

# GARDEN HANDBOOK



Crossroads  
Community  
Garden



2022



## CROSSROADS COMMUNITY GARDEN SEASON 2022

After a long winter wait, the Garden season is upon us!  
Thank you to our partners!  
Green Meadow Landscapes and  
Calgary Municipal Land Corporation  
who provide assistance with important  
garden things including: compost,  
irrigation system, funding and events.

Also, thank you to First On Colour  
for printing the handbooks.

East Village Neighbourhood Association  
<https://yycevna.org/>

Garden email: [garden@yycevna.org](mailto:garden@yycevna.org)

Volunteer Garden  
Coordinators 2022: Allison & Addie

Volunteer Handyman: Stan

### •GARDEN DATES TO GROW BY•

**May 14<sup>th</sup>** **OPENING DAY!**  
**Gates are Opened!**  
**May 28<sup>th</sup>** **Seedling Sale**  
**June 13<sup>th</sup>** **Ready, Set, Planted!**  
(all gardens must be planted)

**June- July -August**  
**We water, We shine, We grow!**

**September 24<sup>th</sup>** **Garden Clean Up Day**  
**October 2<sup>nd</sup>** **Harvest Party!**  
**October 15<sup>th</sup>** **Final Dig**  
(last day for garden plots)  
**October 18<sup>th</sup>** **Garden Closed for 2022**  
(cleaned up and locked up)  
**January 2023** **Registration Opens**

### ... a few notes about dates:

Saturday, May 14: This is your first chance to prepare your soil for planting but there is no rush to plant! We'll be on hand rain or shine, sleet, or snow to answer questions and get you started.

Saturday, May 28: The general rule of green thumb for Calgary gardeners is that the first weekend in June is the last gasp for frost. So, if you haven't planted by this date, don't despair, lots of time. "Neighbours Nursery" will be here on this date to offer very local seedlings for sale. You can preorder and the information was emailed and is in the April Newsletter.

Monday, June 13: Well, see above when I mentioned that you had a lot of time to plant? Actually, this is it. You have until June 13 to plant your brilliant garden! There will be lots of opportunity to glean tips and check out what your neighbour is doing. If you need help, ask. Don't risk losing the plot!

June, July and August - stay tuned. We'll have some fun in the garden. Events will be announced when the Garden Fairies finish tax time and deadlines. Garden magic is at brewing. That's all we're saying for now.

Saturday, September 24 - Bonus date! If you are one of the highly organized gardeners in our midst, if you have harvested, cleaned and put your bed to well, bed by this date... you will be added to a draw for two lucky gardeners to have their 2023 garden fees waived! That's correct! It could be you! I know. It's very exciting!

Sunday, October 2 - Garden Party! Save the date for the great autumn /Thanksgiving party in East Village. Come out and enjoy!  
Saturday, October 15 - Garden Closes. You must have your garden plot and area around your plot, cleaned, harvested and weeded by this date and Head Garden Fairy is serious about it.

Tuesday, October 18 - Garden is locked for season. If you haven't cleaned your plot, the Garden Fairies will go in and as if by magic, your plot will vanish. Poof!

January 2023 (date TBD) - Registration for returning gardeners in good standing will open.

Are you a *shuttberbug*?

Make sure to tag your garden photos to share with us!

#crossroadsgarden

#evneighbours

info@YYCEVNA.org

Calgary East Village Neighbourhood Association

Follow us and check the website  
for info and event!s



## ***And now a message from our Garden Fairy...***

Greetings Gardeners of 2022! Welcome!

Over the next 5 months the garden will come alive with bright colours, bees, and all sorts of vegetables. It's magical! And you're part of it.

Your Garden Fairies are here to coordinate, but everyone is part of our Community Garden and we invite you to take care of not only your plot, but your part.

If you are wondering how to find a Garden Fairy, well, there are several methods to catch us. Sometimes, we'll appear in plain sight, resplendent in our East Village Neighbourhood Aprons. We may take different forms, but if you see an apron in the garden, good chance we are among you. Say Hi! We are friendly fairies!

Sometimes, there will be happy reminders that we exist within the garden itself... watch for surprises in the months ahead! We love prizes, games, and gardening tips! Remember, Garden Fairies are like all fairies and we do "flit" (well, let's face it... I'm too old to flit but whatever) around the plots to see the magic appearing!

As we go along, watch for emails from us. We like to keep it light and interesting and dare I say it... fun!

Everyone knows that Garden Fairies answer emails too. Right? Everybody knows that. You can always reach us by sending an email to [garden@yycevna.org](mailto:garden@yycevna.org). Fairies look forward to real handwritten notes too and we will have a central place to leave your messages for us!

Fairies live to be delighted by good garden news! What would we like to hear about? Successes! Garden tips! Kindness! Photos of your garden! Even better, photos of you in your garden! Send them to us or tag us! #evneighbours #eastvillageyyc.

What we don't like to hear about but want to know about... conflict, leaving the gates open, theft, smoking (anything), feeling scared or unsafe. Please be aware of yourself and your neighbour. Kindly let us know any concerns and we'll support you with information to keep you and our garden safe. Always be mindful in the garden and if you see something, please remove yourself and let us know.

Stay in the know about our upcoming garden events! Check your email, watch for posters around EV, and dare I say it... we can talk to each other! Masked or not, we can talk to each other! We're really glad to see you.

Let's have a great season everyone!

## **COMMUNITY GARDENER AGREEMENT & GARDEN RULES**

Rules and Guidelines are designed to facilitate:

- a safe and tidy community garden,
- a gratifying environment in which to work,
- a pleasant view for gardeners, neighbors, and the general public to look upon.

