



Royal Horticultural Society
Sharing the best in Gardening

Greening Grey Britain
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Greening Grey Britain is about transforming hard grey areas into living, planted places that enrich lives.



Anyone can make a pledge to plant, and help us to change 6,000 grey spaces by the end of 2017.

Why do gardens, parks and green space matter...?

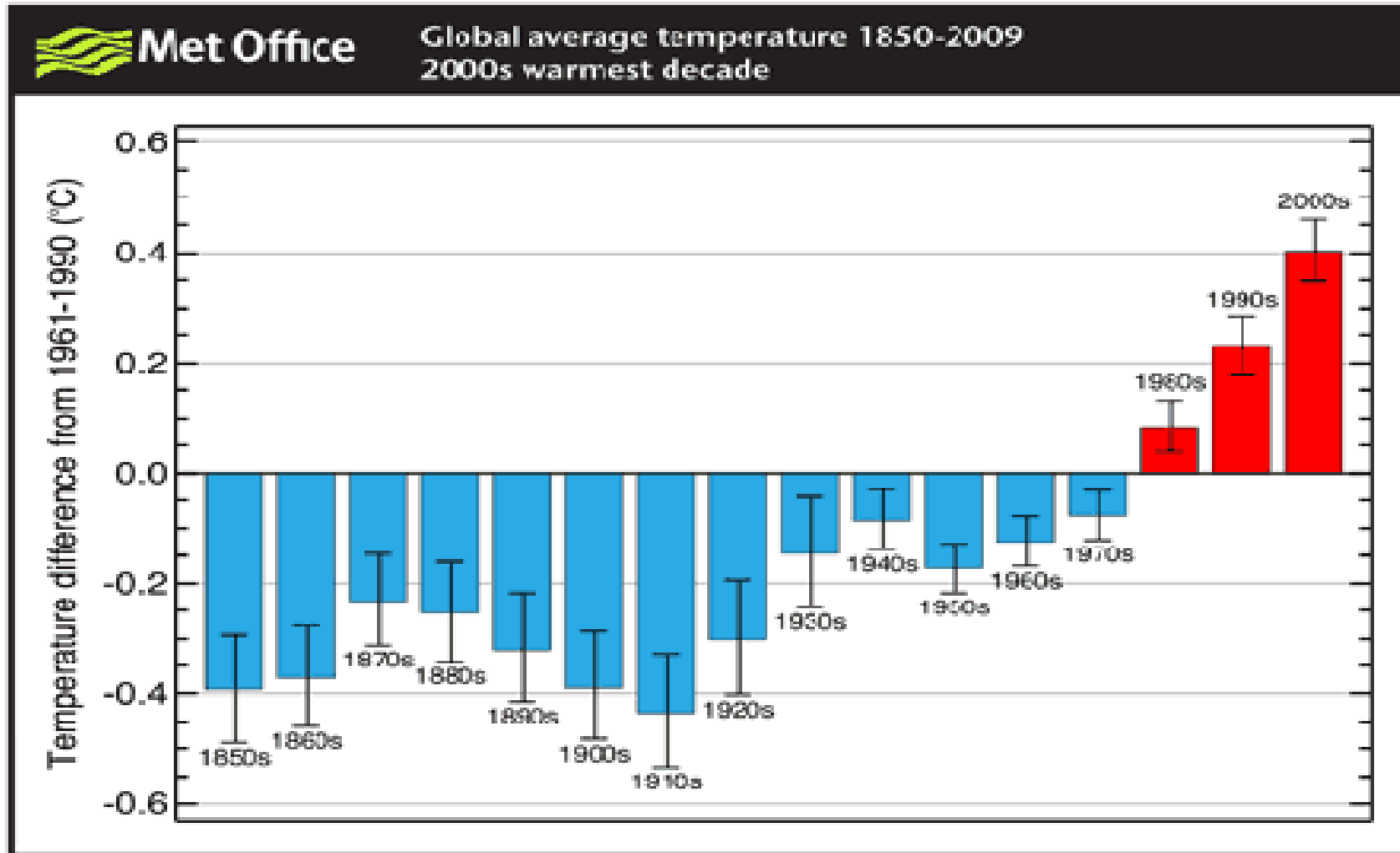
1. Moderating urban temperature

- Air conditioning: Plants help cool the air
- Trees and hedges can reduce heating costs and energy consumption by up to 30%
- A 10% increase in planting would help control the rise in summertime air temperatures predicated with climate change
- Trees, in particular, shade helping to heat islands
- Deciduous trees can allow more heat in during winter
- Well positioned hedges and trees can deflect wind



