

Dexter Community Garden
Gardening Guidelines
2012 Season

Dexter Community Garden hopes you enjoy your community garden experience and would like to encourage you to garden in socially and environmentally responsible ways. Fertilizers and pest control measures which may be used in the garden plots are those which are accepted by major organic certification agencies. In general, soil fertility is maintained by creating optimal conditions for soil biological activity through processes like crop rotations and the maintenance of soil organic content. Judicious use of organic and natural mineral soil amendments is also practiced, and in some cases processed mineral fertilizers may be acceptable for short-term use. Guidelines for permissible gardening practices and land use practices are given below:

Weed Control

Herbicides of any kind are **prohibited** in the garden plots, as they are hazardous to human health, may kill or damage desirable crops, drift into neighboring gardens, or persist in the soil. Hoeing, mulching, and hand weeding are recommended.

Insect Control

Synthetic insecticides are **prohibited** in the garden plots. Preferred control methods are crop rotation, hand picking of insect pests, introduction of predator species, such as ladybugs, companion planting, soil solarization, and biological controls, e.g. *Bacillus thuringiensis*, a bacterium that controls cabbage worms. As a last resort, natural botanicals, i.e. rotenone and pyrethrum (that break down quickly and do not leave harmful residues in the soil) may be used.

Disease Control

Most problems can be controlled if you maintain a healthy soil, choose disease-resistant varieties, water judiciously, and remove diseased plants from the garden.

Fertilizers and Soil Amendments

Commercial inorganic fertilizers (i.e., 5-1-5, Miracle Grow, etc.) are **prohibited**. Products of plant or animal origin, i.e. compost, leaf mold, livestock manure, blood and bone meal, cover crops, fish emulsion, kelp meal, liquid seaweed, and commercial organic fertilizers are acceptable. Natural mineral fertilizers, i.e. greensand, granite dust, and ground limestone, are also acceptable. Gardeners are strongly urged to add as much organic material (i.e. compost, leaf mold, and manure) as possible to their plots to maintain soil fertility.

Non-Acceptable Plants

Dexter Community Garden cannot allow plants with the following characteristics to be grown in any of the gardens:

Invasive species, i.e. mint, comfrey, etc.
Trees, bushes, or other woody perennials
Illegal or dangerous plants

End of Season Community Garden Closing Information

1. Remove all fencing, cages, stakes, string, plastics and all other non-organic material from your garden and take them home with you. Do not place any material in sheds. Remove rock borders and large rocks and put them in designated rock piles.
2. Pull out all plants that have tough stalks or long vines, such as sunflowers, corn, pumpkin, etc, and cut them into 12-inch pieces. These can be spread around your site, to be plowed under later in the fall. Similarly, chop all non-infected plant materials into 12-inch pieces and spread around your plot. Please do not leave them in piles or throw them outside the garden perimeter. If you have un-used bales of hay, spread them throughout your plot.
3. Remove all tomatoes and diseased or once infected materials from your plot and discard at home.

Parking and Land Use at garden site

1. Park vehicles only in designated areas at the garden site and contact program coordinator when parking is necessary outside those areas.
2. Dogs and other pets are not permitted at the garden site.
3. Please remove and dispose of at home all trash.
4. It is unsafe to go into or climb on any of the buildings on the Dan Hoey property (other than the shed designated for tools). Please enjoy the community garden portion of the property but keep away from the structures.
5. Hours of operation for the garden are dawn to dusk.
6. Power equipment is not allowed in the community garden without consent of the program coordinator.