

Introduction to Community Gardening



Singapore, a City in Nature

Today, Singapore is one of the greenest cities in the world. The lush urban greenery that we have is the outcome of dedicated and sustained greening efforts throughout the past several decades.

With challenges like climate change and increasing urbanisation facing us, we have a bold vision to transform Singapore into a City in Nature, where greenery and nature are further restored into the urban environment. The City in Nature vision is also a key pillar of the Singapore Green Plan.

As we transform into a City in Nature, NParks is encouraging more people to garden as a means to bond with other members of the community and enjoy the benefits to health and well-being that come from being closer to nature.



Community in Bloom



Community in Bloom aims to promote a gardening culture among Singapore's residents. It is a collaborative partnership with both public and private sector organisations as well as volunteers, with NParks providing guidance and advice on community gardening.

Community in Bloom provides opportunities for people of diverse backgrounds to garden together. There are currently more than 1,600 community gardens under the Community in Bloom initiative.

Planning a Community Garden

If you wish to start your own community garden, consider these factors in your planning:

Location

Try to locate the garden in a visible place where a lot of people pass by to encourage participation.

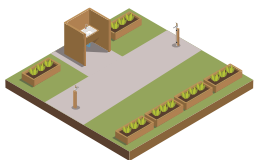


Existing Features

Take note of existing paths, trees, drains and other features, and incorporate them into the design of the garden.

Size, Shape and Slope of Plot

Determine the number and size of plants that you can grow by assessing the area of the garden and its topography. Do include pathways for easy access to the planter beds.



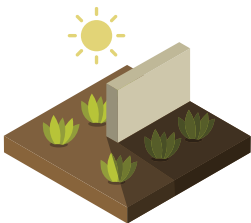
Water Source

Water is essential for gardening. Ensure that there is a water source within or near the garden.

Planning a Community Garden

Sunlight

Gauge how much sunlight the garden gets during the day to ensure that you choose the best plants for the location.



Sun loving plants

Semi-shade-loving plants

Shade-loving plants

> 6 hours of sunlight

4 – 6 hours of sunlight

< 4 hours of sunlight



Soil Conditions

Plants need good soil to grow well. If the existing soil is compacted or waterlogged, improve aeration and drainage by punching holes in the soil with a garden fork, or change the soil composition by adding sand or compost.

Plant Selection

Choosing plants that suit the conditions of the plot will allow the garden to thrive.



Visitorship

Make the garden welcoming to others by advertising its opening hours and bordering it with low-growing shrubs rather than a fence. Host open houses and share plants with other residents to integrate the garden into the neighbourhood.

Soil Mix

Different plants have different soil requirements. For example, plants that need less water do better in a sandy mix.

Soil Mix	Components (type of soil)			Best for
	Topsoil	Compost	Sand	
Standard	3 parts 	2 parts 	1 part 	Most plants
Sandy mix	1 part 	2 parts 	3 parts 	Plants that need less water, e.g. cacti
Moist mix	1 part 	3 parts 	None	Plants that need more water, e.g. yams

-  Topsoil refers to the top layer of soil. It drains fairly well and has some nutrients.
-  Compost refers to decayed organic matter that improves and conditions the soil when added.
-  Sand refers to loose granular material smaller than gravel. It is used to improve drainage.



Gardening Tools

Spade



Gloves



Changkul
(Hoe)



Secateurs



Watering can



Good Gardening Practices

Keep your garden neat and clean. This makes it visually pleasing for all in the neighbourhood to enjoy.



Good Gardening Practices



Ensure that no stagnant water collects in your garden to prevent mosquito breeding:

- Keep unused containers upturned and under shelter
- Keep drains and gutters clear of leaves
- Rear fish or put BTI pellets in ponds and water features
- Check pots and plant dishes for stagnant water
- Clean and scrub the inner surfaces of plant dishes thoroughly to remove any mosquito eggs



Safety



- Always use gloves when handling sharp tools and garden chemicals
- Store tools and equipment in a designated enclosed area to prevent accidents from occurring
- Be mindful of your surroundings when using garden tools like hoes
- Wear appropriate clothing and covered footwear when gardening to reduce the likelihood of injury
- Ensure that any hazardous gardening materials, such as pesticides and chemical fertilisers, are kept in a secure location out of reach of children and animals

Suitable Plants to Grow

Below is a list of suggested plants to consider growing for your community garden.