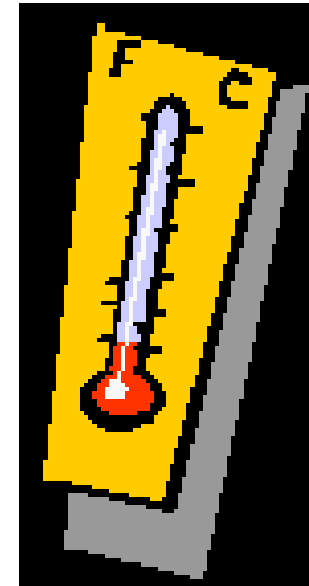
Why worry about this?

Climate Change



Predictions of Climate Change

- Temperatures are rising, making gardens drier
 - 2020 – 1°C rise in temperature “major impacts on ecosystems”
 - 2050 – 2°C rise leads to half the days in August being above 30°C
 - 2080 – 2 to 4°C rise could bring days that exceed 40°C. 20 to 50% less rain in summer, and only 10 to 30% more in winter
- Plants = Climate change mitigation!

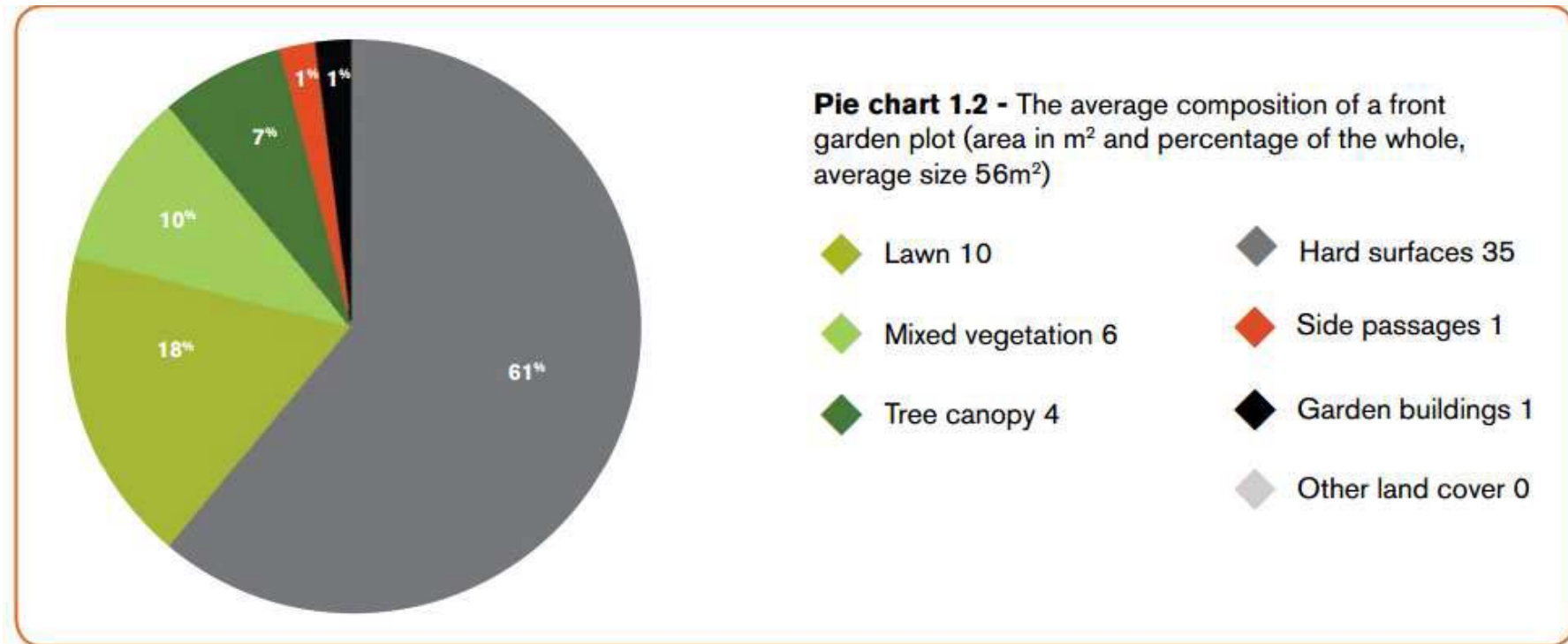


2. Preventing flooding

- Urban gardens help keep our cities 'above water'
- Garden plants and trees intercept intense rain, slowing run off, reducing pressure on drains
- Unlike hard surfaces, the soil in gardens absorbs rain
- Presence of herbaceous plant canopies (as opposed to bare soil) can improve storm water retention by as much as 20%, relieving the pressure on drains.

Why are public green spaces important?

Domestic gardens are under threat



Hard surfaces in gardens increase by twice the area of Hyde Park every year (*London Assembly, Crazy Paving 2005*)

3. Supporting biodiversity

- Urban greenspace: one of Britain's key nature reserves
 - Urban domestic gardens of all sizes support a substantial range of wildlife – could be 260 species (*Jenifer Owens 2010*)
 - Some animals are now more common in cities, particularly gardens, than rural areas
- To help:
- Get planting: berries and flowers
 - Plants as homes and shelter: trees, hedges, shrubs
 - Wildlife friendly additions: ponds, bird baths, bird boxes etc.



Key stats

- In hot summer weather presence of green facade on a sunny wall would lower the wall temperature by 8°C.
- Presence of herbaceous plant canopies in the garden (as opposed to bare, unvegetated soil) can improve storm water retention by as much as 20%, relieving the pressure on the urban storm water drainage systems.
- A 10% increase in green space (green walls, roofs, parks, gardens, tree cover) would act to buffer a predicted air temperature rise due to climate change for 2080 moderate emissions scenario.

Why Greening activity is so important...

- New evidence shows Britain is paving over front gardens and reducing plant cover
