

GMS Garden Questionnaire Instructions

Here is the final draft of the GMS Garden Questionnaire after much consultation we've come up with what we feel is the best form and the easiest to fill in. As you already take part in the GMS then I am sure that you feel that your records are a valuable part of the whole GMS database. To make your records even more valuable then it will be useful to find out more details about the kind of garden you have, its size, location and habitat features. So, I hope that you are happy to take the time to fill in this form and return it to us. Please get back in touch if you don't understand any of the sections and ask for more help from us. Please put a letter X in all the relevant boxes.

Instructions to fill it in are as follows;

1. Name and address should be straightforward, please include your postcode.
2. Grid Reference, please get from an Ordnance Survey Map of your house and follow instructions on the map, don't forget to write down 'eastings' before writing down 'northings'. If you really can't manage this then please make sure you include your postcode above and we will estimate your grid reference.
3. Vice County is your wildlife recording county, which is usually the same as the modern administrative county, ask if you are not sure about this.
4. Trap type will usually be Robinson, Heath or Skinner or something similar to one of these designs. Then please also put in the bulb type which will usually be Mercury Vapour (MV) or Actinic (the blue strip lights). Then also put in the wattage of your bulb if you know it - usually 6, 15, 40 or 60 watt Actinic bulb, or 80 or 125 watt Mercury Vapour.

Area Features are usually those of the area around your garden whereas Garden Features are those within your garden.

5. For 'Your garden is' and 'Soil type is', please put an X in the most relevant box for each question.
6. For each of the 'Distance from' questions, please put an X in just one of the boxes. Adjacent means that the feature, eg wood or streetlight is immediately the other side of the garden fence, wall or hedge. For other distances just use your best estimate of how far away features are.
7. Open Country means 'proper countryside' ie not parks, wasteland etc and not urban landscapes.
8. Coastline means the high-tide line.
9. For garden size, please pace out how long and how wide your garden is and multiply the two figures together and assume for our purposes that a metre is the same as a yard or a large adult pace in length. If say your garden is 20 paces by 35 paces then your garden area is 700 square metres. This would put your garden in the Very Large, over 400 square metres size. (Please measure your lawn the same way)
10. All other habitat features should be straightforward - just put a X in the box if the feature is present in your garden.
11. To estimate whether a tree is over 10m, then this is approximately 10 yards or 30 feet, which is roughly five 6 foot people stood on top of each other - if you can visualise that!?

I hope all the other details are simple enough, just get back in touch if you need more help. Please return your filled in questionnaire to me, Dave Grundy or to your Area Coordinator, by email on the excel form if possible, but if not possible then please print a copy off and send it to us filled in by hand and posted to me or your Area Coordinator. Or if you can't even open the Questionnaire form on your computer then please let us know and we will send you a paper recording form.

Thanks for your help with this - please return all completed forms to us by 15th May.

Best wishes
Dave Grundy

DGCountryside, 5, Melrose Avenue, Woodfield Road, Sparkbrook, Birmingham, B12 8TG.

Tel: 0121-446-5446, Mobile: 0777-898-0924

Email: dgcountryside@btinternet.com