

City of Victoria: Food Production on Private Lands Inventory

Acknowledgement

The Urban Food Table would like to acknowledge the Lekwungen speaking people, now known as the Esquimalt and Songhees Nations, and their land that the City of Victoria is located on. While we look to strengthen urban food systems it is important to acknowledge that these current systems historically displaced Indigenous people and their stewardship of this land.

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Executive Summary



About the Victoria Urban Food Table

The Victoria Urban Food Table (the Table) is a food policy council to the City of Victoria (the City). Its main purpose is to support the City with its strategic direction regarding food and agriculture and guiding policies and documents (e.g. Official Community Plan, Parks Master Plan, etc.). The Table does this by working with the City to set and work toward targets and advising the City on food and pollinator policies. The Table views urban food production as an important part of developing a healthy, ecological, and sustainable food system in the City of Victoria. The Table brings together local knowledge, expertise, and connections to share information, align efforts, and catalyze the ongoing development of supportive targets, policies, and programs in the City.

Introduction

In 2012, the City made a significant update to its Official Community Plan (OCP), including a section specifically dedicated to food systems (Chapter 17). The objectives in this overarching document are meant to guide the City for approximately 30 years, and the two main goals related to food systems are:

- *17 (A) A healthy share of the food that supplies Victoria's daily needs is sustainably grown, processed and packaged in the city, in surrounding agricultural areas, and on Vancouver Island.*
- *17 (B) Victorians have access to skills, knowledge and resources to produce and process their own food in urban areas.*

Building off the guidance in the OCP, the Growing in the City Initiative was endorsed by Council in the spring of 2015. Community engagement activities were conducted through the end of 2015, and updated policies and an education program began in 2016. Relevant themes that emerged from the Growing in the City Initiative include:

1. Expanding the definition of a community garden
2. Make new allotment gardens available to all Victorians, regardless of location
3. More staff support for new community garden projects
4. Development of guidelines for boulevard gardens
5. Allow small-scale urban farming in all land use zones in the City

More information about the Growing in the City initiative can be found in this report:
<https://pub-victoria.escribemeetings.com/filestream.ashx?documentid=14595>

The City also conducted an inventory of public land with community garden potential. This inventory can be found as a feature map on the Vic map platform:
<http://vicmap.victoria.ca/CommunityGardens/>

In 2018, the Table conducted a survey of residents that produce food on private land, with the purpose of measuring the current state of private land food production and setting a baseline to inform future targets. The Table hopes this information will be used to support evidence-based decision making for City-wide policies and practice.

Methodology

Study Design:

The study was non-experimental and descriptive, as it was a starting point to learning about what is happening with food production in the City of Victoria. Participants were contacted through email and community associations regarding participation in this research, however, promotion of the survey also occurred at in-person events and through word-of-mouth. Participants had the option of entering to win a prize (and providing their email address), but this was not required. The survey was open for 33 days.

The data collection tool was a survey, which was hosted in Survey Monkey. The introduction to the survey informed participants of their voluntary consent, and provided contact information for the researcher administering the survey. The survey was divided into three sections: demographics, food growing, and animals for food production. The survey contained conditional branching logic, so the number of questions answered varied by participant. Question types included: (a) short-answer, (b) multiple-choice, and (c) open-ended comment boxes.

Sample:

Participants in this study were 307 of the 79,595 Victoria residents. The average age of residents who completed the survey was 46.97 (SD=15.09). No additional socio-economic information was gathered about participants. A total of 396 initially completed the survey, 59 of which were excluded because they did not complete the survey and 30 of which were excluded because they resided outside the boundaries of the City of Victoria. All participants in the study were volunteers. In some questions participants were asked to give exact numbers, if the numbers were in decimal form they were rounded up.

Strengths and Limitations:

The survey presented several strengths and limitations. The number of respondents recruited for the survey was comparable to participation numbers in other city consultation surveys. Within this context, the data should be considered valid enough to be used for evidence-based decision making. The number of respondents that completed the survey does not represent the entire population of Victoria and there is a potential bias that people who are engaged in gardening would have a higher probability of completing the survey. This is due to the dissemination of the survey, which occurred at events, through Facebook groups, and on listservs that were targeted at engaging gardeners.

Results

This report explores five areas of food production in the City of Victoria: survey demographics, sharing food, amount of food produced in the city, animal food production and non-food producing respondents. Data is presented in descriptive form and through graphs. The purpose of this information is for a baseline of private land food production and to inform policy and practice.

Survey demographics

All neighbourhoods in the City of Victoria were represented within the Survey. Vic West had the highest response rate with 100 participants completing the survey. The age of participants ranges from 20 to 81 with an average age of 47.

Neighbourhoods	Survey Responses	Neighbourhood Population	Percentage of Total Responses	Response Rate Compared to Neighbourhood Population	Neighbourhood Population Compared to City Population
Burnside	14	5,860	4.23%	0.24%	7%
Hillside/Quadra	30	7,245	9.77%	0.41%	9%
Oaklands	18	6,805	5.86%	0.26%	9%
Fernwood	43	9,425	14.01%	0.46%	12%
North Park	8	3,050	2.61%	0.26%	4%
Harris Green	7	1,870	2.28%	0.37%	2%
Rockland	4	3,490	1.30%	0.11%	4%
Gonzales	5	4,175	1.63%	0.12%	5%
Fairfield	29	11,650	9.45%	0.25%	15%
James Bay	34	11,240	11.07%	0.30%	14%
Downtown	6	2,740	1.95%	0.22%	3%
Victoria West	100	6,805	32.57%	1.47%	9%
Jubilee	9	5,240	2.93%	0.17%	7%
TOTAL	307	79,595			

People who lived in single family households (130 respondents) were the most likely to complete the survey, this was followed by apartment or condo (90 respondents) and then suite (46 respondents) as part of the house. Of the survey participants, 41 selected the other category; however, this provided additional information about their rental or owned property and was manually placed into the rent or own category accordingly. People who completed the survey were more likely to own their property (176 respondents) compared to people who rent (131 respondents).

