and a sign that they could use to display on their plot. Up to 230 participants signed up for the trial in a wide range of locations ranging from Falmouth to Dundee.



## Response rate

Of these, 71 returned results giving a response rate of 31 per cent.

## Experience of taking part

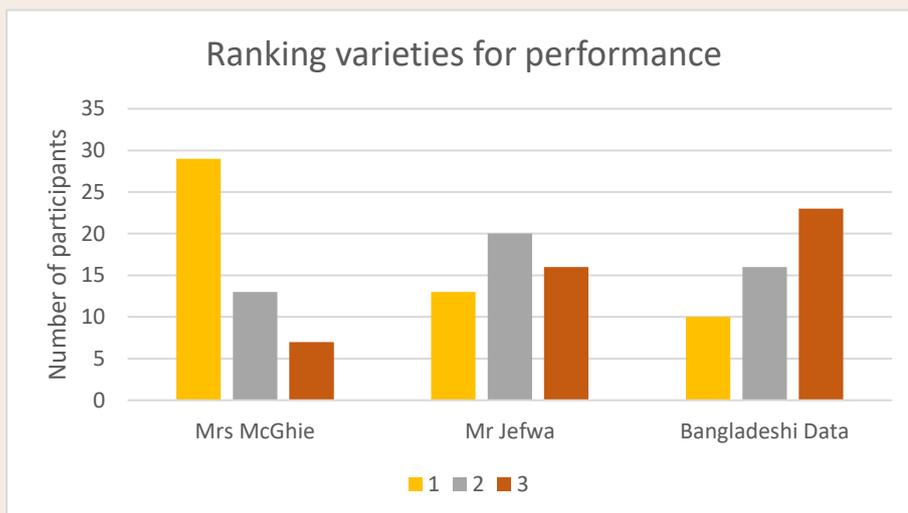
Overall 93 per cent of participants felt that they had learn something new by taking part, 87 per cent thought that they were contributing to something useful and 88 per cent said they would take part again.

## Comments on the trial

*"This crop was a revelation. Very easy to grow, no apparent pests or disease issues. The leaves were a very welcome addition to our diet. Amaranth will now join our roster of regularly grown vegetables"*

## Key finding – maintain a diverse range of varieties

We asked people to rank the performance of the varieties as 1, 2 or 3. While it's clear that Mrs McGhie was a clear favourite, it's important a significant minority selected other varieties as their first choice. This shows that different varieties are better suited for different situations and people, and the importance of maintaining a diverse collection.



We're not the only people that think this is a good idea. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has stated that access to diverse seeds is a key strategy to ensure we are able to continue to produce the food we need as climate change impacts become more severe.