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ACTION SHEET: CREATING A COMMUNITY GARDEN

Gardening Toolkit

A Community Garden is a plot of land used to grow flowers, fruits, and/or vegetables, and is managed by a cooperative group of people. Community gardens can increase the accessibility of local fresh fruit and vegetables, make use of spare or run-down land, and create meaningful projects. Creating and running a community garden is also a great way for a Pod to get involved with other community members -- everyone gets their hands dirty, spends time outside, promotes plant-based eating through the production of fresh and local produce, and makes a beautiful garden for the neighborhood to enjoy!

Form a Gardening Committee: Identify the Pod Members who are interested in helping with or leading the creation of the garden. It may also be useful to identify other people in the community who have an interest, particularly those who might be able to offer expertise. Post flyers in grocery stores, schools, and other community spaces; publish an ad in a local newspaper; and/or talk to gardening stores about finding volunteers to help create a community garden.

Hold a meeting with the Committee to assign roles, divy up tasks, and create a plan. A Gardening Committee will need to:

1. Find a workable site;
2. Design the garden space/plots;
3. Tend the garden -- turn the soil, plant seeds, water and grow the crops.

Spread the Word: Once the garden gets underway, it's a wonderful opportunity to get the greater community involved! Attract attention to your garden by putting up flyers, talking to local gardening or outdoor shops, connecting with local media outlets for promotion, and creating a sign for your garden. Promoting your garden will bring on additional volunteers, get the community excited for fresh produce, and increase protection and monitoring of the garden. Also consider reaching out to local schools and elderly centers as they may welcome a volunteer project!





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Here are some excellent resources:

- [The Square Foot Gardening Foundation](#) - Learn about the SFG method, humanitarian projects, community gardens and more.
- The [American Community Gardening Association](#) is particularly useful when starting a Community Garden. The website offers [resources](#) for Community Garden Management, as well as programs and support for garden volunteers.
- Organic Life's '[How to Start a Community Garden](#)' has detailed information about forming a Gardening Group, Finding a Workable Site, and Starting Sowing!
- The [Let's Move](#) Campaign has a useful gardening guide, including a '[Community Garden Checklist](#)'. Keep it on hand as you go through the process of creating your garden, and it is also very useful for garden design!
- In designing the garden, also consider the size of the plots, where different plants will grow, building a [compost bin](#) for the site, and installing a [rain barrel](#).
- Additional horticultural information and gardening support can be found by contacting your county's local [Cooperative Extension Service](#), garden clubs, or garden centers.
- The United States Department of Agriculture's [People's Garden](#) also has [webinars](#) on a variety of gardening topics, [funding resources](#), and step-by-step [gardening information](#).



The Square Foot Gardening Method has been utilized to create community gardens all over the world. To find out more about Square Foot Gardening please visit their website: <http://www.squarefootgardening.org/>.

We welcome you to send suggestions and ideas to info@plantpurecommunities.org. This material may not be used out of context. Please refer to PPC's terms and conditions for more information. Updated March 2018.