

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

GROWING A HEALTHY COMMUNITY
since 2009!



2020 Bible Street Community Garden Handbook

WELCOME to our 12th 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.

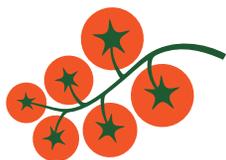
This handbook is an important guide for new and returning gardeners. Please keep it handy and refer to it throughout the year. All gardeners are asked to read the handbook before signing the garden registration form, contract, waivers, and remitting their payment (*checks & credit cards only - no cash*)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

Please visit our website or email us for additional information:
www.greenwichcommunitygardens.org

2020 GARDEN SIGN-UP MEETINGS

*Cos Cob Firehouse / 2nd floor meeting room
200 East Putnam Avenue, Cos Cob*

Saturday, March 7th, 10:00 am - 3:00 pm
Sunday, March 8th, 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm



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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Greenwich Community Gardens

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

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ABOUT US

Celebrating our 12th anniversary in 2020, Greenwich Community Gardens offers town residents an opportunity to create sustainable gardens, while promoting garden education and demonstrating diversity.

We are stewards of three 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 and quality of life of the gardeners they serve. Garden classes, films, and other educational events are offered throughout the year for gardeners and local residents. The three gardens are managed by all-volunteer Steering Committees.



*Armstrong Court
Community Garden*

Located on 15,000 square feet in western Greenwich, the **Armstrong Court Community Garden** offers 140 raised garden plots and a greenhouse. 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 offers 92 raised beds, 12 Universal Access plots for those with limited mobility, a pollinator-friendly Welcome Garden, and ongoing meadow restoration projects.

The gardens are supplied with organic soil, composting bins, and sheds containing garden tools, gloves, and wheelbarrows. There are rainwater harvesting systems on site and shaded areas for gatherings. Organic seeds and seedlings are provided by a team of garden volunteers working at the greenhouse at Greenwich Land Trust.

Greenwich Community Gardens' "Neighborly Harvest Program" grows hundreds of pounds of organic produce annually for our local Neighbor to Neighbor food pantry in Greenwich.



Bible Street Community Garden

The **Culinary Wellness Garden at Nathaniel Witherell** was built in 2017 with the generous contributions of volunteers and local donors. The organic and heirloom produce from this quarter-acre garden goes directly to the chefs in the Witherell kitchen for food preparation for the residents' meals. Greenwich Community Gardens oversees planting, tending, and harvesting with the help of volunteers throughout the growing season.



*The Culinary Wellness Garden
at Nathaniel Witherell*

ENJOYING THE FRESHEST FOOD POSSIBLE

Gardening in a community is a wonderful experience with benefits that nourish the body, mind, and spirit. Gardeners know the story of their food. Community gardening is family-friendly and full of social opportunities.

Healthy food comes from healthy soil, so we are committed to organic practices and the use of all organic seeds, soil amendments, and pest management.

If you are new to organic gardening or just have questions, our mentorship program is here for you. We also have a culture of learning from each other and exchanging ideas. We host garden get-togethers, potlucks, and other events throughout the season, like pie contests and tomato tastings.

We look forward to seeing you in the garden!

COMMUNITY GARDENING GUIDELINES

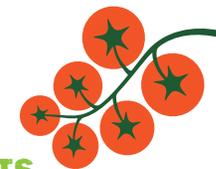
As an all-volunteer organization, we rely on our garden members to maintain the shared spaces of the garden and contribute to the operations that sustain it.

GARDENER RESPONSIBILITIES

- All gardeners are required to help maintain the garden at-large, for a minimum of **10 hours** between February and November. This work is organized into service days (garden opening & closing days), working with one or more teams (such as Weeding, Composting, Special Events), and volunteering for special projects.
- We log our community work hours in a binder located in the garden shed, or by going to our website and submitting a form.
- Hot and cold composting systems are used at the garden to create a horticulturally zero-waste site. Sessions on composting procedures are offered early in the season. All new gardeners are required to attend at least one of these sessions.
- If you notice a garden plot that is not being cared for, please mention it to a member of the steering committee (see page 9 for contact info).

GARDEN PROPERTY

- It is important to keep the garden gates shut while you are in the garden and locked if you are the last one out. Always check to make sure no one else is in the garden before you lock the gates.
- Please do not take any plants or produce from other garden beds.
- Clean and return our garden tools to the shed after each use. Most tools owned by the garden are marked with red tape. 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 sightings of woodchucks, rabbits, or other large animals within the garden by immediately calling a garden co-director or a member of the steering committee (see page 9 for contact info).
- Do not plant, weed, or otherwise disturb areas outside the garden fence unless coordinated in advance with a garden co-director.
- Please feel free to enjoy the shade area.