Rental versus Ownership of Property

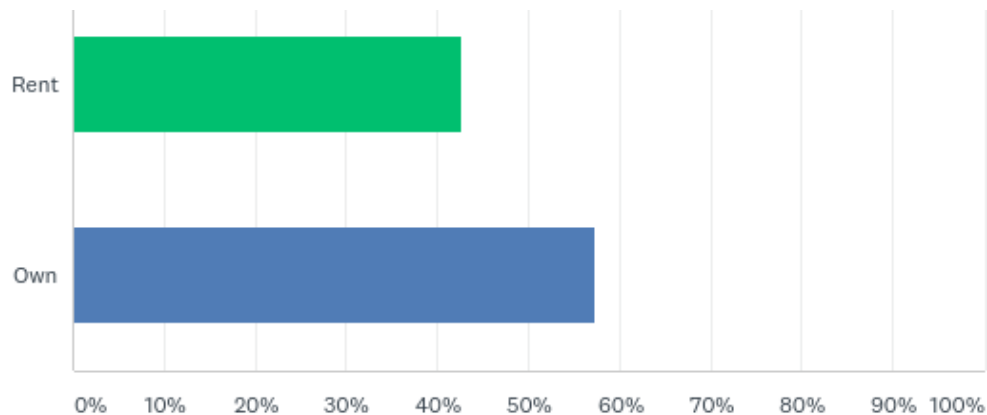


Figure 1: Participants were asked "Do you rent or own your residence?"

Food Production

Out of the 307 respondents, 268 grow food producing plants. From the 268 respondents, 205 respondents produce food on private land, 19 respondents produce food on public land and 45 produce food on both. Respondents who produce food on public land were not included in the following results. The longest amount of time a respondent reported producing food on their property was 40 years. The average length of time that respondents reported producing food on their property was 7.24 years.

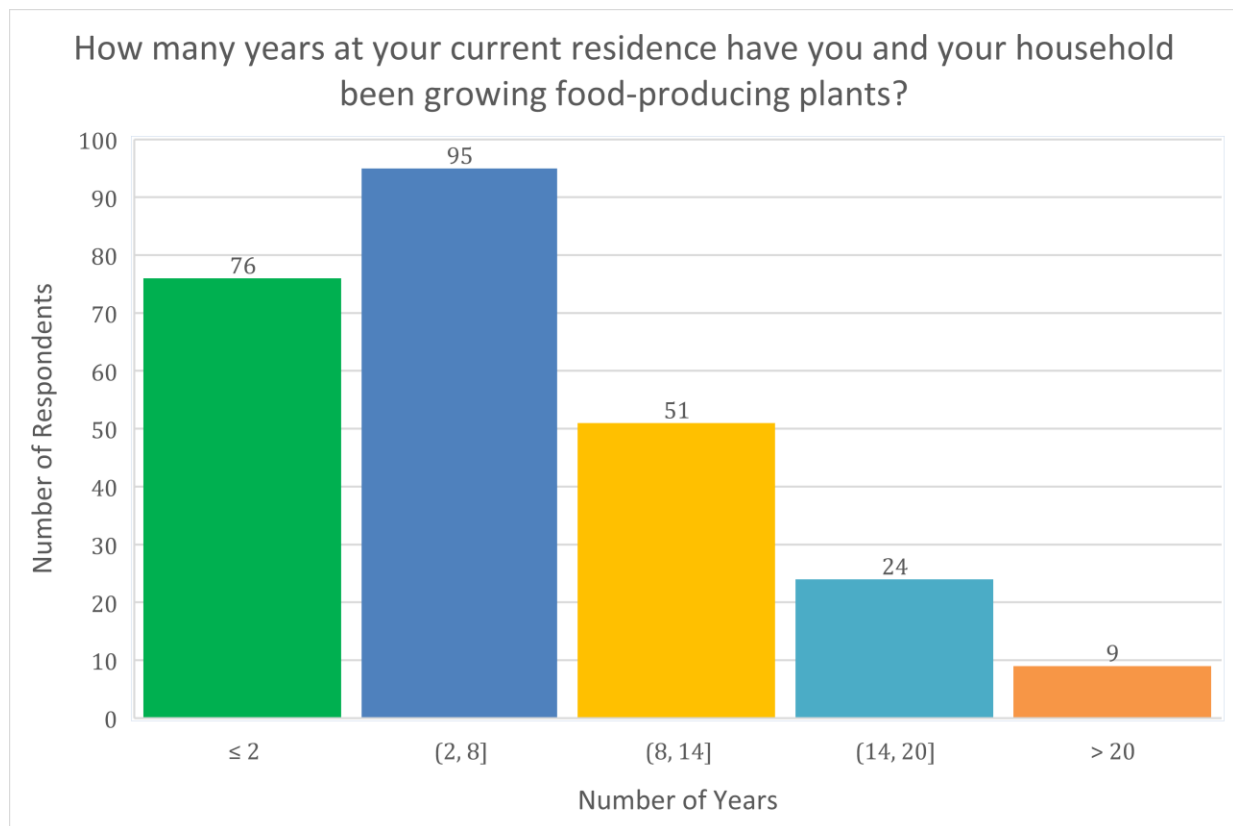


Figure 2: Participants were asked "How many years at your current residence have you and your household been growing food-producing plants?"

Respondents grew their food in many different places on their property. The backyard (67.47%) was the most common place to produce food. The boulevard (7.23%) and the rooftop (2.41%) were the least common places to produce food.

