

Planting Through the Seasons

COOL WEATHER CROPS

Early Spring/Early Fall

arugula	lettuce
asparagus	onions
beets	parsnips
broccoli	peas
brussels sprouts	potatoes
cabbage	radicchio
carrots	radishes
cauliflower	swiss chard
celery	shallots
collards	spinach
kale	turnips
leeks	

WARM WEATHER CROPS

Late Spring/Summer

beans
cucumbers
eggplant
lima beans
melons
peppers
pumpkins
spinach (New Zealand)
squash, summer and winter
sweet potatoes
tomatoes

SHORT SEASON CROPS

For succession planting

arugula	onions
bush beans	peas
beets	radishes
cabbage	scallions
carrots	turnips
lettuce	

TRANSPLANTS

No direct-seeding

tomatoes	leeks
peppers	cabbage
eggplant	sweet potatoes
broccoli	brussel sprouts

SHALLOW ROOTS

Can handle less water

legumes
crucifers
lettuces

LEAST SPACE-CONSUMING

For raised beds

bush beans	onions
pole beans	parsnips
beets	radishes
carrots	swiss chard
chinese cabbage	cherry tomatoes
eggplant	grape tomatoes
leeks	turnips
lettuce	

COLD WEATHER CROPS

Early frost hardy

beets	lettuce
brussels sprouts	parsley
cabbages	peas
carrots	radishes
cauliflower	spinach
collards	swiss chard

GREENWICH COMMUNITY GARDENS

P.O. Box 4743, Greenwich, CT 06831
www.greenwichcommunitygardens.org
info@greenwichcommunitygardens.org

GROWING A HEALTHY COMMUNITY
SINCE 2009!



2019 Bible Street Community Garden Handbook

WELCOME to our ELEVENTH year as a community of gardeners! Our organic community gardens continue to produce more and more fresh food, great opportunities for exercise, good times and wonderful gardening friends.

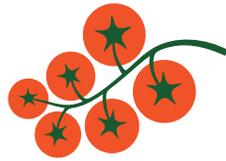
All gardeners are required to attend one of the GARDEN SIGN-UP MEETINGS listed below in order to register garden plots for the season. Members of the Armstrong Court and Bible Street Garden Steering Committees will be on hand to answer your questions and talk to you about your garden concerns and ideas.

This Handbook is an important guide for new and returning gardeners. Please keep it handy and refer to it throughout the year. All gardeners are asked to read the Handbook thoroughly before signing the garden registration form, contract and waivers, and remitting their payment (*checks & credit cards only - no cash*) for garden membership for the season.

2019 GARDEN SIGN-UP MEETINGS

Cos Cob Fire House / 2nd FL Meeting Room
200 East Putnam Avenue, Cos Cob

Saturday, March 16th, 10:00AM – 2:00PM
Sunday, March 17th, 1:00PM – 4:00PM



OUR MISSION

We create organic community gardening opportunities and support sustainable food culture.

We promote community building, garden education, environmental health and wellness.

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The Bible Street Community Garden

is a member garden of Greenwich Community Gardens, a 501c3 non-profit organization dedicated to creating and supporting sustainable community gardens throughout the Town of Greenwich, CT.

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Patty Sechi, FOUNDER

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 Terri Browne Kutzen

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ARMSTRONG COURT GARDEN STEERING COMMITTEE

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 Geoff Lazlo
 Lu Ann Pasciak
 Maria Popp
 Ann Shifman-Deibler
 Betty Shopovick

BIBLE STREET GARDEN STEERING COMMITTEE

Lisa Booth, CO-DIRECTOR
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 Ceci Abbruzzese
 Marje Allocco
 Regan Avery
 Michael Casey
 Maria Cleary-Guida
 Mary Jo Giunta
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 Simon Moss
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ABOUT US

Celebrating our 11th anniversary in 2019, Greenwich Community Gardens offers town residents an opportunity to create sustainable gardens, promote garden education, build community, and demonstrate diversity.

