

A Baseline Survey of Temperate Forest Gardens



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- Permie teacher
- Designer
- Author
- Researcher
- Forest garden enthusiast
- Forest gardener

Naomi van der Velden



- Plant ecologist
- Cumbria University
- National School of Forestry
- Cumbria Forest Food Network
- Secured a grant from Cumbria Uni RSD Fund for this project

Emma Pilgrim



- Researching raspberry production in forest gardens
- Exeter University
- Daphne Jackson Fellowship
- BBRC supported

Chris Warburton Brown

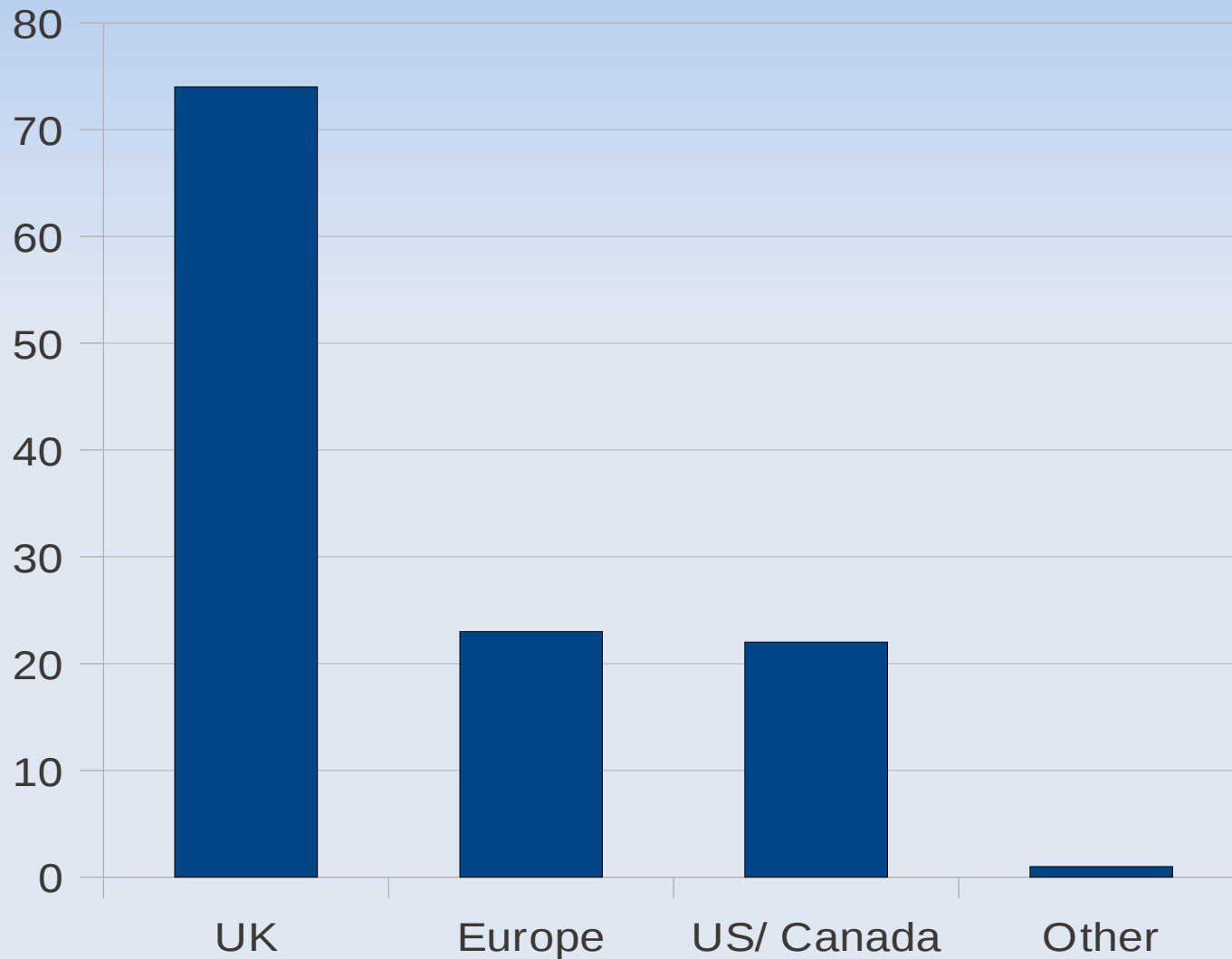


- Permaculture Association Research Coordinator
- Leading the PA's 10-year Forest Garden Research Project

