



EAST VILLAGE

Neighbourhood Association

2021 Garden Handbook

garden@yyceвна.org

CROSSROADS COMMUNITY GARDEN

Thank you to our partners: Green Meadow Landscapes and **Calgary Municipal Land Corporation** who provide assistance with numerous things including: compost pickup, irrigation system, funding and events. Also, thank you to **First On Colour** for printing the handbooks.

East Village Neighbourhood Association

<https://yycevna.org/>

Garden webpage and tips

<https://yycevna.org/Garden>

Garden email garden@yycevna.org

Volunteer Garden Registrar: Allison

Volunteer Garden Coordinator: Susan

Volunteer Handyman: Stan



May Seed Exchange

Maybe you bought too many flower and vegetable seeds. Or, perhaps you're looking for different types of seeds to grow this year. No problem. Why not share the bounty by swapping those seeds with other gardeners?

Opening of the Community Garden

Saturday, May 8, 2021

June Planting Deadline

Gardens must be planted by **June 15th**. No visible signs of planting the plot will be considered abandoned and maybe reassigned to the next gardener on the wait list. Fees will not be refunded and you will not be able to renew your garden bed for the following year.

COVID Guidelines

Garden users are responsible for their

own tools & watering can. Wash garden gloves on a regular basis.

September

Gardeners who harvest and clean their plots prior to **September 26** will have their names entered into a draw and two gardeners will have their fees waived for the following year.

October

Failure to maintain your garden plot can result in your plot being reassigned to a new gardener the following year.

Community Garden will close

Friday, October 15, 2021.

Irrigation System

Access to water in May and September is weather depended.

Gardening is a time commitment

Growing flowers/herbs/vegetables in a community plot is a very unique style of gardening with great benefits and some tough challenges that home gardeners don't experience.

The Benefits: meeting people from all over the community who share a love of gardening and learning from each of them by watching what they grow and how they set up their gardens.

The Challenges: the far distance from your home often limits how frequently you can visit your garden and the difficulty of managing your garden from afar. If you're not careful, these challenges can make community garden plots feel more like a burden than a joy.

But: A lot of hardship can be avoided if you pick the right plants for growing in a community garden.

Before you plant

Remove as many weeds as possible. You need to loosen your soil before you plant a garden. You can use a shovel or dig by hand. Once the soil is loosened, work compost into the soil to enhance the quality of the soil. When you are finished smooth the surface with a rake or your hands and water thoroughly. If you have time, allow the bed to rest for a few days before you begin planting.

Plot Maintenance

All gardeners are responsible for the maintenance and upkeep of his/her plot. Regular watering, weeding, harvesting and any other garden-related maintenance are all the responsibility of the gardener.

- You must keep your plot weeded so that water and nutrients are used by your plants and not weeds. A good rule of thumb is to weed weekly (on Wednesday's) while undesirable plants are small.
- In an effort to keep weeds under control and maintain a neat garden, ***all gardeners are encouraged to maintain the weeds surrounding their plot.***
- Crops, plants, and vegetation must be contained within the boundaries of the member's own plot, so they do not grow onto adjacent paths or another member's plot.
- Avoid watering neighbouring plots unless asked.
- **Gardeners are expected to actively garden during the growing season** and not just maintain a plot of weeds and/or stagnant plants.



Mitigating Theft & Vandalism in the Garden

You've worked hard all season, and now your tomatoes are ripe and ready to harvest. Then overnight, your veggies disappear. It's discouraging. Aside from sitting next to your garden 24/7 like a security guard, there is no foolproof way to ensure your harvest won't disappear from your plot. We will likely never completely cure the theft and vandalism problem, but there are a few things we can do to decrease the incidents and make our gardens feel more secure and safe. Report theft, damage, and odd activities to the garden committee.

