

# Checklist

ideas to consider before starting a community garden



## 1. What type of community garden do we want?

Will the community garden be:

- a shared garden where participants share the gardening and the harvest
- an allotment garden where participants garden their own plot and share the maintenance of common areas
- a garden with both allotments and shared gardening space.

Allotment gardens:

How long can allotments be held while they are not being used? .....

What size will we make the allotments? .....

This can be influenced by the size of the area available for gardening.

## 2. What will be the purpose of our community garden

Recreation/ community building:

- a safe place where people can come together to grow food and get to know each other
- a place where parents can bring their children.

Other: .....

Food security and nutritional health:

- access to fresh, nutritious food
- reducing family expenditure on food
- supplementing the family food supply.

Other: .....

Education:

Will the garden be open to use and/ or visitation by community groups/ schools/ other educational bodies?

YES  NO

Will the gardeners offer workshops (eg. compost making, gardening etc) to the public? YES  NO

If not, will the gardeners make the garden available for others to provide educational services? YES  NO

Other educational activities: .....

## 3. How will we garden?

Organic gardening? YES  NO

Reasons: .....

If it is to be an organic garden, will this be explained to new gardeners when they join the garden - either verbally or in writing? YES  NO

Explained in some other way? .....





#### 4. What types of plants will we grow?

When considering what types of plants to grow in your community garden, remember that fruit and nut trees need plenty of space and should be spaced about 3-5 metres apart.

- vegetables
- herbs
- fruit/ nut trees
- flowers
- berry fruit shrubs
- water crops
- medicinal plants
- bush foods
- herbal tea plants
- native or indigenous plants

(native plants are those originating in Australia; indigenous plants originate in the local region)

#### 5. What animals will we keep?

- chickens
- other poultry
- bees
- no animals
- other animals.....

#### 6. What structures will we build in the community garden?

- sitting area to shelter from the sun and rain .....
- lockable shed for storing tools, seeds etc .....
- nursery for plant propagation.....
- fireplace for making coffee and tea - barbecue for preparing food.....
- play area for children.....
- public art .....
- educational signs.....
- rainwater tanks to collect water from the shed/shelter roof to irrigate the garden.....
- Other:.....

#### 7. What training do we need?

Gardening/construction skills:

- plant propagation
- garden soil analysis
- improving garden soils
- making compost
- using mulch - irrigation
- pest management
- seed saving
- garden construction
- developing a planting calendar
- planting out and harvesting

Other:.....

Design skills:

- site analysis and gardener needs analysis for the site design process
- garden design

Other skills:

- cooking what we grow
- promotional skills
- conflict resolution
- running effective meetings

Other:.....

Are any of these skills available in the community gardening group? YES  NO

If not where will we find these skills?.....

.....  
.....



## 8. How will we co-operate with local government?

Will the garden be a place where communities and local government can work together to demonstrate social and environmental policy compatible with the aims of community gardening, such as:

- waste reduction
- water conservation
- greening
- energy efficiency
- biodiversity
- nutritional health
- education for sustainability

Other:.....  
.....  
.....

## 9. How will we support biodiversity?

Will we plant non-hybrid seed of heritage or heirloom vegetables and fruits so we can collect, save and replant the crops?

YES  NO

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.....

Will the garden join the Seed Savers Network to learn more about food plant biodiversity, to obtain non-hybrid seed from the members of the network or to become the focus of a Local Seed Network?

YES  NO

.....  
.....

Will we propagate and distribute seed of endangered or rare local native (indigenous) plants?

YES  NO

.....  
.....

## 10. How will we educate gardeners and the public in waste reduction?

Will we demonstrate the reuse and recycling of waste organic matter through:

- compost
- worm farms
- mulching
- use of recycled materials

Other:.....  
.....

## 11. How will we conserve water in the garden?

- rainwater tanks
- mulching
- low-water-use plants
- low-water-use irrigation

Other:.....  
.....

## 12. How will we fund the garden?

- apply for grants
- membership fee
- other types of self-funding

How will we fund ongoing costs?.....  
.....  
.....



### 13. What will we look for in a preferred site for the garden?

size of area needed: .....

access to sunlight, water and wind protection etc.: .....

good quality soil       close to residential area       close to public transport

Comments/suggestions: .....

.....

.....

### 14. Description of the proposed management structure:

Will the garden organisational structure be an incorporated association?    YES     NO

Will the garden obtain public liability insurance?    YES     NO

How will decisions be made? .....

.....

.....

.....

What will be the proposed conflict resolution process? .....

.....

.....

.....

How will new members be recruited and trained? .....

.....

.....

### 15. How will gardeners ensure that there are no problems with:

Odour: .....

Vandalism: .....

Excessive noise: .....

Site aesthetics - how the site looks: .....

Rodents: .....

Parking: .....

Non-gardener access: .....

Other: .....



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