Location of Food Production

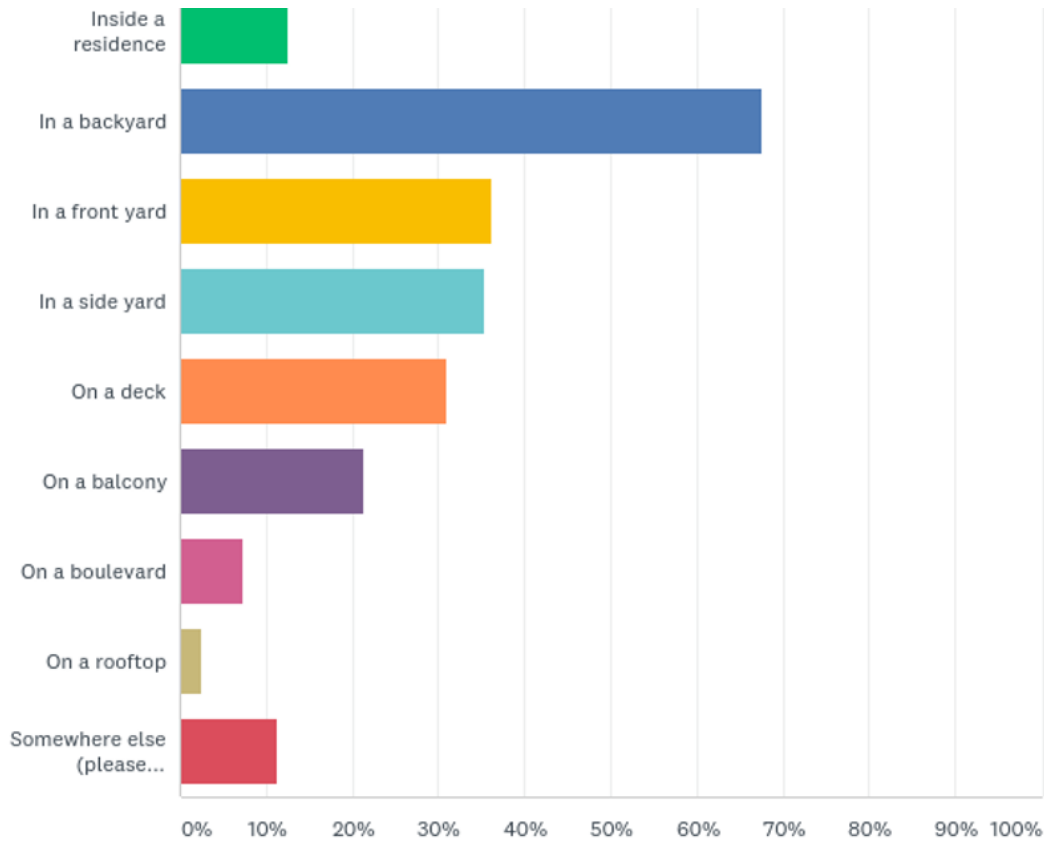


Figure 3: Participants were asked "Where do you and your household grow these food-producing plants?"

Of the various crops reported by respondents, vegetables (93.17%) and herbs (93.17%) were the most common. This was followed by flowers and/or pollinator plants (81.12%) and berry bushes (60.24%). Fruits trees (50.00%) and native plants (48.19%) were the least likely to be produced.

Type of Food Production

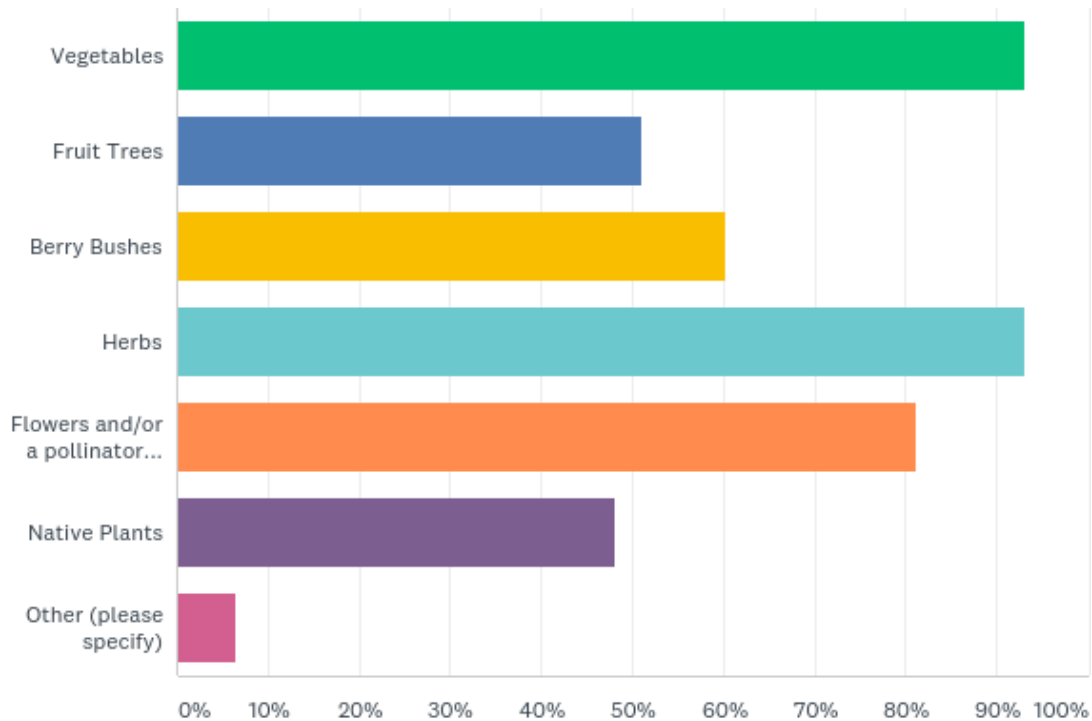


Figure 4: Participants were asked "What types of plants do you and your household grow?"

At the end of the survey respondents who produced food were asked "Is there anything else you'd like to share regarding growing food and/or raising animals?" (Appendix A). There were 132 comments. Some comments ended up in multiple categories (e.g., barriers and space). Comments were thematically categorized. Out of the 132 respondents, 49 mentioned some type of barrier to food production (26.93%), 10 specifically mentioned lack of space (7.57%), 15 mentioned the need for more community/boulevard/city gardens (11.36%), 7 indicated a need for more educational or physical resources for gardening (5.30%).

Amount of Food Produced in the City

Without observing and weighing respondents' food production over a period of time, it is challenging to estimate the amount of food being produced in the City. However, there are proxy measures that allow for insights into the amount of food being produced. These proxy measures include an estimation of the volume of the food being produced and the space used to produce the food.

Participants were provided an image of a grocery bag and were asked to estimate the amount of grocery bags they could fill within their last year of food production. In total participants estimated that they grew 2396 grocery bags worth of food. The average number of grocery bags respondents could fill with food they produced was 9.57 grocery bags worth of food. The highest amount of food produced was 100 grocery bags worth of food.

