

What is a Community Garden?

The University of Florida (UF) defines a community garden as “a collaborative green space in which the participants share in both the maintenance and the rewards”. Community gardens can be used for many purposes. Designated land can be divided up among neighbors for personal use or developed into school gardens where subjects including biology, environmental science, and mathematics can be taught and explored in the garden environment. Other community gardens have been used for growing food for food pantries, educational and training workshops, youth gardening programs, and integrated into senior centers. For more information on community gardens please visit <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/EP124>.

The key to success is to create a system for decision-making and responsibility-sharing that works for you and your garden. A governance system that involves all members of the garden and interested community members in maintaining and organizing garden operations will support long-term success.

Suggested Garden Responsibilities

- **Property Owner**—Owns the garden and all installed equipment and grants the lease of the property.
- **Grantee**—Provides funding for the garden.
- **Garden Advisor**—Individual experienced in growing vegetables in Central Florida (preferably a Master Gardener) who advises the Community Garden Organization on proper growing practices.
- **Garden Caretaker**—In charge of garden operation and enforces garden rules and bylaws.
- **Garden Organization Members**—Handles garden administration .
- **UF/IFAS Seminole County Extension**—Provides community garden trainings and guidance to community gardens within Seminole County.

Raised Bed Structure

Try recycling boards, wood from pallets, large rocks, blocks, and other materials for raised bed construction..

Start small—4' x 12' per family or 4' x 8' per single gardener

Concrete Blocks

Sides for raised beds – concrete blocks

- Number of blocks needed for 4' x 8' = 18 Blocks
- Number of blocks needed for 4' x 12' = 24 Blocks

Hint: Fill the holes of the blocks with compost to grow herbs and flowers.

Concrete Block Suppliers in Seminole County, FL
Rinker Materials – 1-800-741-8861
2210 W. 25th St. Sanford, FL 32771
Blocks are \$2.50 a piece



Wood

Boards

- 4' x 8' garden - \$12 - \$30 depending on board width (2x6s, 2x8s, 2x10s, or 2x12s)
- 4' x 12' garden - \$18 - \$44 depending on board width

Pallets

Free to around \$30 a pallet (pallet wood can be broken down to create raised beds) Note – Craigslist may be a source for free pallets, wood, and/or blocks.

Garden Supplies

Garden Tools

Shovels, hand trowels, garden rakes, bamboo poles, cotton string, wheel barrows, pitch forks for turning compost pile, plant labels (you can use plastic knives and write the name of the plant with a Sharpie pen), a shed for tools with a lock.

Weed Control

-Newspapers and cardboard for the bottom of beds
-Utility mulch between beds or mow the grass between the beds.

Pest Control

-Insecticidal soap, horticultural oil, Thuricide (needs to be stored in air conditioned room), sulfur fungicide, copper fungicide, latex gloves
-Hand sprayers and pump sprayer

Fertilizer

-If fruit trees are to be grown, buy fruit tree fertilizer from Sunniland Corporation (800-432-1130) or another local fertilizer company.

Fence

-Include the cost of gates and locks.



Compost/Mulch Suppliers

Compost Coverage

Community Garden Materials Guide

Bulk Compost

Check with local garden centers and nurseries for used potting soil. Compost at home or use "old" potting soil that has naturally composted on-site.

Used potting soil can be mixed with compost (up to 50% potting soil). Avoid using top soil or landscape soil for raised beds.

Mushroom Compost

Monterey Mushrooms - 5949 Sadler Rd., Zellwood, FL

	Truck Capacity in Yards	\$ Price
Tue, Thu, Sat	40	\$50.00
	25-35	\$40.00
Mon, Wed, Fri, Sat	20	\$25.00
	15	\$20.00
	10-15	\$15.00
	Small Trailers	\$10.00
	Pick-ups	\$10.00

*Open from 7:00AM to 3:00PM. Any questions please contact at 407- 905-4000 Ext. 4022

Bagged compost

Bagged compost is easy to find at most garden centers and hardware stores.

Manure

Check with local horse stables for manure. Either compost it at home or take manure that has been composted on-site. Do not use fresh manure. It needs to be composted before use. Avoid using sewage sludge (sewage biosolids) such as Milorganite and similar products where edible plants are being grown.

Build compost bins - You can use cheap materials such as shipping pallets for the sides of the compost pile.

Mulch

Mulch can be used between raised plant beds, walkways, around shrubs and trees.

Free Mulch (Utility mulch)

Contact FPL (FL Power & Light) at 800-226-3545 for free mulch. When line-clearing contractors are trimming trees in your area, you may be eligible for free mulch. FPL does not recommend this mulch for aesthetic use in formal landscape beds, but rather for use around trees and other plants. Orders for mulch are filled based on a minimum of one truckload.

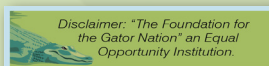
Garden Size in Feet	Depth Required, in inches *			
	6 inches	8 inches	10 inches	12 inches
2 X 2	0.10 yds.	0.10 yds.	0.15 yds.	0.15 yds.
2 X 4	0.15 yds.	0.20 yds.	0.25 yds.	0.30 yds.
2 X 6	0.25 yds.	0.30 yds.	0.40 yds.	0.50 yds.
4 X 4	0.30 yds.	0.40 yds.	0.50 yds.	0.60 yds.
4 X 6	0.50 yds.	0.60 yds.	0.75 yds.	0.90 yds.
4 X 8	0.60 yds.	0.80 yds.	1 yd.	1.2 yds.
4 X 10	0.75 yds.	1 yd.	1.25 yds.	1.5 yds.
4 X 12	0.90 yds.	1.2 yds.	1.5 yds.	1.8 yds.
8 X 8	1.2 yds.	1.6 yds.	2 yds.	2.4 yds.
8 X 10	1.5 yds.	2 yds.	2.5 yds.	3 yds.
8 X 12	1.75 yds.	2.4 yds.	3 yds.	3.6 yds.

***1 cubic yard = 27 cubic feet**

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Information adapted from:
Adrian Hunsberger, Urban Horticulture Agent
University of Florida/IFAS Miami-Dade County Extension Office
305- 248-3311 • December 2009

Information adapted from:
Orange County Community Gardens Guide
Ed Thralls, Residential Horticulture Agent
University of Florida/IFAS Orange County Extension
407- 254-9200



UF UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA
IFAS Extension


SEMINOLE COUNTY
FLORIDA'S NATURAL CHOICE



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