



Quick Reference Resource Guide for Community Gardens

This is NOT a complete reference guide.

If you see something that should be added or changed, please let us know!

Email info@gardenworksMN.org or call (612) 278-7123. Thank you! -- GardenWorks

Gardening materials

Compost and Soil

If your city or county is not listed below, call them to see if they provide free compost to the community garden. Ask about delivery.

- Recovery/Resource Technologies: www.rrtmn.com (952) 946-6999
- Ramsey County Compost Sites Yardwaste Hotline: (651) 266-1155. To order compost for the community garden, call Pete Miller at 651-266-1199. Call early while compost is available.
- Community Gardens in Minneapolis, call Minneapolis Solid Waste 612-278-7123

Mulch

- *Alleys* -- Bagged grass clippings and leaves in alleys are a great source of nitrogen for the compost pile if still green, or as a mulch if brown. If you suspect that clippings came from a yard that used lawn chemicals, either skip that bag or let it completely break down in a compost pile.
- *Lawn services* -- Like tree companies, lawn services will also deliver yard waste to your community garden. Again, be careful not to add chemically treated yard waste directly to your garden, and if possible, avoid it altogether.
- *Stores* -- Neighborhood garden and hardware stores often offer a variety of mulch. Sometimes there are discounts on ripped bags.

Plants and Seeds

Contact your favorite seed providers to see if they will make a donation to a community garden. Check out the company's website, as some may, like Seeds for Change, have fundraising programs that your garden can participate in while getting seeds.

Also, contact your local nursery and let them know about the garden project, and they may want to make a donation of plants. Know what you need before you ask.

- America the Beautiful (www.America-The-Beautiful.org) donates seeds. Go online to request seeds or call (202) 638-1649.
- Minnesota Green is a program of the Minnesota State Horticultural Society (MSHS). You must be a member to receive plant and seed donations. (651) 643-3601, www.northerngardener.com

Plant swaps

Perennials are a great option for many gardens. Native species can provide habitat and food source for our local wildlife. Perennials are also easily divided. Consider "door-knocking for divides" and let the neighbors know about the garden project at the same time!

- Many Garden clubs have plant sales and plant swaps. To find your local garden club call MSHS at (651) 643-3601 or visit www.northerngardener.com
- If you don't see a plant swap near you, contact your District Council/Neighborhood Association office.

Trees and Bushes (for free or at reduced cost)

- **Tree Trust** -- Call (651) 644-5800 or email (info@treetrust.org). To find out more about their community forestry programs, visit www.treetrust.org

Woodchips

Many gardeners find they prefer this material for walkways and pathways as rodents don't thrive in the woodchips, and require minimal weeding if they are laid at least 4 inches thick. Woodchips are available for free typically from arborists who would otherwise have to pay to dump the chips. Woodchips from these sources tend to have a relatively high "green" content so that they will break down more quickly than woodchips with no leaf material.

Wood chips are usually available to pick up at no cost from the following city public works departments. Please phone ahead to check availability. Some sites also offer compost.

- **Brooklyn Center** 763-569-3380
- **Brooklyn Park** 763-493-8007
- **Minneapolis** 612-370-4900 or <http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/solid-waste/yardwaste-woodchips.asp>.
- **Plymouth** The site will be open April 3rd through November. They also have screened compost available in addition to woodchips, call first for availability
- **Roseville 651-792-7004** Woodchips are available only for Roseville residents.
- **St. Louis Park** 952-924-2565. This site also has compost.
- **Washington County** 651-430-6655; 651-430-4390 (southern)

Other Woodchip Providers

- **Minneapolis Parks and Recreation** maintains several woodchip piles throughout the city, which are free for the taking. For a listing of sites, go to <http://www.minneapolisparcs.org/default.asp?PageID=544>
- **Call a private business (e.g. an arborist)** to see about dropping off a load.

Garden Supplies

Compost Bins

Check with your Neighborhood Association or District Council. Otherwise, contact the following...

- **Hennepin County** Environmental Services Phone (612) 348-3RRR or email DES@co.hennepin.mn.us
- **Build your own compost bin.** Go online for 9 different models, list of supplies and step by step instructions on how to put them together.
http://www.rivcowm.org/composting/compost_build_bin.html

Rain Barrels

Rain barrels can be found at local gardening or hardware stores. Call your local stores to see if they keep rain barrels in stock. Barrels to construct your own rain barrel may be found at stores like Fleet Farm or Western Container (in Minneapolis). See if your neighborhood organization or District Council is sponsoring make-your-own workshops, see if your neighborhood association or district council is offering a workshop.

- The Reuse Center has 55 gallon rain barrels for sale at both locations:
2801 21st Avenue South, Minneapolis, 612-724-2608
1727 E. Hwy 36, Maplewood, 651-379-1280
- For design ideas to make your own, visit www.rainbarrelsandmore.com

Water

If a neighbor is unable to provide water, then contact the city to see if they can allow the garden to access city water hydrants. Often there is a charge for setting up and breaking down this service at the beginning and end of the season respectively.

- **Minneapolis**, call Minneapolis 311 (just dial "311" from within Minneapolis) and request hydrant hook-up for your community garden. They will take your order right there.
- **St. Paul** Regional Water Services, 651-266-6853. For information on how to access a water hydrant in St. Paul, go to http://www.gardenworksmn.org/Resources/STP_Hydrant.pdf

Other Resources

Gardening Advice

Master gardeners are trained to give gardening advice. Contact your county's master gardeners if you would like someone to come to your garden. They can answer many gardening questions. Their webpage (<http://www.mg.umn.edu/>) includes access to many useful publications and an online "Yard and Garden" FAQ or call them directly at (952) 443-1426.

- **Hennepin County -Master Gardeners:** (612) 596-2118 and (612) 624-4771 or email hcmg@umn.edu. (www.hcmg.umn.edu)
- **Ramsey County Master Gardeners:** (651) 704-2063 (rcmg@umn.edu)
- **Permaculture Collaborative** includes information about growing perennial food. Call for more information, 651-451-1716. <http://www.pricoldclimate.org/>

For Gardening Tips and Resources, please check out the GardenWorks website. It is loaded with our favorites on topics ranging from flowers to food production to habitat enhancement: <http://www.gardenworksmn.org/Resources/gardening.htm>

Lead Testing

If you have questions about possible lead contamination in the soil, be sure to call

- Minneapolis: Call 612-673-3719 (Healthy Homes and Lead Hazard Control)
- Purchase a soil test for lead through the University of Minnesota: 612-625-3101
- Ramsey County Environmental Health Dept's lead program at 651-266-1138.

Rain Gardens and Natives

- The **Department of Natural Resources** also has a quick how-to-article on rain gardens, along with some links to other resources helpful for designing your rain garden. <http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/volunteer/mayjun04/raingardens.html>
- The **City of Minneapolis** has a resource webpage about rain gardens, <http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/stormwater/green-initiatives/rain-garden.asp>
- The **Green Guide** has a quick how-to article on rain gardens, <http://www.thegreenguide.org/article/gardening/rain>
- **Metro Blooms Program** of the Committee on Urban Environment (CUE) provides workshop training in rain gardens, but these have filled up for 2006. www.minneapolisblooms.org
- **Wild Ones** has an annual plant sale. They sell sets of plants for different regimes. Call Marty Rice at 952-927-6531 to order for their May 17th, 2008 sale.