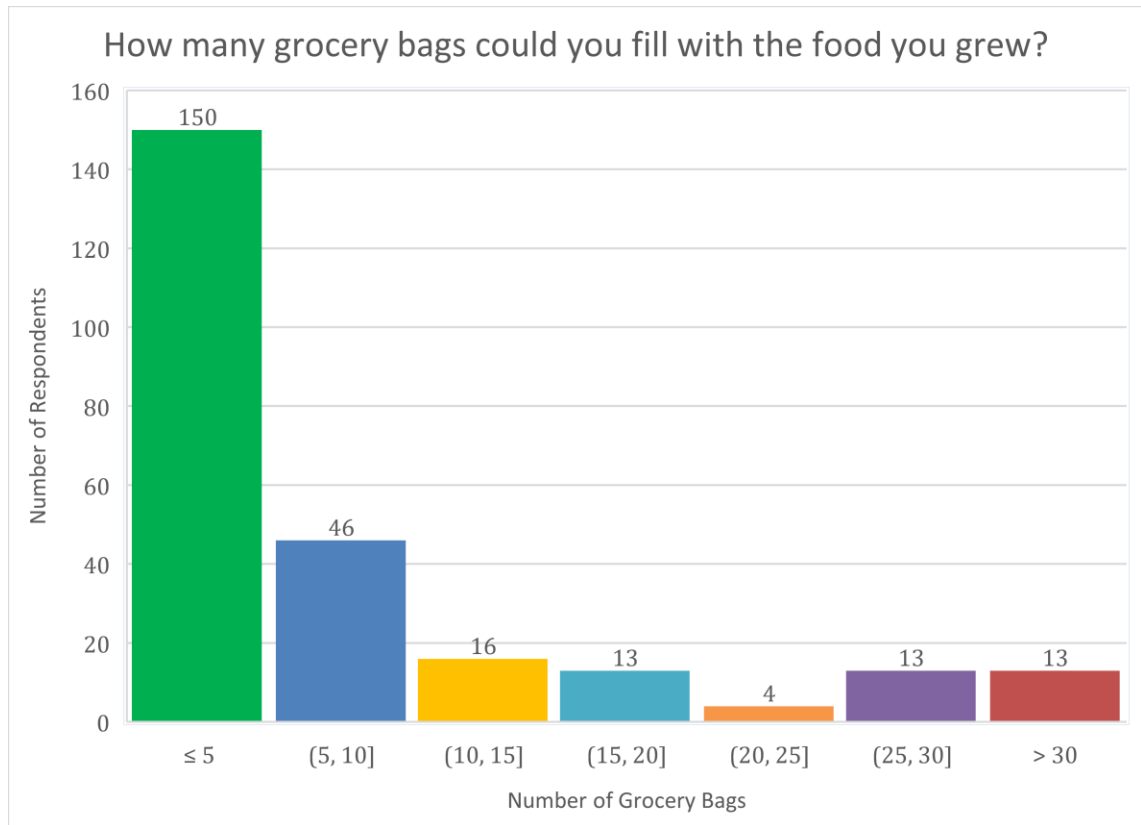


Figure 5: Participants were asked "Imagine putting all the food you and your household grew in the past 12 months into paper grocery bags. Approximately how many paper grocery bags could you fill?"

Respondents were asked the size of the space they used to grow food. The total amount of space reported by respondents equals approximately 8000 m². This equates to roughly two acres of food production in the City of Victoria. This survey only represents 0.39% of the City's population and it is probable that more food is being produced by residents who did not complete the survey. The average amount of space used to grow food was 242 m² with the median size being 100 m². To give an idea of potential food production, a typical residential lot in Victoria is about 550 m².

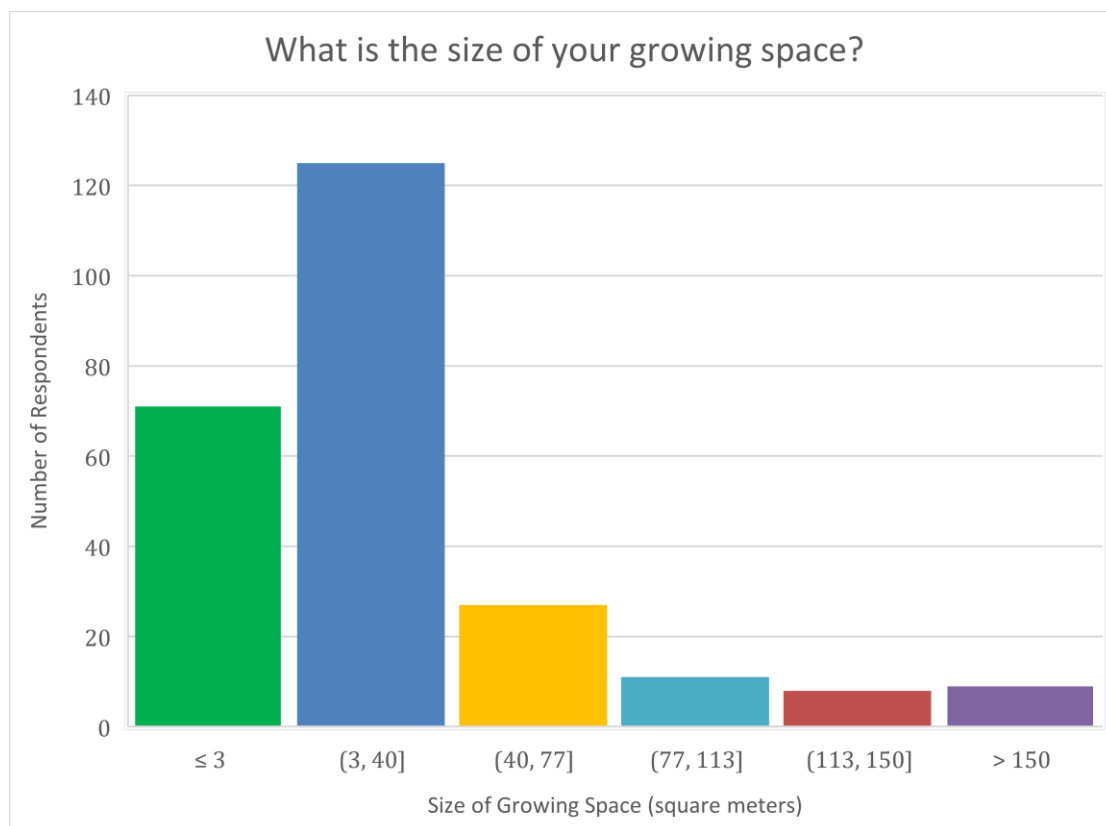


Figure 6: Participants were asked "Approximately how large is the combined space(s) you and your household use for growing?"

