



Research, development and  
trials  
Tolhurst Organic  
Hardwick

# The farm business

- Established organic 1976
- Present site 24 years stockfree
- Produce over 70 crops-100tonnes pa
- Self sufficient system
- Local sales



# Official trials and research

Green manures overwinter HDRA 1992-4

Over-winter leafy veg-N contents EFRC 1991

Green manures intercropping Univ. of Reading 1991-92

Trials of potato resistant varieties EFRC 1994

Pollinating insects in species rich green manures LegumLINK  
ORC 2010-13

Farm business survey Univ of Reading 2012-ongoing

Variety trials Soil Assoc/DOFF 2013

Plant substrate trials Soil Asso. ORC. DOFF (Fieldlab) 2014

Agro-forestry establishment ORC/Woodland Trust 2014 onwards



# Sprout trials



# Leek trials

# Farmer led trials/research

- Strawberry varieties 1976-1986
- Strawberry mulch materials 1976-1980
- Utilising waste heat from green waste compost 1987
- Compost/substrate mixes 1988-present day
- Green manure mixes for under-sowing 1988-present day
- Onion sets from seed 2009-2011
- Dried berlotti beans in hortic rotations 2011 ongoing
- Coppice woodfuel production 2007-ongoing
- Winter salads production on woodchip heat 2013
- Bio-fumigation of *Verticillium Dahliae* for strawberry production 2013 (Tozers seeds)



# Fieldlabs

- [Duchy Originals Future Farming Programme](#), run by Soil Association, in conjunction with ORC
- Field labs are the opposite of an approach that assumes scientists have all the good ideas
- Each lab hosted by a producer who has pinpointed a problem and is trialling how to tackle
- A small group of farmers meet 2-4 times during the trial to track progress and compare notes
- Provide facilitator to help organise the field lab and a researcher, both to help out with measuring progress and to learn about the producers' needs and research priorities.

# Woodchip for propcompost

- Compare woodchip with Klassman + Biochar
- Sprout and leeks
- Assessment of germination growth yield quality
- Grower meetings 1. Intro to compost production

