

The Citizen

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Mawdesley goes bananas

Bananas, papayas and pineapples, along with other exotic fruit and vegetables are being grown in the exotic climes of..... Mawdesley.

People are being invited to go along and pick their own bananas, lemon grass, ginger and chillies this summer by the firm Greenhouse Sensation, based in Dark Lane.

The team, who sell cultivation systems, has grown the exotic edibles without soil and are inviting those interested to share the fruits of their labour.

Hundreds of chillies and dozens of lemongrass stems have already been picked from the greenhouse this year, while ginger, papaya and 80 bananas will be harvested in September.

On a less exotic note, hundreds of tomatoes and strawberries have also been picked by green-fingered guests.

All the food has been grown from seed in a 60ft greenhouse in the village.

Emma Lowther-Wright, of Greenhouse Sensation, said: "Visitors are generally most excited by the bananas but we also get a lot of repeat visits from fans of spicy food who pop in for some chillies."

More commonly found in India, South America and Malaysia than in Mawdesley, the exotic plants grown by Greenhouse Sensation can be grown by anyone with a heated greenhouse.

Emma added: "The systems are self-watering, soil-less growing kits.

"The plants sit in a tray or pot and are automatically fed water and nutrient from a reservoir, whatever the plants don't need drains back into the reservoir to be used again so the plants get exactly the right amount of what they need, when they need it."

She said that this type of feeding means that plants grow quicker and typically produce three times more fruit than soil-grown plants.

The company has been featured in national publications including BBC Food Magazine and the food glossy, Olive.

They claim their recent success is due to the increased interest in healthy foods, local produce and a return to grow your own food.