Animal Food Production

Only 26 respondents reporting were raising or keeping animals on private land as a form of food production. Respondents raised or kept animals for an average of 3.94 years, with the longest time reported being 10 years. Chickens (77.78%) were the primary type of animal raised. This was followed by bees (22.22%), rabbits (7.8%), and then ducks (3.70%). The majority of respondents kept these animals in their backyard (84.62%), followed by the side yard (19.23%), and the front yard (11.54%).

The volume of animal food production is slightly easier to track without using proxy measures. Respondents were asked about the number of eggs (in dozens) their chickens or ducks produced last year, the number of rabbits that were consumed and the liters of honey produced.

Of the 22 respondents that raised chickens, a total of 1,164 dozen eggs were produced in the last year. Of the 7 respondents that produced honey, 10 liters of honey were produced and of the 2 respondents that raised rabbits, 22 rabbits were consumed. The 1 respondent that raised ducks did not report the number of ducks raised.

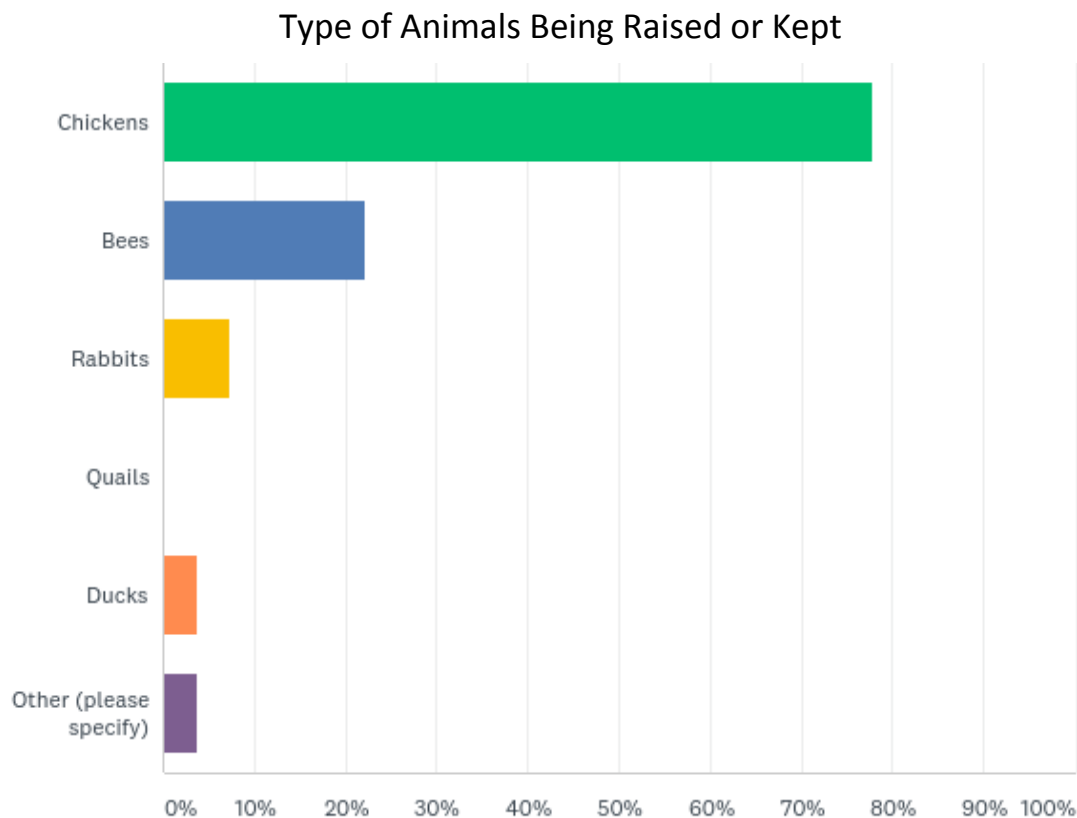


Figure 6: Participants were asked "What types of animals do you and your household raise or keep for food production?"

Non-Food Producing Respondents

Of those respondents that did not produce food, 39 were asked "why they did not produce any food?". Respondents were given the following choices:

- have considered it (5.13%),
- have considered but encountered challenges (56.41%),
- have considered it but was not interested (5.13%); and
- used to but no longer do (33.33%).

Of those that responded, 22 respondents said that they have considered but encountered challenges and 13 respondents said they used to but no longer do. These two respondent groups were asked a follow up question of "what are the challenges to growing food-producing plants that you and your household encountered?". Space (77.14%) and time (37.14%) were considered the biggest barriers, followed by knowledge (28.45%), not permitted on property (17.14%) and cost (14.29%).

Challenges to Growing Food

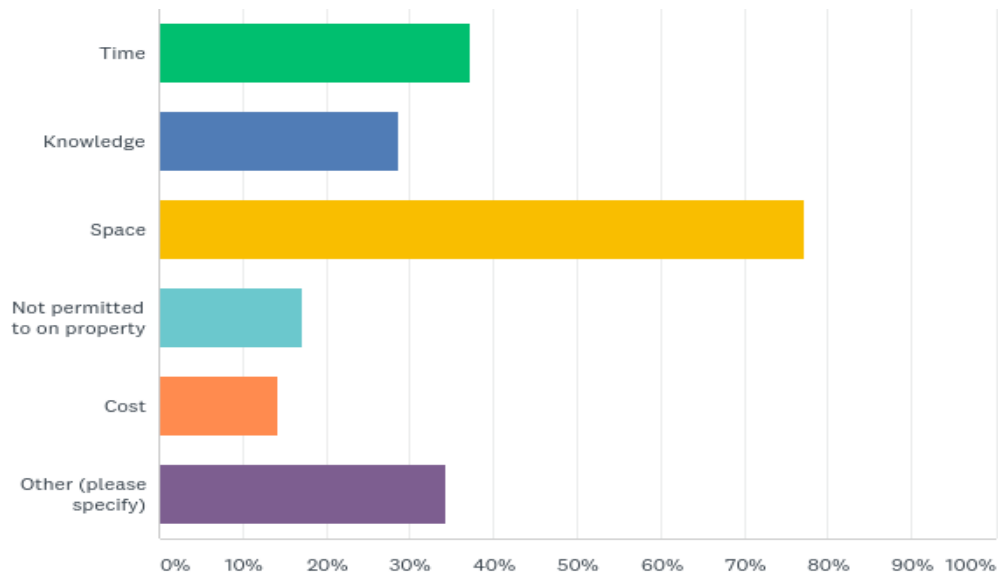


Figure 7: Participants who did not produce food were asked "What challenges to growing food-producing plants have you and your household encountered?"

