



Community Garden Guidance

Starting a community garden is no easy task. It involves dedication and commitment by a number of individuals willing to put a considerable amount of time and effort into the project. There are however, many resources to help you succeed and doing some basic research beforehand will save hours of confusion.

Begin planning in the fall for a spring garden.
Begin planning in the spring for a fall garden

Here are some easy steps help you with the process:

Step 1

Go to www.communitygarden.org and click on link: 'Start a Community Garden'.

<http://www.communitygarden.org/learn/starting-a-community-garden.php>

Review the nine recommended steps to start a community garden. Step one - **form a planning committee** - one of the most important of the nine steps. Through this step, you will be able to produce an overall plan to begin and follow through with your new garden.

Following the guidelines on step one will help you walk you through the process.

Step 2

Once you have determined and secured a site, it will be time to set up a meeting time with Wake County Extension Educators that can assist you. See contact information below.

This will be a good time to bring any questions you may have after carefully reviewing the information. We can then discuss specifics such as the actual planning of the garden; remember that in step 2 "Choosing a Site" obtaining a soil test is advised. This will help us help you determine nutritional needs as well as any contaminants in the soil.

Wake County Extension can provide you with guidance and technical support. We will have a packet ready for you at the meeting containing information on planning, planting, and culture of the garden. We also have a group of Master Gardeners to help you through the process.

Community Gardening Resources

The American Community Gardening Association: www.communitygarden.org

Website resources:

- A start-up guide
- How-to information
- Information about funding and non-profit status
- Newsletters
- Training opportunities
- And many more tips and links

North Carolina Cooperative Extension

<http://www.ces.ncsu.edu/Publications/lawngarden.php>

Growing Vegetables and Herbs

[Home Vegetable Gardening \(PDF version\)](#)

[How to Grow Early Vegetables \(PDF file\)](#)

[Sustainable Practices for Vegetable Production](#)

[Managing Lawns and Gardens to Protect Water Quality \(PDF version\)](#)

[Seed and Seed Quality \(PDF file\)](#)

[Vegetable Transplants \(PDF version\)](#)

[Fall Garden \(PDF version\)](#)

[Mini-Gardening \(PDF version\)](#)

[Container Vegetable \(PDF version\)](#)

[Plastic Mulches and Drip Irrigation \(PDF version\)](#)

Wake County - Advocates for Health in Action

Community Gardening Website

http://www.advocatesforhealthinaction.org/community_gardens.html.

Website resources include:

- Wake County community gardens, pick-your-own farms, farmers' markets and roadside stands
- Check back for updates

Community Garden – Master Gardener Volunteers

A Community Garden Coordinator will be appointed to serve as the main contact and will recruit volunteers as needed for the community garden.

Master Gardeners are available for the following duties:

- Provide consultation services
- Advise on planning and execution of garden
- Recommend information on plant varieties and time tables/schedule for planting
- Help with the garden layout and design
- Provide classes as needed on various community gardening topics
- Provide educational handouts / booklets as requested.
- Provide on-site guidance to offer suggestions and troubleshoot disease, insect, nutritional and cultural problems

Finances

NC State Agricultural Economics: http://www.ag-econ.ncsu.edu/extension/Ag_budgets.html

- Includes budgeting information for a variety of fruit, vegetable, row and ornamental crops

Contact Information

Morris J. Dunn

Horticultural Science Educator

NC Cooperative Extension/Wake County

4001-E Carya Drive

Raleigh, NC 27610-2914

Voice: 919-250-1117

Fax: 919-250-1097

Email: mdunn@co.wake.nc.us

Carol S. Mitchell, PhD, RD, LDN

Family & Consumer Science Educator

NC Cooperative Extension/Wake County

4001-E Carya Drive

Raleigh, NC 27610-2914

Voice: 919-250-1094

Fax: 919-250-1097

Email: csmitchell@co.wake.nc.us

Angelo Randaci

Horticultural Science Educator

NC Cooperative Extension/Wake County

4001-E Carya Drive

Raleigh, NC 27610-2914

Voice: 919-250-1116

Fax: 919-250-1097

Email: angelo_randaci@ncsu.edu



