

Sustain webinar on Community food growing during Covid-19, May 2020

You can listen to the recorded webinar at

www.anymeeting.com/742-243-798/EA51DF89814B3A

A selective report

There was an impressive number of participants and presentations from a range of food projects and plots, large and small, across the UK. Many had surplus produce and distribution networks that had been invaluable during the Covid-19 lockdown; all felt that the renewed interest in and need for food growing and learning about gardening was an opportunity. There were plenty of ideas and suggestions, including useful advice on keeping safe while welcoming a few volunteers into gardens (use soap and water (BYO) and/or sanitizer, space out sensibly and don't share, for example, gloves tools or refreshments. See more advice from:

- Sustain https://www.sustainweb.org/blogs/apr20_growing_coronavirus/
- Capital Growth <https://www.capitalgrowth.org/coronavirus/>
- Richmond Council on allotments https://www.richmond.gov.uk/services/parks_and_open_spaces/allotments/covid_19_guidance_for_allotments

Other advice and actions

- Sign up to discussion group for community food growing spaces by emailing communityfoodgrowing-subscribe@lists.riseup.net Once subscribed you can ask your questions or share information by emailing communityfoodgrowing@lists.riseup.net and it will be received by all subscribed to the list. To unsubscribe: communityfoodgrowing-unsubscribe@lists.riseup.net
- Forming networks of local food projects was recommended (perhaps we are already doing this informally in Kingston?)
- Sustain can access funding for food projects https://www.sustainweb.org/news/mar20_sfp/
- <https://www.sustainablefoodplaces.org/>
- Some gardening projects are giving away seedlings and seeds for people to grow at home, in pots and on windowsills if they don't have gardens, and some Councils are including suitable seeds in their emergency food parcels.
- The Incredible Edible model of growing food and herbs on unused public spaces was recommended.
- Some Councils actively support community gardens as valuable assets, especially at times like this. If you'd like to work with Sustain and approach your Council to ask for public support to community food growing and access to land please email Sarah@sustainweb.org or sofia@sustainweb.org
- Check [Capital Growth website](#) for guidance and other resources to help gardens stay open and growing during Covid-19. We update the website regularly as we come across new guidance.
- Share your own guidance, resources, blogs, etc and Sustain can disseminate to other gardens in the Capital Growth and Good to Grow networks.
- Gardens in London: [fill the survey regarding the new Seeds of Hope* project](#) to get materials and support to grow more to donate.