Recommendations for Future Surveys

This survey has set out to establish a baseline of food production in the City of Victoria. The data results could be improved by increasing the number of participants. This can be done through identifying organizations to disseminate the survey, while promoting greater competition among neighbourhoods, and providing community centre staff with a more comprehensive package of materials. Increased outreach at public events, and markets could improve survey participation. Combining the survey with other larger city surveys may also impact the survey's reach.

The survey could be further strengthened by combining the results of this survey with a public land food inventory, community garden and urban farming census. This would offer further analysis for a holistic picture of food production in the City. Finally, this information could be used to align efforts with other complementary City initiatives such as:

- Climate Action Plan: By showing the carbon footprint of the food produced compared to status quo imported food
- Zero Waste Strategy: By highlighting the waste reduction associated with food produced on-site
- Poverty Reduction Strategy: By highlighting the links between income levels and food access, and the incremental benefit of providing opportunities for low-income people to produce their food compared with those that already own land and have the means to purchase fresh, organic food.

Conclusions

This survey provides insights into those who are growing food, how they are doing it, and the barriers to those that are not growing food. This sample is not representative of the whole population of Victoria (especially youth and renters). Future surveys should focus on increased outreach to these groups. Of respondents that do not produce food, space was considered the most common reason. This highlights the opportunity to provide solutions to apartment dwellers, renters, and others living in residences without access to a suitable yard. It also highlights the opportunity to provide a way for more residents to produce their own food through the establishment of more community and allotment gardens.

Management of private land food production would benefit from setting specific targets and monitoring progress to those targets. International frameworks exist to inform these targets and the data collection tool required (e.g., Milan Food Policy Pact). Finally, there is no formal network supporting and working with backyard growers. There is a potential for the City or community organization to build a stronger network and provide additional educational workshops and support to those growing their own food.

Appendix A: End of Survey Comments

“Is there anything else you’d like to share regarding growing food and/or raising animals?”

Just that I am happy to see any initiatives that encourage homeowners, Landlords, stratas to be more open to and directly involved in the growing of food and raising animals. And maintaining ecologically healthy lawns. Thank you for this survey.
a community area to keep hens for egg production and a goat or two for milk and cheese would be an asset to the community
Allergies are barrier to raising animals plus lack of space and proximity to neighbours plus initial cost. I would plant more vegetables but the neighbourhood cats and dogs often ruin what I plant. Cats use beds as litter boxes. Off-leash dogs crash through bushes. I live close to Dallas Rd. Took out blueberries for this reason. One day I may invest in really tall raised beds or a fence but the expense just to keep out others' pets is a barrier. I grow runner beans in very large tall pots and herbs on patios the pets don't go. I'm surprised this survey does not explore the barriers more. Also, I live on Fairfield clay so the ground is almost impermeable, does not drain and is difficult to plant in. I don't plant flowers that attract stinging insects, due to allergies, and have to suit up to garden, so that's a barrier.
Although we use only about 1000 sq ft for food growing, we use much more for pollination corridors including several native plant zones. We can't really separate these areas from "food growing" areas.
Animal share arrangements would be a good idea and I might consider that in future. My neighbours are doing it with good success
Aside from the fun of choosing seeds and planting a garden, and the edible rewards of course, we grow a veggie/herb/flower garden to show our child where food comes from. We had a strip of sloped lawn that was annoying to mow so we dug it out, leveled it, and built raised beds.
Be awesome to share costs and work of city hobby farm..egchickens..veggardens..honeybees for honey.
Boulevard gardening has been extremely rewarding with an abundance of vegetables for every season.
bylaws should be relaxed for more food production in the city
Chickens: The 5 current chickens are 1 which is old & retired, and 4 youngsters who are disappointingly not yet producing. They are great pets however!
City policy is opposed to raising food. You can cut down a tree Tom park you car, but not a tree that shaded your garden. Fences tall enough to exclude deer are illegal. The farm stand regulation is idiotic. I would have to raise three chickens year round without getting paid for all my labour—a whole years worth—just to pay the stupid farm stand fee.
garden used to produce very high yeilds, but very low in recent years despite compost/fertilizers
Growing your own food is one of the most rewarding hobbies!
He grown tomatoes rule!
I did keep chickens but they attracted rats and were being worried by raccoons. The raccoons ate the chickens and I stopped keeping chickens. If I wanted to keep chickens again I would need to create a cement foundation for the coop and run.
I enjoy growing food very much and I hope to one day have the space to raise my own animals.
I grow dwarf apple trees in pots, I have boxes full of greens on my deck and strawberries in hanging planters.
I grow for quality, not with any hope of sustainability. Returns vary enormously year to year.

