

# Introduction to Community Gardening



# Singapore, a City in Nature

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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

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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.

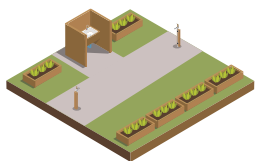


## Existing Features

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

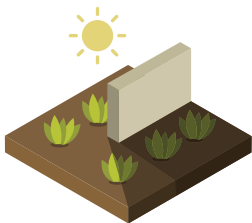
Water is essential for gardening. Ensure that there is a water source within or near the garden.

# Planning a Community Garden

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## 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

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Spade



Gloves



Changkul  
(Hoe)



Secateurs



Watering can



# Good Gardening Practices

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





# Good Gardening Practices

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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

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- 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

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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

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## 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

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## 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

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## Loofah

*Luffa cylindrica*



## Pumpkin

*Cucurbita moschata*



## Soybean

*Glycine max*



## Tomato

*Solanum lycopersicum*



## Winged bean

*Psophocarpus tetragonolobus*



## Winter Melon

*Benincasa hispida*



# Suitable Plants to Grow

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## 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

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## 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

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## 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

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## 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

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## 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](http://www.nparks.gov.sg/cib) or email us at  
[CommunityInBloom@nparks.gov.sg](mailto:CommunityInBloom@nparks.gov.sg)

For more information on plants in Singapore,  
visit NParks Flora & Fauna Web at  
[www.nparks.gov.sg/florafauanaweb](http://www.nparks.gov.sg/florafauanaweb)

For more gardening resources and tips,  
visit [go.gov.sg/gardening-resources](http://go.gov.sg/gardening-resources)



To learn more about our City in Nature,  
scan the QR code or visit  
[www.nparks.gov.sg/CityInNature](http://www.nparks.gov.sg/CityInNature)



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