We are stewards of two thriving gardens with the active participation of members who are dedicated to organic gardening, sustainable living and the belief that community gardens can change the health, wellness and quality of life of the gardeners they serve. Garden classes, films and other educational events are offered throughout the year for both gardeners and local residents.



The Armstrong Court Community Garden

Located on 15,000 square feet in western Greenwich, The Armstrong Court Community Garden offers 140 raised garden plots, a pergola, pizza oven, greenhouse, native gardens and a butterfly garden. It is also host to a preschool gardening program that serves the on-site Head Start Program. Audubon Connecticut has designated this garden an Urban Oasis.

The Bible Street Community Garden is located in Cos Cob and boasts 92 raised beds, 12 Universal Access plots for those with limited mobility, a rainwater harvesting system, a pergola and shaded area for gatherings, a pollinator-friendly Welcome Garden and ongoing meadow development projects.

Both gardens are supplied with organic soil, composting bins and sheds filled with ample garden tools, gloves and wheelbarrows. Organic seeds and seedlings are often provided by local nurseries, individual donors, seed companies and volunteers working in our own greenhouse.

Greenwich Community Garden's "Neighborly Harvest Program" produces hundreds of pounds of fresh produce annually for our Neighbor to Neighbor food pantry in Greenwich.



The Bible Street Community Garden

GROWING TOGETHER IN GREENWICH

Gardening in a community can be a truly wonderful experience with myriad benefits that nourish the body, mind and spirit. As gardeners we know the story of our food because we are writing it—from seed, to harvest, to table—and can be secure in the knowledge that our food is healthy. As an added benefit, some of the best friendships can grow amongst the garden beds!

Tending a garden takes commitment but most gardeners will tell you that the rewards far outweigh the effort. We believe it all starts from the ground up—with healthy soil—and so we remain committed to organic practices and the use of organic seeds, seedlings amendments, herbicides or pesticides.

Consistent maintenance and vigilance are key to a healthy organic garden—for your plot and for your neighbors' gardens as well. Weeds that go to seed or release toxins into the soil can affect everyone. An unkempt garden is the perfect environment for unwanted pests and small animals.

Please read the Garden Guidelines on pages 6-7 carefully and contact us if you have any questions.

If you are new to organic gardening or just have questions, keep an eye out for our "Idea Swap with Mentors" sessions in May and June. Seasoned mentors can also be identified to help you get started. Members often learn the most from one another. Both of our gardens have shared areas where gardeners can take a quiet break or share their experiences with others. We also host garden get-togethers, potlucks and other events throughout the season.

We look forward to seeing you in the garden!

Dear Gardeners,

There are so many benefits to growing your own food and we hope you discover many of them in the community garden this year.

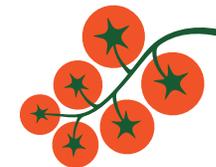
*We would love to hear about your experience at the Bible Street Community Garden so that we can share it with others!
Email your comments to: info@greenwichcommunitygardens.org*

Patty Sechi, president emeritus and founder



COMMUNITY GARDENING GUIDELINES

PLEASE READ THIS SECTION VERY CAREFULLY!



GARDENER RESPONSIBILITIES

As an all-volunteer organization, we rely on the efforts of all our garden members to maintain the public spaces in the garden and contribute to the operations that sustain it.

- All gardeners are required to help maintain the garden at-large, for a minimum of **10 hours** between February and November, through organized service days (garden opening & closing days), working with your team, volunteering for special projects, etc.
- Community work is to be documented in the logbook in the shed or online at our website.
- Both hot and cold composting systems are employed in order to create a horticulturally zero-waste site. Sessions on composting and garden-specific procedures will be offered at 4 different times early in the season. All gardeners are required to attend at least one of these sessions.
- If you see a garden that is not being cared for, please contact a member of the steering committee.