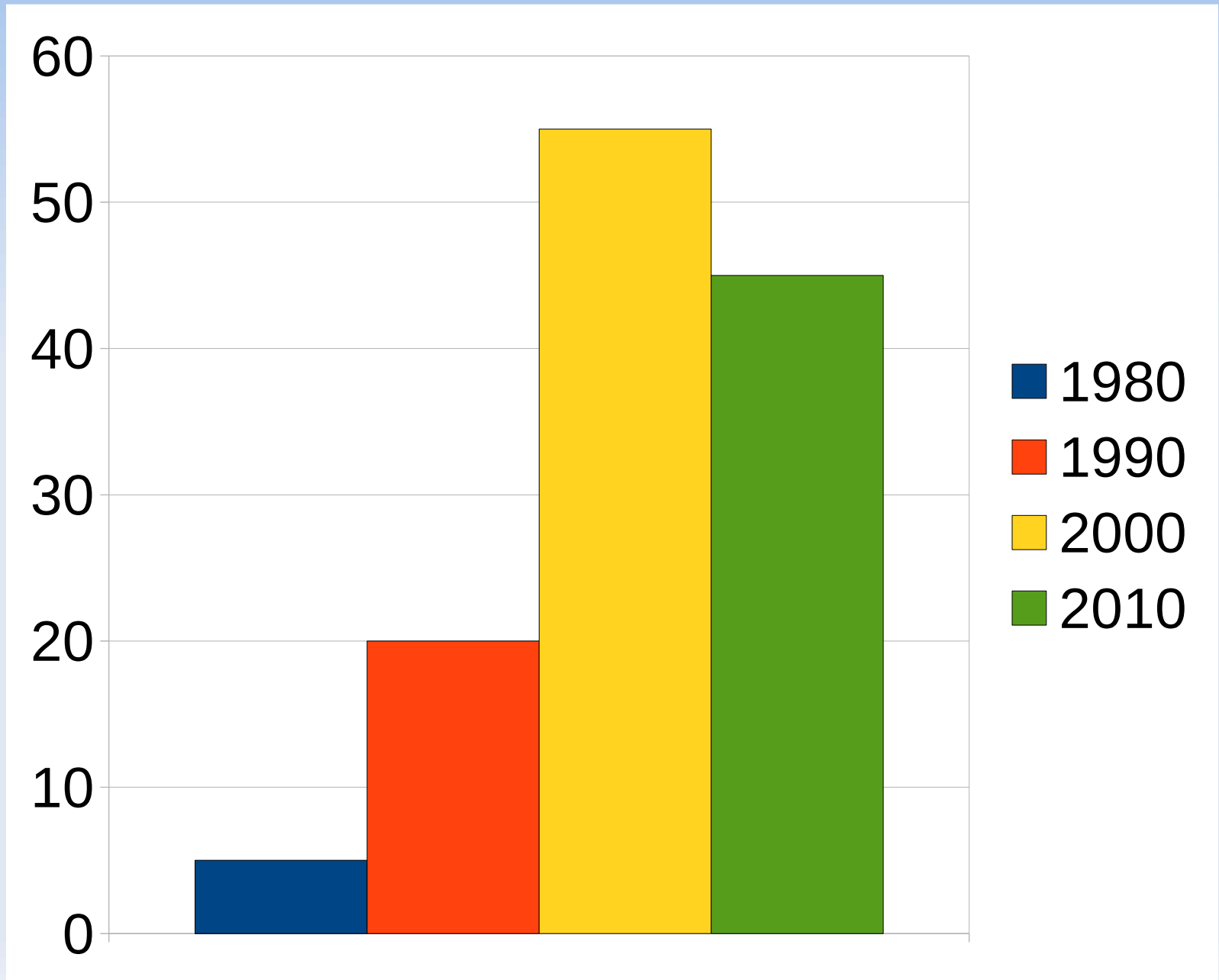
The Survey

- Three surveys were combined
- The Cumbria Forest Foods Network Survey from 2011
- A Survey Monkey survey created by Tomas in 2014
- Tomas' site visits in 2014 and 2015
- Over 160 forest garden gave some data
- 127 gave enough data to be included