The Rules:

- annual plot rental fee (in addition to their EVNA membership)
- The period of plot rental shall be May-October.
- Commit the time to regular gardening.
- Returning gardeners in good standing have first opportunity to rent the same plot for next year's growing season.
- If a gardener is unable to continue gardening, they shall notify the Garden Coordinator. Gardeners wishing to cancel mid-season should notify the Garden Coordinator so that plots may be reassigned. There will be no fee reimbursement and all above ground material, including stakes, must be removed by the gardener.
- Planting deadline is June 13. If there are no visible signs of planting by then, the plot will be considered abandoned and may be reassigned to the next person on the wait list.
- Gardeners shall keep their plots weeded and tidy, and maintain the pathway surrounding their plot.
- If a gardener's garden bed is unkempt, they will be given two (2) weeks notice to clean it up. If they do not comply, their bed may be reassigned and their annual fee forfeited at the discretion of Garden Coordinator.
- All tools must be returned to the tool shed when you are done and the shed is to be locked. The tool shed combination is to be kept confidential among gardeners.
- Because plot usage is seasonal, a fall cleanup is required.
- All dogs must be on a leash and are not permitted to roam freely in the gardens. Owners must pick up after pets and bring the waste away with them.
- Smoking on the garden property is prohibited.

### **88 plots and a lot of new connections**

Interested in having a garden buddy ?

-get to know the gardener in the plot next to yours! Swap tips and help keep things watered and bright!

or

- email:[garden@yycevna.org](mailto:garden@yycevna.org)  
(or let Allison/Addie know) if you want to be paired with a garden buddy!

### **Do some good in the 'hood!**

**let EVNA know if you want to be a garden volunteer and help with summer events in our beautiful garden!**

email: [garden@yycevna.org](mailto:garden@yycevna.org)

# My Garden 2022

Plot # \_\_\_\_\_

## PLAN TO PLANT:

### - Plot Prep!

Weed your garden by turning the soil over and remove as many weeds as possible.

### - Stay loose out there gardeners!

Loosen your soil before you plant a garden by using a shovel or dig simply by hand.

### - Work it in!

Once the soil is loosened, work the compost into the soil to enhance the quality of the soil.

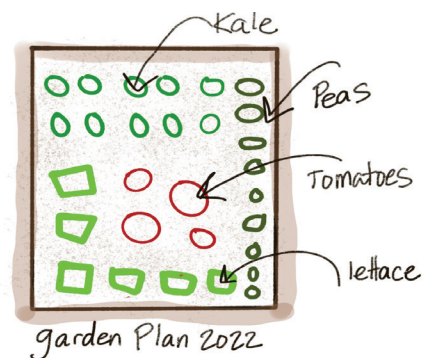
### - Smooth Moves!

Smooth the surface with a rake or your hands and water thoroughly.

### - Herb Your Enthusiasm...

If you have time, allow the bed to rest for a few days before you begin planting.

4' x 4'  
garden  
plot



Sketch how you would like to layout your garden plot; Keep tall plants from shading lower ones

**Tools** - Trowel, hoe, rake, gloves, lattice/netting to support peas, stake/cage to support tomatoes, compost, fertilizer, watering can

**Fertilizer** - It's recommended to add a good quality compost to your garden bed at the beginning of the season and regularly fertilize plants grown in containers, organic fertilizers and vermicompost are two good options.

**Weeding** - Thin your seedlings when they are large enough to handle to ensure their full and healthy growth. Remove intermediate seedlings, keep a 2-inch space for each plant to spread and grow. Throughout the season dig out weeds from your garden bed so they don't compete with your vegetables for sunlight or nutrients. This tends to be easier when they are wet, best after a rainfall.

**Watering** - Vegetables require soil to be damp, not soaking, down to a depth of five to six inches. This means that regular watering is necessary to maintain moisture.



- cucumber
- kale
- lettuce
- peas
- peppers
- spinach
- squash
- tomatoes
- zucchini

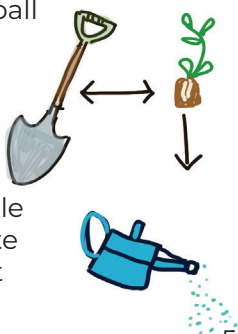


### Garden Fairy Pro Tip:

Water your vegetables thoroughly and early in the day; make sure to water the soil and not the foliage! Water droplets on foliage over night can encourage plant diseases to develop.

1. Dig a hole a little bit wider and deeper than the root ball using a trowel

2. Loosen roots gently by pressing the sides of the plastic container with your fingers. If there are multiple plants in one pack, separate each one so each plant root is no longer matted or grown together.



3. Place the plant in the hole and gently press the soil to hold the plant in place, but the soil is not packed.



4. Be sure to leave space between plants so there is room to grow.

5. Water well after planting and enjoy patiently watching it grow!

Got powdery mildew? It's ok...don't pull out those cucumbers just yet...

Here's a fairy elixer spray to take it away:

- 1 tbsp baking soda
- 1 tsp liquid soap
- 1 gal. water

Put it in a spray bottle when it's all mixed up and spray on foliage afflicted with powdery mildew!

## Crossroads Community Garden Plot Map 2022



The Crossroads Community Garden provides the opportunity for EVNA members to come together to grow vegetables, flowers, and herbs, meet new people, and enjoy the outdoors throughout the growing season (May-October)! The Garden has been an integral and active part of the community since its start in 2016 when Calgary Municipal Land Corporation (CMLC) provided a growing area which includes raised beds for gardeners with mobility challenges, accessible water, and a communal garden shed.

There are a total of 88 garden plots available.  
Each plot is leased for \$33 each growing season (May through October).  
A limited number of subsidized garden plots are available for seniors 65+.

88 plots &  
lot of fun!