GARDEN PROPERTY

- All garden gates must be kept shut while you are in garden and locked if you are the last one out. **Always** check to make sure no one is in the garden before you lock the gates.
- Please do not take any plants or produce from other garden beds. Your opinion that something needs to be picked does not make it ok to take anything from a plot that is not your responsibility.
- Clean and return our garden tools to sheds after each use. **Do not** use other gardeners tools or equipment without permission.
- Please be sure the water is turned off when you finish watering and if a full-length hose is used, be sure to rewind the hose.
- Report any sighting of woodchucks, rabbits or other large animals inside the garden immediately by calling a Garden co-director or a member of the steering committee. See page 9 for our contact list.
- Please do not plant, weed or otherwise disturb areas outside the garden fence unless coordinated in advance with a garden co-director.

YOUR GARDEN PLOTS

- Preparation and planting of gardens **must** start by May 19.
- **Only organic** seeds and plants may be used. **NO** chemical products are allowed (*fertilizers, herbicides, pesticides*).
- Gardens and connecting wood-chip pathways must be regularly maintained throughout season as follows: keep free of weeds and debris, equipment/tools, non-garden materials and garbage bags at all times. All non-compostable material such as plastic, glass or food wrappers must be removed and discarded off premises.
- All garden debris must be taken to the appropriate compost bins.
- **Do not** throw any debris or garbage over the fences.
- Nothing may be grown on the fences.
- **NO** fencing/structures may be installed outside of raised beds, in pathways, or be over 6 feet tall.
- **NO** crops may be grown that could shade a neighbor's plot(s) including corn, hops, Jerusalem (*sun*) artichokes.
- **NO** rapidly spreading plants like *mint* and *huacatay* are allowed. **Never** plant these in your plots or directly in the ground anywhere in garden.
- All warnings by garden co-directors, Lisa Booth and Terri Browne Kutzen or a member of the steering committee, about your plot(s) and surrounding area **MUST** be addressed within 1 week. Not abiding by these rules may result in the forfeiture of your garden.

GARDEN SAFETY

- Please keep your cell phone with you at all times in case of medical or other emergencies.
- **No** guests are allowed in the garden alone and when with you, they must abide by all garden rules. **Do not** give the gate combination to any non-member.
- **Do not** use rebar or other potentially hazardous materials such as sharp wood stakes in and around your raised beds.
- There is **NO SMOKING** in the garden.
- Pets are not allowed inside the garden fence.

IF ANY OF THESE GUIDELINES ARE UNCLEAR,
PLEASE ASK BEFORE YOU SIGN UP FOR YOUR PLOT!

GENERAL INFORMATION

INFORMATION ON PLOTS

- Raised bed gardens are available on a first-come, first-served basis to new gardeners. Returning gardeners in good standing must renew their membership annually.
- **All** gardeners are subject to **ALL** Garden Rules.
- Pathways between gardens are **shared** space to be weeded and maintained by the gardeners who **share** them. Wood chips are periodically delivered for communal use by all the gardeners to spread on their paths.
- Eligibility for adopting a plot for the following season will be directly influenced by ability to follow the Garden Guidelines.
- Plot location & gate combination - emailed to you by end of March.
- Use of rainwater system should be prioritized when watering plots.

VACATIONS & TIME AWAY FROM YOUR GARDEN

If you will be away from your garden for more than a few days, please ask a garden buddy to water and harvest your plot as needed. If you need help finding someone to water, care for or harvest your garden while you're away, please use one of the signs in the shed. Should you prefer to have a non-member maintain your garden while you are away, you must get approval from one of the garden co-directors in advance. Non-members must sign a waiver and be pre-approved for access to the garden in your absence. Please allow extra time for this paperwork to be approved.

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP FEES

- RAISED BEDS are 4' x 8' and filled with organic soil and compost
- \$50.00 per bed to rent for the season

Installment payment arrangements are available. We will not turn anyone away anyone due to financial constraints. Alternative arrangements may be made on a case-by-case basis. All matters of this nature are strictly confidential. Please contact one of the garden co-directors.