Question 1) Location



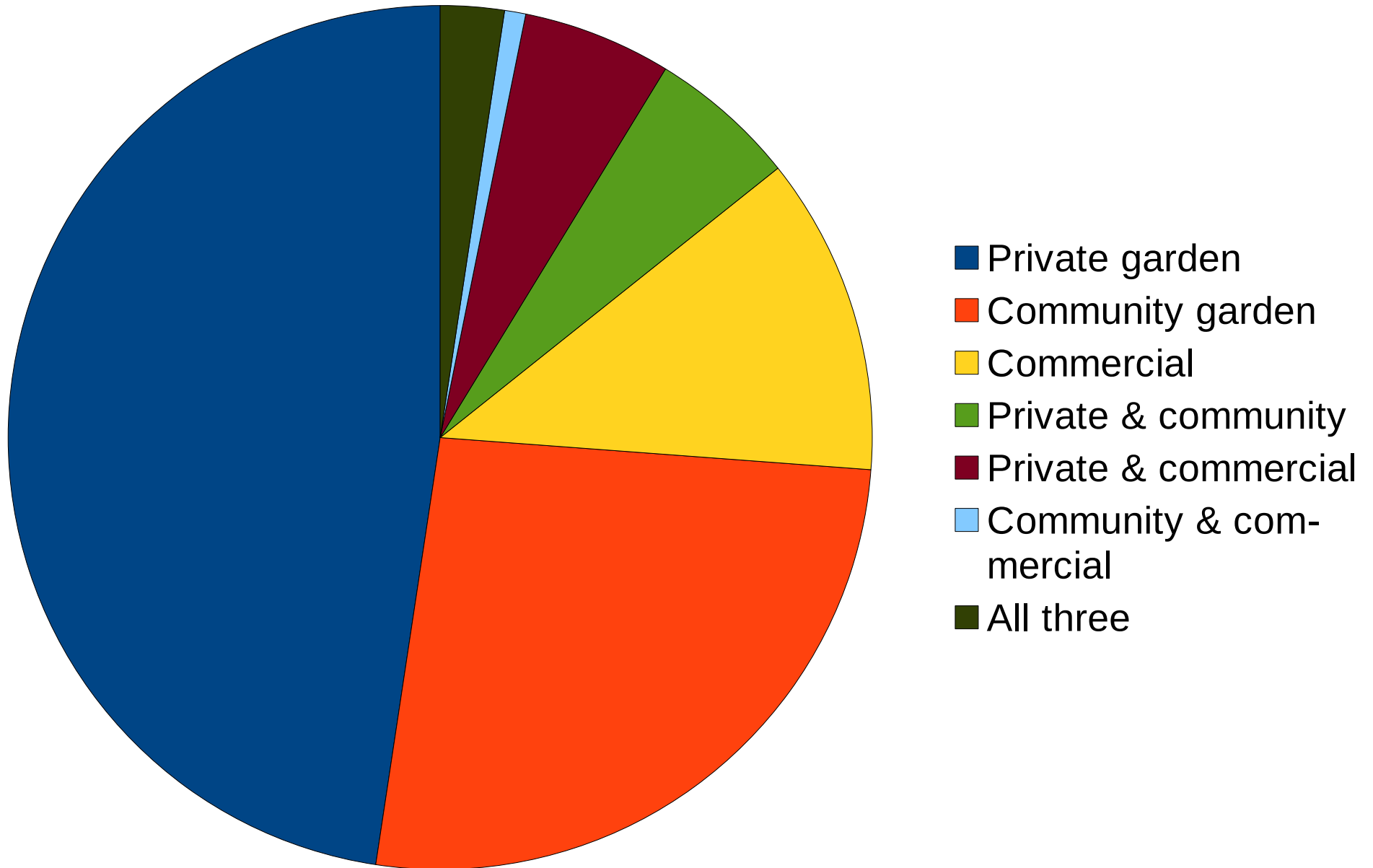
Question 2) Founding date



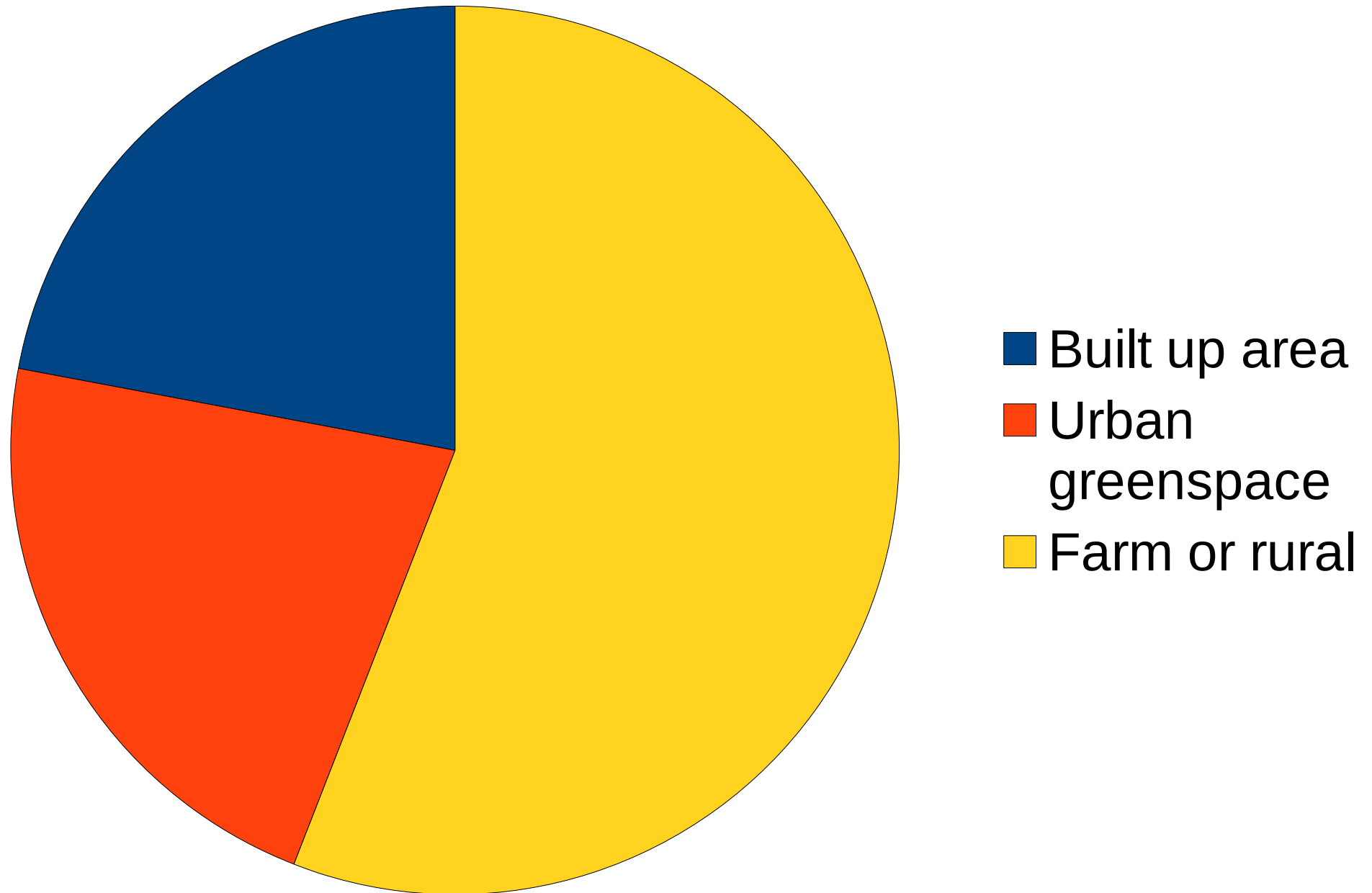
Exponential growth



Q 4) Type of Garden



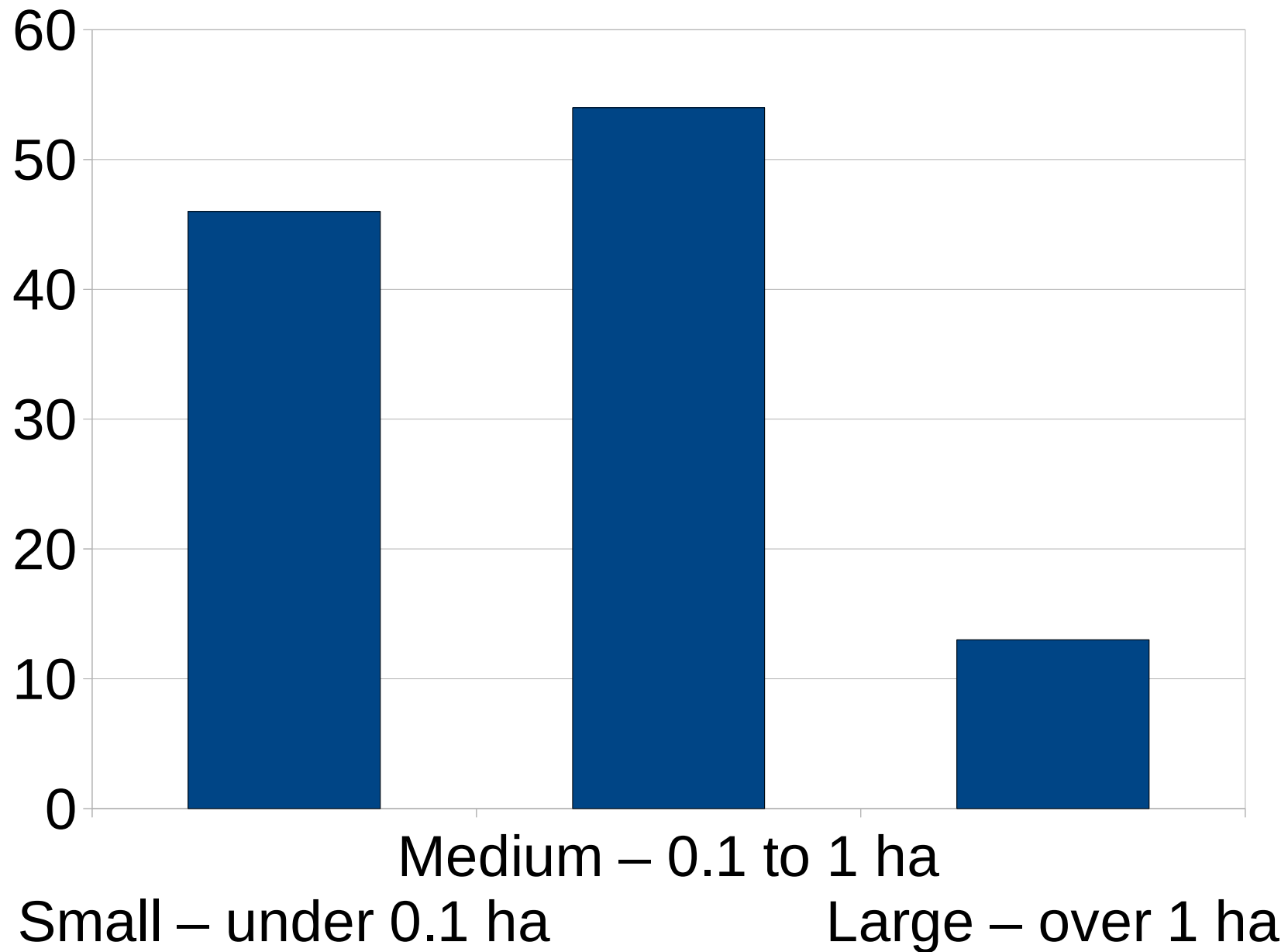
Q5) Location



Q6) Size

- Sizes range between 5 sq m and 30 ha.
- 20% (26) are 'tiny', less than 250 sq m.
- 10% (13) are 'very large', larger than 1 ha.
- 6 sites covered more than 5 ha.
- The mean is just over a hectare and both median and mode are 4,000 sq m (1 acre).
- Terminology: “forest garden” fits sites below half a hectare, “food forest” those between half and 5 ha, and “forest” those above 5 ha.

Q6) Size



Q8) Goals

Rated on a scale where 1 = most important to everyone and 6 = least important to everyone

- 1st – Food self-reliance – 2.05
- 2nd – Biodiversity – 2.30
- 3rd – Education/demonstration – 2.52
- 4th – Research – 3.69
- 5th – Commercial production – 4.42
- 6th – Other - 4.67

Goals listed under 'other'

- 72 ticked 'other' and 49 listed 'other' goals.
- The most common was 'fun' or 'pleasure' (7)
- harvesting medicines, connection with the land, self-education, natural beauty, relaxation, creating a soil carbon sink, figuring out what works and why, fodder crops, firewood, creating a nursery for rare plants, growing food for low income neighbours, having a hobby, rest, growing basket making materials, creating pasture

Q10) Meeting those goals

Rated on a scale where 1 = surpasses expectations and 4 = fails to meet expectations.