INFORMATION ON PLOTS

- Garden plots are available on a first-come first-served basis. Returning gardeners in good standing must renew their membership annually.
- Raised beds are 4'x8' 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 due to financial constraints. For more information, contact one of the garden co-directors (page 9).
- Eligibility for adopting a plot for the next season will be directly influenced by a gardener's fulfillment of the garden guidelines.
- Your plot location and gate combination will be emailed to you by the end of March.
- Use of the rainwater system should be prioritized when watering plots.

NEIGHBORLY HARVEST PROGRAM

Greenwich Community Gardens supports the Neighbor to Neighbor food pantry by annually growing 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 joining the Neighborly Harvest team to grow food. With your permission, we can harvest extra produce while you're on vacation so it does not go to waste.

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. If 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. Please allow extra time for this paperwork to be approved.

GARDENER EXPECTATIONS

- Preparation, weeding, and planting of gardens must start by **May 17**.
- If you're taking over a new plot, or want to assess what your soil needs are, soil testing is useful. For instructions, go to: www.soiltest.uconn.edu.
- Only **organic** seeds and plants may be used. Only fertilizers, herbicides, and pesticides marked as organic may be used.
- Gardens and wood-chip pathways must be regularly maintained: keep free of weeds, debris, equipment, tools, and non-garden materials.
- Pathways between gardens are shared space to be weeded and maintained by gardeners. Woodchips are periodically delivered for communal use by gardeners to spread on the paths.
- All organic debris must be taken to the appropriate compost bins.
- All non-compostable material such as plastic, glass, or food wrappers must be removed and discarded off premises.
- Do not throw any debris or garbage over the fences.
- No fencing or structures may be installed outside of raised beds, in pathways, or be so tall as to shade your neighbors' plots.
- No crops may be grown that will shade neighbors' plots, such as corn, hops, Jerusalem (*sun*) artichokes.
- No rapidly spreading plants like *mint* and *huacatay* are allowed. Never plant these in your plot or in the ground anywhere in the garden.
- Nothing may be grown on the fences.
- All warnings about your plot by garden co-directors or a member of the steering committee should be addressed within one week.
- Not abiding by these rules may result in the forfeiture of your plot.

GARDEN SAFETY

- Please keep your cell phone with you while in the garden in case of medical or other emergencies.
- Garden guests must abide by all garden rules. No guests are to be alone in the garden. Do **not** give the gate combination to any non-member without pre-approval.
- Do **not** use rebar or other potentially hazardous materials such as sharp wood stakes.
- There is **no smoking** in the garden.
- Pets are not allowed inside the garden fence.

If you have any questions about these guidelines or other garden procedures, please ask before signing up for a plot.

IMPORTANT CONTACT INFORMATION

GENERAL CONTACT INFORMATION

EMAIL: info@greenwichcommunitygardens.org

WEBSITE: www.greenwichcommunitygardens.org

FACEBOOK: GreenwichCommunityGardens

BIBLE STREET 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

Membership Operations:	Ceci Abbruzzese	ca32jabbruz@yahoo.com
Events Co-Chair:	Marje Allocco	mvancecda@gmail.com
Children's Programming:	Mason Avery	mason@slowglowing.com
Communications:	Regan Avery	regan@slowglowing.com
Weed Warriors:	Michael Casey	caseymichael@hotmail.com
Events Co-Chair:	Mary Jo Giunta	maryjo.giunta@gmail.com
Neighborly Harvest:	Maria Cleary-Guida	mbcg6865@aol.com
Garden Health & Mentors:	Jane Kochersperger	janekochers@gmail.com
Beekeeping:	Rick Margenot	rick@margenotlegal.com
Building & Repair:	Simon Moss	simon.moss@yahoo.com



COMPOSTING AT BIBLE STREET

Bible Street Community Garden has hot and cold compost systems in order to recycle all garden plant waste on site. **New gardeners are required to attend training sessions at the beginning of the season in order to learn our system.**

ABOUT COMPOST

Composting accelerates the natural process of decaying organic matter and serves as a food source for beneficial organisms such as microscopic bacteria and fungi. These organisms break down the green and brown materials we add to the pile and do the work of creating the compost. Compost, when added to soil, improves soil structure, helps retain moisture, and contributes nutrients.

THE HOT SYSTEM

Our 3-bin hot system is designed to develop disease-free and weed-free compost fertilizer suitable for use in your garden beds. The hot compost requires care and vigilance to help the pile reach and maintain a temperature of 138° for several days. All plant material that has been cut up into small pieces can be introduced into a hot system because the extended heat will destroy any pathogens. Another advantage of a hot system is that the entire process takes only a few weeks from start to finish.

THE COLD SYSTEM

The hot system is not large enough to accommodate all plant material coming out of the garden, especially at peak times. The cold composting system is a way to dispose 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 break down, but still produces beneficial material. The results of the cold compost are not weed-free unless they go through the hot compost system, but can potentially be used in other areas of the property.

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 plant soil

FROM YOUR HOME

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

