

GARDEN CITY
HARVEST

MISSOULA · MONTANA

COMMUNITY GARDENER ORIENTATION



MEET YOUR STAFF!



GARDEN CITY HARVEST



COMMUNITY GARDENS

Second Street Garden

Ivy Street Garden

ASUM Garden

Bitterroot Line Garden

Milwaukee Trail Garden

River Road Garden

Orchard Gardens

Roots off Reserve Garden

Northside Garden

Meadow Hill Garden

Providence Garden



TONIGHT'S AGENDA:

1. Events and Important Dates
2. Communications and Resources
3. Garden Operations and Expectations

Questions!



EVENTS

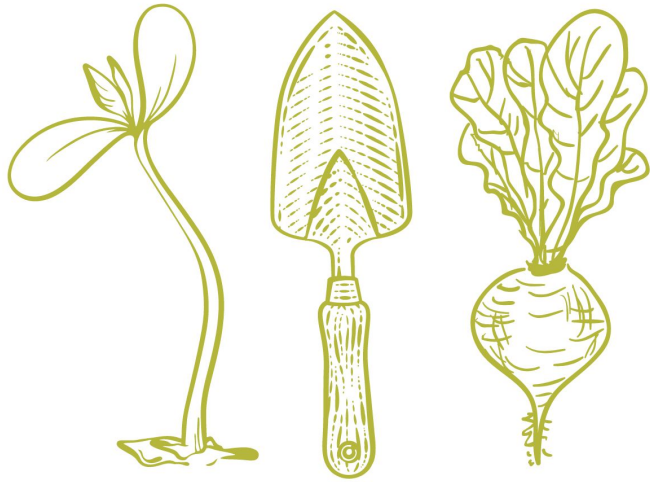
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IMPORTANT DATES



COMMUNITY GARDENS' EVENTS

- Deadline for returning gardeners
 - March 1 every year
- Opening Day
 - This Saturday, April 20
- [Great Day of Gardening](#)
 - Saturday, May 18, 1 - 4 pm
- All payments due by July 31st
- Closing Day
 - Sunday, October 20
- Lots of events hosted by leadership committees throughout the season



Great Day of Gardening

M A Y 1 8 , 2 0 2 4

- Free seeds, starts and mentors at each garden
- Work in your plot! (Average last frost is May 18)
- Meet your fellow gardeners
- Spring work projects
- Volunteer & bring Your Friends! [Sign up on our website](#)
- Come to your garden!

RETURNING NEXT YEAR

- Winterize plot by Closing Day
- Check emails beginning mid January
- Deadline for returning gardeners is March 1
- Contact us for transfers or other plot requests



COMMUNICATIONS

&

RESOURCES

GARDEN COMMUNICATIONS

- Check your email!
 - All official notifications and deadlines are sent via email
 - If a gardener does not have regular access to email, it is their responsibility to notify GCH staff and request phone or texting communications
- Meet and talk with fellow gardeners - they're your best resource!
- Facebook groups for each garden
- Message boards at garden sites
- Leadership Committee emails
- Signal Chat App or <https://signal.org/>



LEADERSHIP COMMITTEES

- Volunteers from the garden
 - Different at farm sites
- Plot checks
- Garden event planners
 - Stay tuned for mid season events!
- Great resource for all things
- Always looking for more helping hands!



GARDENING RESOURCES

- GCH office - *swing by and say hi!*
- [Community Gardens Website](#)
- [The Real Dirt Blog](#)



A graphic for 'GARDEN Workshops Spring Schedule'. The word 'GARDEN' is in large, white, sans-serif capital letters at the top. Below it, 'Workshops' is written in a white, cursive script. At the bottom, 'Spring Schedule' is written in white, sans-serif capital letters inside a dark teal rounded rectangle. The background is a lush green garden scene.

GARDEN Workshops

Spring Schedule

Designed to set gardeners up for success, our workshops give you the opportunity to roll up your sleeves and learn. These sessions are tailored to the Missoula growing season.

April 3, 6 pm	Soil Fertility
April 10, 6 pm	Plan Your Plot, part 1
April 17, 6 pm	Plan Your Plot, part 2
April 24, 6 pm	Hands-On Garden Bed Prep
May 1, 6 pm	Vegetable Garden Basics
May 8, 6 pm	Seed Saving Basics
May 11, 10 am	Build a Native Bee House

- Stay tuned for summer and fall workshop schedule
- New this year... Open garden hours!
 - Starts June 3
 - First Monday of every month
 - Rotating garden sites



A workshop every Wednesday!