Symbols



Prefers full sun
(>6 hours of sunlight)



Requires a lot of water



Prefers semi-shade
(4-6 hours of sunlight)



Requires a moderate amount of water



Prefers full shade
(<4 hours of sunlight)



Requires little water

Leafy Vegetables

Leafy vegetables need a minimum of 4 to 6 hours of direct sunlight a day and daily watering. As they require more maintenance, they are more suitable for gardeners who are able to come to the plot daily.

Bayam

Amaranthus tricolor



Cai Xin

Brassica rapa



Ceylon Spinach

Basella alba



Suitable Plants to Grow

Kailan

Brassica oleracea



Kale

Brassica oleracea



Kang Kong

Ipomoea aquatica



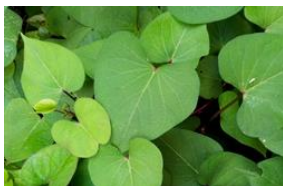
Lettuce

Lactuca sativa



Sweet Potato

Ipomoea batatas



Ulam Raja

Cosmos caudatus



Suitable Plants to Grow

Fruiting Vegetables

Fruiting vegetables need a minimum of 6 hours of sunlight a day and regular fertilising.

Bitter Gourd

Momordica charantia



Brinjal

Solanum melongena



Corn

Zea mays



Lady's-Finger

Abelmoschus esculentus



Long Bean

Vigna unguiculata



Suitable Plants to Grow

Loofah

Luffa cylindrica



Pumpkin

Cucurbita moschata



Soybean

Glycine max



Tomato

Solanum lycopersicum



Winged bean

Psophocarpus tetragonolobus



Winter Melon

Benincasa hispida



Suitable Plants to Grow

Herbs and Spices

Most herbs and spices are non-woody (herbaceous) plants that need full sun and regular fertilising.

Basil

Ocimum basilicum



Chilli

Capsicum annuum



Chives

Allium tuberosum



Mint

Mentha spp.



Pandan

Pandanus amaryllifolius



Suitable Plants to Grow

Ornamentals

Grown for their brightly coloured flowers or attractive foliage, most of these require full sun, lots of watering and frequent fertilising.

Chinese Rose

Hibiscus mutabilis



Heliconia

Heliconia cultivars



Philodendron 'Gold'

Philodendron erubescens



Portulaca

Portulaca oleracea



Summer Snapdragon

Angelonia angustifolia



Suitable Plants to Grow

Biodiversity-Attracting Plants

These plants are host or food plants for birds, bees and butterflies. By providing nectar, fruit or shelter, these plants help to enhance your garden as a potential habitat for various pollinators.

Blue Snakeweed

Stachytarpheta indica



Golden Dewdrop

Duranta erecta



Pagoda Flower

Clerodendrum paniculatum



Sendudok

Melastoma malabathricum



Turk's Turban

Malvaviscus arboreus



Suitable Plants to Grow

Groundcovers

Groundcovers are small plants that spread quickly to cover the area where they are planted. They help prevent soil erosion and weed growth.

Betel Vine

Piper betle



False Heather

Cuphea hyssopifolia



Pinklady

Heterotis rotundifolia



Rainbow Vine

Pellionia repens



Yellow Peanut Plant

Arachis pintoi



Suitable Plants to Grow

Fragrant Plants

These plants give off a scent when they flower, filling the air with a lovely fragrance.

Cape Jasmine

Gardenia jasminoides



Orange Jasmine

Murraya paniculata



Water Jasmine

Wrightia religiosa



Water Gardenia

Gardenia tubifera



Yesterday-Today -Tomorrow

Brunfelsia pauciflora



For more information on Community in Bloom,
visit www.nparks.gov.sg/cib or email us at
CommunityInBloom@nparks.gov.sg

For more information on plants in Singapore,
visit NParks Flora & Fauna Web at
www.nparks.gov.sg/florafaunaweb

For more gardening resources and tips,
visit go.gov.sg/gardening-resources



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