- 2015 Mori Poll comparison to 2005 Mori Poll to over 1,490 people with front gardens reveals a 15 square mile increase in 'grey' in front gardens across the UK
- Today over five million front gardens in the UK have no plants
- Rise of over 3 million front gardens being completely paved over since 2005

RHS Britain In Bloom

A nationwide community gardening campaign to transform cities, towns & villages. It's been helping people to improve their local environment since 1964, more than 1,600 communities take part across the country.

Bath in Bloom

“This is a fantastic and well deserved result for Baths community groups, Parks department and the many volunteers who have worked so hard..”
Barry Cruse, MBE, Chairman of the Bath in Bloom committee



It's Your Neighbourhood

The scheme is part of Britain in Bloom and supports community groups in cleaning up and greening up their immediate local environment - whether that's the street they live in, or a small patch of communal land needing a revamp.

Didsbury Lanes Manchester

"...an opportunity for a broader community, not just single streets to work together with a common purpose, rekindling pride in the area and engendering greater respect for the Environment"

Anton, Didsbury Residents Association



Mundella Park, Nottingham

Full of flowers, trees and shrubs, Mundella Park is an oasis of green enjoyed by local residents, young and old alike. A few years ago, however, this small patch of land was covered with broken glass and litter. The transformation has been brought about by the Friends of Mundella Park, an It's Your Neighbourhood group set up in 2008



Communities managing and maintaining urban green spaces

Why?

- Support health and wellbeing
- Community Cohesion
- Pride of place
- Ownership of space
- Local Enterprise
- Skills and knowledge sharing/development
- Environmental benefits
- Reduction in ASB
- Wider opportunities / organisational support
- Increased aspirations

Volunteer support

- Training, advice, on-going support and guidance
- Resources, tips and case studies
- Provide a network
- Funding
- Provide a space
- Break down the barriers, we need to make it easy, accessible and sustainable.
- Innovate
- Work in partnership

Do these and we get.....

This.....

Before



After