(and a few on Saturdays, too!)

Register & Details: gardencityharvest.org

Thanks to our
garden workshop sponsor!

PLANETARY
DESIGN



GARDENING RESOURCES CONTINUED

- [GCH Sustainable Growing Guidelines](#)
- [Mitigating Theft and Vandalism](#)
- [List of Places to Donate Extra Produce](#)
- Resource Binder in shed
- Free seeds in shed and at office
 - Five Valleys Seed Library
- Free starts on Great Day of Gardening or Seedlings for Solidarity distribution days...
TBD
- Garden Facebook groups
- Your plot neighbors
- Leadership committees - contact info in shed





GARDEN INCIDENTS

- Incidents can happen in public spaces, like community gardens
- Report incidents to Garden City Harvest
 - [Incident Report Form](#)
- [Mitigating Theft and Vandalism Document](#)
- Theft is usually not malicious
- Engage watchful eye
- Educate the broader community and visitors
- Approach someone in the act



Community Garden Incident Response Plan



Garden City Harvest Incident Report Form
gardencityharvest.org/contact



Poverello Homeless Outreach Team (HOT)
Call or text 493-7955



Police Non-Emergency Report
Online form or call 552-6300



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

- Service hours
 - 3 hours per gardener or per plot
- Attend work days
- Sign up for a team
 - Check with leadership committee
- Great Day of Gardening
- Log in the recipe card box
- Volunteer Hours competition!
- More at gardencityharvest.org/volunteer



GARDEN OPERATIONS

SOIL AND STRAW

- 2 buckets of manure per plot
 - Follow signs at your garden (3 at Mil Trail)
- Add additional amendments by following [Our soil best practices](#)
- Use your garden's compost!



- ½ bale of straw per plot for overwintering crops
- Old straw still good for mulching or compost

WEEDING

- Your plot & pathways = your responsibility
- Springtime = weedingtime
- Weed guide in resource binder and on garden orientation pages
- [Top weeds in Missoula blog](#)
- Does not count for volunteer hours unless in the greater community garden!
- Pathways included....



Sneaky
weeds
hide
under
plants,
rocks,
and
mulch!

PATHWAYS

- Your pathways are your responsibility (details depends on garden site)
- Clear and accessible = human + wheelbarrow
- Irrigation in pathways at some sites
- Plan plot accordingly
- Cut back overgrown plants
- Pull wild sunflowers
- Help us out with weed whacking and mowing!



GARDEN PILES

- Weed and stalk piles
 - What about pesty or diseased plants?
- Compost aka “house compost”
- Straw
- Rocks
- Raspberry stalks and habitat piles



IRRIGATION AND WATERING

Gardeners' responsibility to water

- Most sites share communal hoses
- Always turn off water when done
- Open sprayer nozzle to release pressure

Keep your eye out for leaks and pooling

- Tell staff or call office asap!
- Leave a message on the board & Facebook
 - * River Road and Orchard Gardens gardeners
 - * Milwaukee Trail gardeners
- Watering time and amount will change with the season and as plants grow!



OTHER RANDOM THINGS

- Trash
 - Pack it in, pack it out! (& then some)
- Tools and Hoses
 - Do not take off site
 - If it breaks, alert staff
- Trellising and tomato cages
 - Store neatly in your plot or in communal space over winter
- Gates and Sheds
 - [Always close and lock](#)
 - Always double check!
- Pets on leash are welcome
 - Except on farms



DON'T WASTE, DONATE!

- Produce sharing systems at some gardens
- [Free fridges and pantries](#)
- Grow a Row with Missoula Food Bank
- [List of Places to Donate Extra Produce](#)
document online, in resource binder, and hanging on sheds



OUR TOP CROPS FOR BEGINNING GARDENERS

- Zucchini - one plant!
- Tomato - look for bush varieties like Glacier or Moskovitch, cherry tomatoes are prolific, but can be crazy.
- Bush beans
- Kale or chard
- Mixed greens
- Radishes
- Turnips
- Hot peppers
- Potatoes

jalapenos, cayennes,
etc.



THANK YOU FOR BEING HERE!

QUESTIONS?

**Don't forget to watch your garden orientation and tour!
Start working in your plot by May 1!**