



Information Sheet for Participants and a Participants Consent Form

'Gardening in a Changing Climate' Survey conducted by the Royal Horticultural Society and the University of Reading

'Understanding the potential impacts of climate change is essential for informing both adaptation strategies and actions to avoid dangerous levels of climate change' (Met. Office 21 December 2012).

In 2002 the Royal Horticultural Society published a report 'Gardening in a Global Greenhouse', which discussed potential challenges that gardens and gardeners in the UK were likely to face, based on climate change predictions. Ten years later, new climate projections indicate that climate change might affect gardens and gardening in a way which is different from what previously predicted. In order to support UK gardens, gardeners and the horticulture industry, the RHS and the UoR are assessing the consequences of a changing climate based on the latest climate models which will be subsequently published in a new report.

As part of the research, a survey across the gardening sector is being conducted through a questionnaire. The aim of this study is to capture the perspectives of members of the public on the effects of climate change and on how to prepare and adapt to changes that might affect the way we garden and manage our parks and gardens in the UK. The outcome of the study will inform the new report on new adaptation strategies in gardening practices in the UK.

The data to support the study will be gathered through the use of Bristol Online Surveys. The results will be published as part of the new 'Gardening in a Global Greenhouse' report next autumn 2013 and will be advertised on the RHS website: <http://www.rhs.org.uk/>. Participants are primarily recruited via newsletters amongst the staff at University of Reading and members of gardening and horticulture institutions (Royal Horticultural Society, National Trust and English Heritage). If you choose to take part in the survey you are not asked to leave any contact details, but you have the option to do so if you would like to be contacted for a prize draw or to be sent an e-copy of the full report.

If you leave your details your anonymity is still guaranteed and your identity will not be revealed to anyone other than the interviewer collecting your form and the principal investigators for the research.

To take part in this study and complete the questionnaire you **must be 18 years of age or over**.

If you participate in the survey you will be asked to log into a webpage and on the last page to submit the questionnaire. You can withdraw from the survey by not submitting the questionnaire on the last page. Once you have submitted your views they are held anonymously and we cannot separate them out and remove them. If you wish to receive further information about the questionnaire or project please do not hesitate to contact Dr Claudia Bernardini at the University of Reading, email: c.bernardini@reading.ac.uk; or at the Royal Horticultural Society: claudiabernardini@rhs.org.uk. You can keep track of progress on the dedicated web page (<http://blogs.reading.ac.uk/crg/climate-change-and-gardening/>).

By answering the interview questions and completing the questionnaire you are acknowledging that you understand the terms of participation and that you consent to these terms. This project has been subject to ethical review, according to the procedures specified by the University Research Ethics Committee and has been given a favourable ethical opinion for conduct.