Keep these tips in mind:

- **In August "dust" white flour over prized produce.** People might think it's laden with pesticides and won't take it. Remember to reapply after a rain.
- Keep your plot in good condition: fallen fruit, overripe vegetables and general disarray send the message that no one cares or that no one is gardening.
- Harvest fast: once vegetables and fruits are ripened, don't delay harvesting them. A thief will notice them quickly and leaving produce even a day later could mean its loss.
- **Lock the garden gate before you leave.**

Flower Garden

Annuals are an excellent way to ensure colour in your garden plot all summer long. Any plant that grows, flowers, produces seeds and dies over the course of one year is considered an annual.

Note: When choosing a spot to plant, consider the annual's growth habit. Position tall plants [like cosmos & sunflowers] at the back of your plot where they will not block the view of smaller plants. Keep it simple and plant three to four plants.

Tip: Sweet peas require a support to climb.

Muffin Tin Gardening

Use an old muffin tin to create even rows and spacing. It's easy to create impressions by pressing a muffin tin, open side up, firmly into your soil. That will make indents of perfectly spaced holes to plant your seeds or starters in. You are basically creating a perfectly plotted map of where to plant. Used the normal muffin tin for most of your planting, but switch to a mini muffin pan for smaller seeds like radishes, lettuce etc.

If you've never heard of it, give it a try.



Garden Tips for New Gardeners

Grow plants you will eat

If you love basil... grow basil. It sounds too simple to be considered a tip, but sometimes many new gardeners will bite off way more than they can chew by growing "cool" plants that they don't even like. Keep it simple and make a list of three to five plants you really enjoy working into your cooking and focus on those for your first season.

Give your plants space

A common mistake new gardeners make is drastically overcrowding their garden. It's natural to do this, because we often don't think of how our plants will look in the future... and that's what really matters. For example, a cauliflower seedling doesn't take up more than about a square inch or so. But a mature cauliflower will span at least 24" across if you include both the head and the leaves!

Water well

Watering is the second most important requirement for a thriving garden (the first being light), and it causes many beginner gardeners quite a bit of undue stress. **Tip:** Watering in the morning is best, then evening, then afternoon.

Bring on the blooms

Think bees, butterflies, ladybugs and more. To attract these good guys to your garden plot – and boost crop pollination – include planting **marigolds** between the veggies and herbs.

Bee a good garden host

A shallow dish or bowl with some rocks in it that sits above clean water is just enough to give bees a drink. The idea is to create a source of fresh water that has places for the bees to perch as they drink and collect water.



Dogs

Should you wish to bring your best friend to the garden, please remember that City of Calgary bylaws apply to this garden.

Leashes and “pick-up” required.



Bolting

A large number of common garden vegetables are grown in spring when the soil is cool, before the long days of summer have arrived. These vegetables are grown for their edible leaves such as **lettuce, spinach, arugula**. These plants all thrive in cool soil.

As the days get longer and the average soil temperature increases (becoming quite hot

at mid-day), these plants bolt, or “run to seed.” From the plant’s perspective, time is running out.



Its leaves may become bitter or unpleasantly spicy, and the leaves of some plants even sprout tiny hairs. Essentially, a bolted plant is no longer good for eating.

Wednesday Garden Draws

Dates to be announced:

June –Weeding and Watering Draw

3 prizes awarded to gardeners who are doing their best and actively gardening

July – Whimsy Draw

3 prizes awarded to gardeners who have placed a DIY project in their plot or something that is whimsical and catches the eye

August – Wow Draw

3 prizes awarded to gardeners who have grown something that is WOW

August – Wet Your Whistle (Free popsicles handed out)

Popsicle treat (nut/peanut free) will be handed out to garden children & grandkids and those young at heart.



Bicycle Parking

1	4	7	10	13	16
2	5	8	11	14	17
3	6	9	12	15	18

50	53
51	54
52	55

19	22	25	28	31
20	23	26	29	32
21	24	27	30	33

56	59	62
57	60	63
58	61	64

34	37	40	43
35	38	41	44
36	39	42	45

65	67	69	71
66	68	70	72

46	48
47	49

Apple Orchard

Garden Tool Shed

CMLC Storage

Garden/Playground Plaza

Playground

CMLC Events

6 Street SE

73	74	75	76
77	78	79	80
81	82	83	84
85	86	87	88

Denotes Water Spout