

# Garden checklist

ideas to consider before starting a community garden



## 1 What type of community garden WOULD WE LIKE?

Will the community garden be:

- a shared garden where participants share the gardening, maintenance and the harvest
- an allotment garden where participants garden their own plot and share the maintenance of common areas
- a garden with both allotments and shared gardening space.

### Allotment gardens:

How long can allotments be held while they are not being used? .....

What size will we make the allotments? .....

This can be influenced by the size of the area available for gardening.

## 2 What will be the purpose of our community garden?

### Recreation/ community building:

- a safe place where people can come together to grow food and get to know each other
- a place where parents can bring their children.

Others: .....

### Food security and nutritional health:

- access to fresh, nutritious and locally-grown food
- reducing family expenditure on food (perhaps as part of a larger community development strategy)
- supplementing the family/individual's food supply.

Others: .....

### Education:

Will the garden be open to use and/ or visitation by community colleges/ schools/ other educational bodies?

YES  NO

Will the gardeners offer workshops (eg. compost making, gardening etc) to the public? YES  NO

If not, will the gardeners make the garden available for others to provide educational services? YES  NO

Other educational activities: .....

## 3 How will we garden?

Organic gardening? YES  NO

Reasons: .....

If it is to be an organic garden, how will we train new gardeners in the techniques? .....

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## 4 What types of plants will we grow?

When considering the types of plants to grow in our community garden, remember that fruit and nut trees need plenty of space (they may be spaced about 3-5 metres apart depending on the tree) and require knowledgeable maintenance

- vegetables    culinary herbs    fruit/nut trees
- berry fruit shrubs/vines    water crops    medicinal plants    bush foods
- native or indigenous plants    flowers

## 5 What animals will we keep?

- chickens    other poultry    bees    no animals

Other animals .....

## 6 What structures will we build in the community garden?

- sitting area to shelter from the sun and rain (such as a pergola)
- lockable shed for storing tools, seeds etc
- nursery for plant propagation
- fireplace for making coffee and tea/barbecue for preparing food
- play area for children
- public art
- educational signs
- rainwater tanks to collect water from the shed/shelter roof to irrigate the garden

Other structures:.....  
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## 7 What training do we need?

### Gardening/construction skills:

- plant propagation    garden soil analysis & improvement    making and using compost
- making and using wormfarms    using mulch    irrigation    pest management    seed saving    garden construction
- developing a planting calendar    planting out and harvesting

Other gardening/construction skills: .....

### Design skills:

- site analysis for garden design    garden design process

### Other skills:

- cooking what we grow

Other skills.....  
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Are any of these skills available in the community gardening group?   YES    NO

If not where will we find these skills? .....





## 8 How will we co-operate with local government? (if on council land)

Will the garden be a place where communities and local government can work together to demonstrate social and environmental policy compatible with the aims of community gardening, such as:

waste reduction  water conservation  greening  organic gardening

energy efficiency  biodiversity  nutritional health  food localisation

Other: .....

## 9 How will we support agricultural biodiversity?

Will we plant non-hybrid seed of heritage or heirloom vegetables and fruits so we can collect, save and replant the crops?

YES  NO

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Will the garden join or start a local seed savers group to learn more about food plant biodiversity, to obtain and share non-hybrid seed with the members of this group?

YES  NO

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## 10 will we provide sustainability education in the garden?

sustainable food gardening  compost making/ worm farming  mulching

use of recycled materials  low-water use gardening  waste reduction

Other: .....

## 11 How will we conserve water in the garden?

rainwater tanks  mulching  low-water-use plants  low-water-use irrigation

Other: .....

## 12 How will we fund the garden?

apply for grants  membership fee  other types of self-funding.....

How will we fund ongoing costs?.....

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## 13 What will we look for in a preferred site for the garden?

size of area needed .....

access to public transport .....

access to sunlight, water and wind protection etc. ....

Comments/suggestions: .....

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## 14 Describe the proposed management structure:

Will the garden organisational structure be an incorporated association? YES  NO

Will the garden obtain public liability insurance? YES  NO

Will a member's agreement be developed to cover management of the garden and a code of behaviour? YES  NO

Will a memorandum of understanding be developed with the landholder to cover the development of the garden and activities within it?

How will decisions be made? .....

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What will be the proposed conflict resolution process? .....

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How will new members will be recruited? .....

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## 15 How will gardeners ensure that there are no problems with:

Odour: .....

Vandalism: .....

Excessive noise: .....

Site aesthetics - how the site looks: .....

Rodents: .....

Parking: .....

Non-gardener access: .....

Other: .....

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