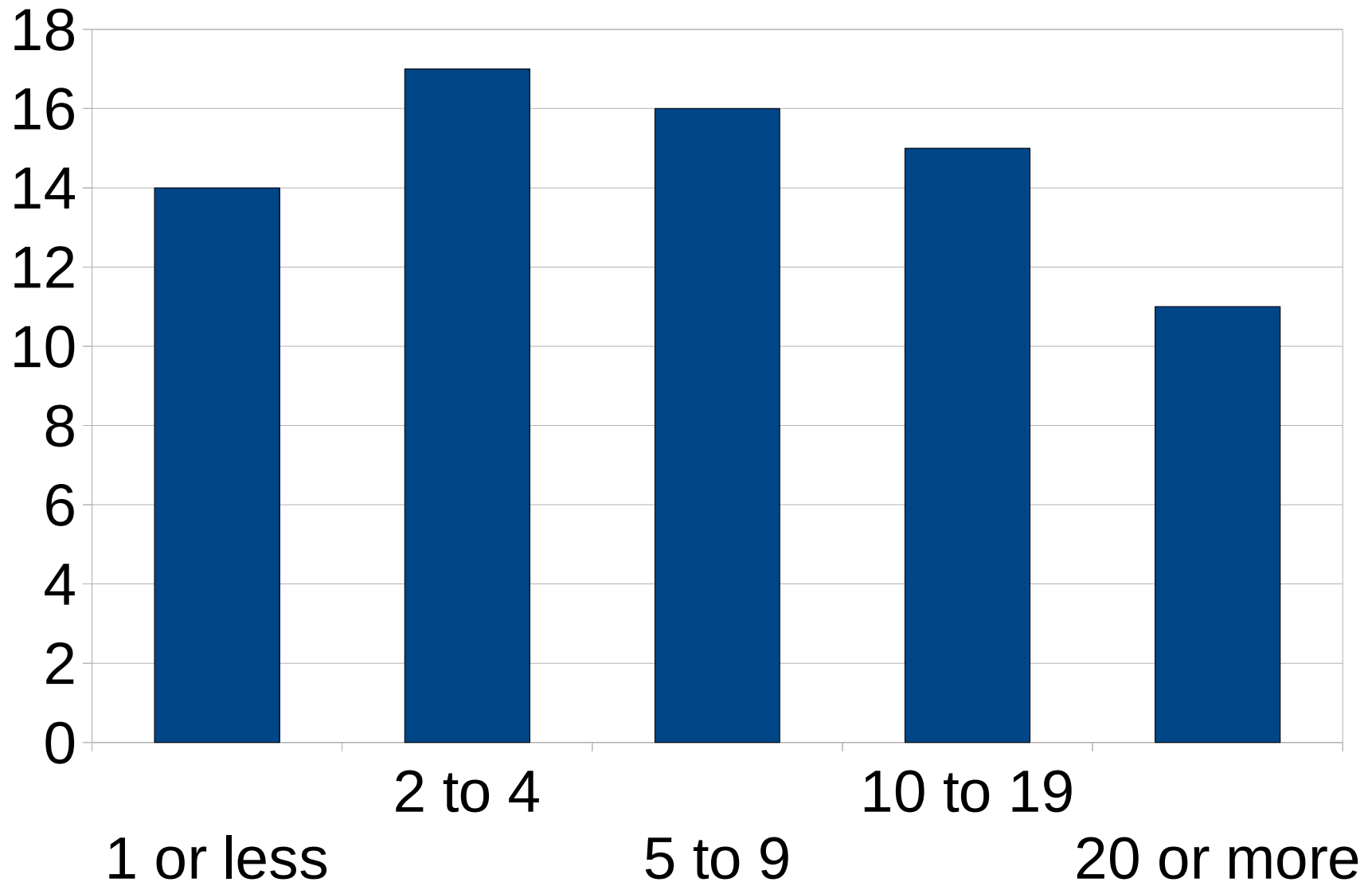
(Importance of this goal given in brackets)

- 1st – Biodiversity – 1.53 (2nd)
- 2nd – Other – 1.59 (6th)
- 3rd – Education – 1.62 (3rd)
- 4th – Research – 1.86 (4th)
- 5th – Food self-reliance – 2.10 (1st)
- 6th – Commercial production – 2.32 (5th)

Q11) Most common species

- We're still analysing, but initial results show:
- Commonest trees are apple, plum, pear, cherry and hazel, in that order
- Commonest shrubs are blackberries & currants
- But, excepting apples, no species was grown by more than half the gardeners
- Huge range; 200+ species, countless varieties
- Most varied are Reading International Solidarity Centre Roof Garden with 200+ & Garden Cottage Coldstream with 224, all edible!

Q14) Hours worked per week



Work still to do

- Several questions need more analysis: Q 11) Most common species, Q12) Favourite guild, Q15) Biggest challenges, Q16) Greatest lesson
- Keep on gathering responses to the first survey
- Get the initial findings published, early 2016
- Almost all the participants said they would be happy to work with us again, so we want to conduct a new, deeper survey
- And get everyone to read Tomas' book, it's fab!

Thanks for listening, and happy harvesting!