I have too many apples to harvest. would donate to food bank if someone would pick.
I hope theres more free classes/ resources available to learn about year round gardening
I like in a condo, so there isn't any place to raise animals. I do a little food gardening on my deck, but the vast majority of my food gardening is in an allotment garden,
I live in an apartment so it isn't realistic
I live in an apartment style unit.
I love growing veggies and fruit for my family!!! So fun to reap the rewards with them...and talk about organic!!!
I love that we're able to raise chickens and bees,, though we're not currently at the moment.
I share a lot of my produce with friends and neighbours
I share food I grow with neighbours.
I shoulda had chickens :)
I think food stands should be encouraged. How amazing would it be to get fresh ingredients on your way home and engage with your community?
I think it is a nice thing, fun, and tasty, but in terms of farming area required per person, the cost of large property ownership, and the relatively poor growing conditions on the island compared to other places in Canada, it shouldn't be considered a viable option for everyone to grow their own food.
I think there should be stricter rules – setbacks from neighbouring properties + reduced number of animals permitted – on city properties.
I think Victoria should allot more space for growing food
I tried to grow tomatoes and herbs but with little success. lol
I wish all chicken coops had rat proof feeders.
I wish I could grow more, there is plenty more grass space, but I am limited by renting - my landlord has a strict no digging up grass without permission rule... and he is not particularly flexible.
I would definitely do more if I had a deck or balcony, but I only have windowsill growing space.
I would like to grow more! We need more community gardens in downtown Victoria.
I would like to harvest the fruit growing in public spaces around me, but don't have access to a ladder. I wish there were places to borrow ladders.
I would love to farm bees but am not allowed in an apartment. If i was homesteading i would raise goats chickens and bees. Growing fruits and veggies and herbs help lower our grocery cost.
I would love to get the compost back from the food scraps we send to the city
I would love to see more native plants and acknowledgement of Indigenous lands and knowledge around food in this city. I would love to see more nut and fruit trees - make Vitoria an edible landscape
I would love to see more people using the boulevards as gardening space to grow food and pollinating plants for wildlife.
I would love to!
I WOULD VERY MUCH LIKE TO SEE A NEW LAW WHEREBY THE MUNICIPALITY PLANTS FOID BEARING TREES WHERE THEY TYPICALLY PLANT ORNAMENTAL TREES.
I'd like to know if the city compost pick up would ever give back soil created from the compost given.
I'd be very interested to know how to approach strata council to encourage land use changes to allow food growing. such a trend that one is supposed to only have landscape in condos -- does not fit with Victoria's culture and community.

I'd love free community garden spaces in more locations easily accessible to all residents. I'm concerned about a reduction in available sunlight due to increasing highrises downtown. I'm unfamiliar with the laws regarding "guerilla gardening" in public spaces such as between a sidewalk and a road, but it would be nice if citizens were allowed to do this without fear of ticketing.
I'd love to have chickens but need info to get started.
if we eventually buy a home, I'd consider growing more plants for food and possibly keeping chickens
I'm excited to grow bigger & better next year and happy to see initiatives like this from the city to encourage more food production!
I'm so glad it is being encouraged! I love the "Growing in the City" initiatives!
In case of disasters, having food growing in the city is smart. I'm growing food in my mom's yard in the Hillside area. I've also planted 70 fruit trees this years for friends and family.
interested in raising egg-laying chickens through a co-op
It is rewarding to be able to eat fresh food one knows have no chemicals sprayed.
It is very rewarding
It would be great if there was a way to incentivize landlords to permit in-ground gardens in their yard space, or maybe some way for landlords to rent out garden space to those that don't reside in the home itself. The yard space in the house my suite is in is unused (ie it isn't landscaped or upkept) yet I have encountered resistance with wanting to put in an in-ground garden. I currently share a plot in a neighbours backyard but this is precarious since I only will have access so long as my friend remains in their unit. Seeing as no one else in the house is interested in gardening, I would be happy to pay a fee to the landlord to have some sort of 'rights' to the gardening space that would go unused if my friend were to move.
It would be great to have wild animals better controlled in the city (DEER). Fencing everything to 10 feet is not possible.
It's a lot of work but worth it!
It's a challenge to maintain good soil and get manure, soil amendments etc since I do not have a car to get supplies. Also deer have become an issue and requires extra effort and expense to protect plants. As a tenant I am limited in what I can do on the property.
It's not just that we've never considered raising animals - we are vegetarians and would NEVER consider it :)
I've studied organic/biodynamic agriculture and find our food system challenging to express my skills for employment. I would like more community gardens, urban food production initiatives and a higher standard labour wage for farm workers. Volunteered many seasons, employed for 13\$/hour 8 months per year, and consistently struggled for housing affordability and winter underemployment. Top'Soil and Mason Street Farm are/were good projects for urban sustainability. LifeCycles and Compost education centre are educationally beneficial to connect community and reduce waste streams. If it will be legal to grow 4 cannabis plants,(out of sight) in near future, ~ then raising less than 6 laying hens in an urban district would also be empowering and community building for the benefit of all willing to try. Imagine an intense +6 earthquake or something and more than 72 hours of no ferry bringing the south travelled food to our island. What type of community would prevail after such a disaster of disconnect . . ?
I've tried growing veggies! They never work out and I never know how to take care of them properly. Plus, I'm often away and struggle to find someone to help care for the garden.
Last question didn't have enough answer choices! i.e., we CAN'T raise animals for food in an apartment complex.
Limitations/restrictions living in an apartment having no yard or balcony space

Lots of shade is one big reason we don't grow anything in the small backyard.
Love the garden, would love animals but live in an apartment. And probably wouldn't have the heart to eat them -- except eggs.
Main problem encountering which may put an end to growing food on boulevard garden is the deer population explosion in the area. It is the number one challenge to being able to produce more food.
More easily accessible information on what type of food producing plants grow well specifically in Victoria would help getting me to grow food. Some sort of rebate or credit on supplies purchased for this would be a huge incentive.
much of what we grow on city land is shared by neighbours -boulevards and laneway land planted with fruit trees, nuts, berries, and perennial herbs.
My ability to grow food in my apartment greatly increases my sense of well-being. Furthermore, once the manager in our apartment allowed gardening in the yard there was an immediate blooming of communication and community where there was none before. It has been a wonderful transition for our apartment to start a garden.
My land is available for use...I just can not do it myself. I do not have the or physical ability
my residence is not suitable for raising animals, against the rules
no animals raised, but do keep bees
north facing
Not enough allotment gardens/solutions for apartment dwellers to access gardens, Bring back the program that paired gardeners without land, with land owners that had land to spare.
Not sure how to include fruit trees in the size estimate. Have 6 shared fruit trees growing around our apartment but most fruit goes to compost (fallen, diseased or hard to reach, store, use up). Also not sure how to answer when numbers fluctuate through the season and from year to year (like number of hives, cows, etc). Good survey, helps me think more deeply about all the ways I do/can grow food. Looking forward to results to get myself and everyone thinking more! Hopefully we can expand the practice of gleaning/sharing/harvesting.
Not sure it saves us much money but it sure is fun and neighbourly and we know where it comes from!
One major challenge has been access to affordable manure, seaweed, or other natural fertilizers. The soil here is depleted and needs to be built up. It would be amazing to have some tools and resources to support backyard gardeners with making the search for soil amendments more affordable and coordinated. Like, could there be an online tool that connects farms with manure to growers? Or people with trucks who are willing to pick up and deliver? Or a collective that allows people to bulk order from stores to make it cheaper? Thanks for doing this research! :)
Ongoing problems with deer & raccoons have discouraged my attempts to grow more food. It's very difficult to control these animal populations and they've destroyed parts of the garden and entire grape harvests over the years. It's discouraging.
Our apartment front "yard" is gravel. I would love to see raised bed allotments there for the tenants to use. Even the containers I use, I was asked to move this year so they could "redevelop" the garden bed in front of my apartment but this space has not been touched. Very frustrating.
Our neighbour brought in 100 chickens, placing the operation directly on our property line, rinsing raw waste directly into our gardens. The smell and noise were unbearable, viha advised it was unsafe to use any edibles from that part of the yard, and the rat infestation further prevented us from realizing our own efforts at food security. Irresponsible urban farming has an extremely negative impact on the community.
Producing your own food is magical.
Rats stole much of my crops that I was growing this year, beans, peas, apples, berries...normally, I