IMPORTANT CONTACT INFORMATION

GENERAL CONTACT INFORMATION

EMAIL: info@greenwichcommunitygardens.org

WEBSITE: www.greenwichcommunitygardens.org

FACEBOOK: [GreenwichCommunityGardens](https://www.facebook.com/GreenwichCommunityGardens)

GARDEN STEERING COMMITTEE

GARDEN CO-DIRECTORS

Terri Browne Kutzen, 203-253-6264, tbk1@optonline.net

Lisa Booth, 203-613-5601, elizabeth.f.booth@gmail.com

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Ceci Abbruzzese, ca32jabbruz@yahoo.com

Marje Allocco, mvancecda@gmail.com

Regan Avery, regan@slowglowing.com

Michael Casey, caseymichael@hotmail.com

Mary Jo Giunta, Maryjo.giunta@gmail.com

Maria Cleary-Guida, mbcg6865@aol.com

Jane Kochersperger, janekochers@gmail.com

Rick Margenot, rick@margenotlegal.com

Simon Moss, simon.moss@yahoo.com

Lou Trovato, ltrovato@optonline.net

NEIGHBORLY HARVEST PROGRAM

Greenwich Community Gardens actively supports the Neighbor to Neighbor (N2N) food pantry by annually providing hundreds of pounds of fresh, organic produce for our neighbors in need. We encourage all members to help by donating extra produce from your gardens or by helping the Neighborly Harvest team grow food. With your permission, we can harvest extra produce while you're on vacation so it does not go to waste. Please speak with your Neighborly Harvest team leader, Maria Cleary-Guida.

BSCG COMPOST PROGRAMS

Beginning in 2019, Bible Street Community Garden will utilize both hot and cold compost systems in order to recycle all garden plant waste on site. **Gardeners are required to attend training sessions at the beginning of the season in order to learn how BSCG garden uses these systems.**

Composting accelerates the natural process of decaying organic matter and serves as a food source for beneficial organisms such as microscopic bacteria and fungi and larger organisms such as earthworms. These organisms break down the green and brown materials we add to the pile and do the work of creating the compost. Compost improves soil structure by adding biological matter, which helps to retain moisture and improve the health of both the soil and plants growing in it.

At Bible Street Garden, the **3-bin hot system** is designed to create disease and weed-free, high quality fertilizer suitable for use in the garden beds. The hot compost requires considerable interaction and vigilance to help the pile reach and maintain a temperature of 138 degrees for several days and then cool. All plant material, cut up into small pieces, can be introduced into a hot pile because the extended heat will destroy any pathogens. A great advantage of a hot pile is that it can take only a few weeks from start to finish.

The hot system is not large enough to accommodate all plant material coming out of BSCG garden—especially at peak times. The **cold composting system** serves as a vehicle for disposing of excess garden debris and items difficult to cut into small enough pieces for the hot compost - heavy tomato vines, large stalks and invasives. Cold compost can take many months to become viable but, in the end will produce beneficial material. Without the heat, however, the resulting compost may not be entirely weed- or pathogen-free but potentially suitable for other areas of the property. Too, material from the cold compost may be used as an additive to the hot compost system as space is available. *For a basic list of what to compost, please see the chart on page 11.*

NOTE: You may want to do a soil test before you add compost or any other amendments to your garden plot. For instructions on how to collect soil samples and where to send them, go to: www.soiltest.uconn.edu.

What Can I Compost?

YES Greens

fresh, moist, nitrogen-rich

FROM THE GARDEN

green plants
garden trimmings
fresh leaves & flowers
grass clippings (moderation)
blood meal

FROM YOUR HOME

vegetable scraps
fruit scraps
coffee grounds
tea bags
dryer lint
egg shells
houseplant trimmings



NO! NEVER COMPOST

anything treated with pesticides
poison ivy (native)
large branches
sand or construction debris
meat, fish, dairy products, fats
coal or charcoal ashes

YES Browns

dead, dry, carbon-rich

FROM THE GARDEN

fall leaves
small twigs
woody prunings
dry plant material
straw
wood ashes (moderation)
compost and soil

FROM YOUR HOME

egg shells
towel & toilet paper rolls
paper egg cartons (small pieces)
nut shells

