



Community Gardens



**Food Security Network of
Newfoundland and Labrador**
www.foodsecuritynews.com

Community Gardens

Agenda

1. What is a Community Garden?
2. Types of Community Gardens
3. Identifying a Group
4. Establishing Partnerships
5. Choosing a Site
6. Funding & Sponsorships
7. Garden Planning & Design
8. Garden Guidelines
9. Planting the Garden
10. Garden Maintenance
11. Communications

What is a Community Garden?



- Shared space where people gather together to grow fruits, vegetables, small livestock, and/or flowers collectively
- Encourages physical activity
- Social gathering place
- Sharing of knowledge and skills
- Preserves local environment

Types of Community Gardens

Allotment Community Gardens

- Individual plots
- Best for groups with different gardening interests

Collective Community Gardens

- “All for one harvest, one harvest for all”
- High amount of cooperation
- Best for a group that already has a strong membership



Identifying a Group and Forming a Committee



- Can be formed from an existing group or community organization
- Promote and hold a community meeting
- Organize, host garden celebrations, and plan the garden
- Garden Coordinator

Establishing Partnerships

- Horticultural organizations
- Local farms and other community gardens
- Regional Nutritionists (with Regional Health Authorities)
- Hardware and gardening stores
- Seniors Centres
- Colleges
- Churches and service clubs



Funding & Sponsorships

- Annual gardener membership fees
- In-kind support from local businesses
- Fundraising events
- Site donation
- Municipal, provincial, and federal governments



Garden Planning & Design



- Convenient water access
- Ensure physical accessibility
- Structures (storage, rain barrels, greenhouses, etc.)
- Position plots for direct sunlight, wind breaks
- Composting area
- Consider fencing needs
- Signage
- Rest and play areas, and washrooms

Garden Guidelines

- Volunteer and participant responsibilities and expected conduct
- Agreements, fees, waivers, and other forms
- Safe handling of tools, materials, and chemicals
- Gardening practices allowed
- Important contacts



Planting the Garden



- Use hardy local seed varieties
- Follow instructions on seed packets
- Confirm soil is warm enough for germination before planting
- Water seeds after planting them, and again every 24 hours
- For long season plants buy transplants or start seeds indoors
- Try non-traditional plants such as Asian greens and herbs

Garden Maintenance

- Add lime every year
- Water plants in the morning or evening to reduce evaporation
- Weed regularly
- Use mulches to conserve soil moisture and stunt weeds
- Apply fertilizer regularly (such as compost, kelp, and manure)
- Prune plants as needed
- Tie back or stake tall plants that need support



Communications



- Garden bulletin boards, group email updates, newsletters, or websites
- Regular garden meet-ups or events
- Spring registration
- Harvest celebrations
- Community outreach



Thank you!



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