can harvest about 15+lbs of loganberries and raspberries, but did not get any this year at all.
Retired with small amount of space; maybe more plants in second year. Used to raise berries, tomatoes, herbs and beans in our backyard.
Soil building is a prerequisite to successful food growing. Yet our curbside organics pick up does not offer clean nutrient rich compost in return. We should be building soil by composting in neighbourhoods, or otherwise returning compost to residents.
Support for boulevard gardens specifically at apartment buildings would be great! We'd need some extra help coordinating neighbours I think.
Tastes better when it's right out back!
The benefits we get from growing food are far greater than the ostensible value of the food we harvest. From psychological, physical, community to environmental.
the neighbours two doors down have chickens - the rest of us deal with the RATS! When I retire I would like a miniature goat for milk and miniature pot belly pig they root - black berries and weeds.
The survey limited my responses. We have between 5 and 8 people living in our house at a time. During the summer we have ESL students. Our main barrier to growing food is not being able to afford an automatic watering system. We are saving up.
The uncertainty of renting has stopped us from expanding. We forage food from public spaces - apples, pears, mint, rosemary, arbutus enudo berries, blackberries etc.
There are a group of people in the co-op that keep 4 chickens. I used to be part of the group but found that the chickens did not provide enough eggs for how much effort and dollars I put in.
There is a lack of community gardens with space for growing food in Victoria. Wait lists are very long. Slightly off topic, but this city needs a community Food Hub. A place where growers and buyers can meet en masse. The fragmentation of our local small scale farmers is just as big a problem as big agriculture. Get together people! Your anarchistic ways do not serve the whole, they serve yourself.
There needs to be more accessible land for people who are renting to be able to grow their own food.
these days with the products for both indoor or outdoor growth are many. Growing foods locally helps our communities more than food brought in from outside our communities. Love our farmers, they provide us with food
thinking of growing (1) tomatoes on my balcony - downside is the rodent population it might attract
This is our first year in a home with a yard and I am loving having a garden. I have made plans to double our garden space for next year. However, it is really more of a hobby and doesn't contribute a substantial amount of what we eat.
Too much trouble maintaining them daily, and no interest in butchering or in veterinary science.
Until 2 years ago, I had a plot in a community garden for 10 years. I produced food year round and enough to share with neighbours. I think the city should do more to encourage community and boulevard food and pollinator gardens.
Very important to me.
We are planning to get layers soon. Just finishing the coop.
We collect water from our garage to water garden. We have automatic watering and feel that the CRD should give us a break on our water bill.
We don't raise animals due to the rat problem.
We grow enough produce for a family of four for About six months on a community garden plot of about 1000 sq feet...wish that there were more community gardens on the southern island !
We have never considered raising animals for food because we eat a vegan diet.

We have raised animals and grown extensive gardens both of our own and community-based in another location. Now we are focussed on preserving the fall bounty around us; storing, canning, freezing and making sauces.
We live in an urban apartment with no outside space - not even a balcony - so the community gardens are invaluable. We grow a bit of food, but more importantly, they provide an opportunity for my child to learn about growing, where food comes from, community, and more. The look on her face when she ate the first strawberry that she grew was priceless. Keep supporting community gardens in the urban environment - they are amazing and contribute to food security, education, and community building.
We live near the Esquimalt/Vic west border and our property is in Esquimalt proper. We garden to supplement our food needs and show our young children that you can grow food to eat.
We love grafting! We have a tree that grows both cherries and grapes - maximizing taste and space :)
We need more community gardens in or close to down
We rent and have landlords who do not want us to use the garden for food. We have a very small plot. It's useless for food production. Keeping animals would not be allowed in our current rental.
We would grow more, but yard is too shady.
We would like to keep chickens however we are unsure how to dispatch them once they are no longer laying (not allowed to slaughter chickens on residential pr
We would love to grow more of our own food but only have a small space in which to grow.
We'll pescatarian so no animals please. But lots of veggies please
While we do not personally grow edible plants, we live an organic vegetarian lifestyle and purchase nearly all our food from local farmers.
Wish that more public areas growing flowers and shrubs could be converted to growing food.
wish the younger (20-40) generation shared my interest in growing food for themselves and their families!!
Wish there were public/ shared vertical gardens to maximize space usage.
Would be great to have more community forums to learn about what to grow and ways to grow. Maybe have classes to teach house to build raised beds (I built ours) but also ways to build different planters that can fit into smaller spaces. .
Would consider growing food again but never raising animals for food
Would grow more food producing plants but restricted by area available
Would LOVE chickens but saddened that we are not able to.
YES. I would love to see many more community gardens, boulevard gardens, and local backyard farms with trade or sale offerings in one's own neighbourhood. I feel this would solve so many food security and accessibility issues, and promote healthy collaborative communities that are more resilient, and likelier to meet the natural human needs we all share for healthy, affordable food, and interconnectivity and relationship with our food and community members.
You might consider using metric in your survey