Introduction to Community Gardening
Former Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew had a vision to make Singapore a distinctive and attractive place to live in. In 1963, he planted a Mempat tree at Farrer Circus, signifying the start of our nation’s greening campaign.

Over the decades, as Singapore evolved from a Garden City to a City in a Garden, various species of flowering trees and plants were introduced. More parks were also developed and they gradually evolved into quality green spaces with a wide range of amenities for the community to enjoy. Conscious efforts were also made to conserve our natural heritage and enhance the wildlife in our urban areas.

The pervasive green network of nature reserves, parks, park connectors, tree-lined roads and other nature areas has made our city a more pleasant place to live, work and play in.
Community In Bloom

Community In Bloom aims to promote a gardening culture among Singapore’s residents by encouraging and facilitating gardening efforts by the community. It is a programme based on a collaborative partnership with both public and private sector organisations and volunteer groups to promote gardening among residents, students and workers. NParks provides guidance and advice to community groups as part of this island-wide community gardening initiative.

In collaboration with various gardening interest groups, Community In Bloom provides opportunities for people of diverse backgrounds to garden together.

There are currently more than 1,000 Community Gardens under the Community In Bloom programme.
Planning Considerations

Sunlight
Choose your plant species in relation to how much light your garden gets.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Plant Type</th>
<th>Sunlight Requirement</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sun loving plants</td>
<td>&gt; 6 hours of sun</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Semi-shade loving plants</td>
<td>= 4-6 hours of sun</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shade loving plants</td>
<td>&lt; 4 hours of sun</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

Existing Soil
Your plants need good soil to grow well. If the existing soil is compacted or waterlogged, you will need to improve aeration and drainage by forking or changing the soil composition by adding sand or compost.

Plant selection
Ensure that your plants are not spiky or thorny to reduce the likelihood of accidents.
Design your garden according to the size and gradient of the land as these determine the number and size of the plants you can grow. Be sure to incorporate maintenance pathways for easy access to planter beds.

**Size, Shape & Gradient Of Land**

**Existing Features**

Be aware of existing structures (e.g. lamp posts, paths, trees, drains and underground pipes). Remember to incorporate them into your Community Garden design.

**Visibility**

Try to locate Community Gardens in visible places with high human traffic to encourage participation.

**Encourage Visitors**

Design your Community Garden to be fenceless, or with low perimeter planting to make it more open. Put up opening hours to encourage other residents and people to visit. Hosting open houses or sharing plants are good ways to integrate your Community Garden into the neighbourhood.
Mix Your Own Soil

Different plants need different soil compositions suitable for their growth habits to optimize their growth. For example, plants that need less water do better in a sandy mix.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Soil Mix</th>
<th>Components</th>
<th>Best for:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Standard</td>
<td>3 partsLoamy soil/topsoil 2 partsCompost 1 partSand</td>
<td>Most plants</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sandy mix</td>
<td>1 partLoamy soil/topsoil 2 partsCompost 3 partsSand</td>
<td>Plants that need less water, eg. cacti</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moist mix</td>
<td>1 partLoamy soil/topsoil 3 partsCompost noneSand</td>
<td>Plants that need more water, eg. yams</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Soil Components

Topsoil refers to the uppermost layer of soil in the ground. 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 enhance drainage when added to soil.
Gardening Tools

- Spade
- Gloves
- Changkul (Hoe)
- Secateurs
- Watering can
Good Gardening Practices

Keep your garden neat and clean. This makes it visually pleasing and welcoming for all to enjoy as a focal point in your neighbourhood.
Ensure that no stagnant water collects in your garden to prevent mosquito breeding.

**Tips:**

- Keep unused containers upturned and under shelter
- Keep drains and gutters clear of leaves
- Ensure that stagnant water does not collect on leaf litter
- Always have fishes in ponds and water features
- Check pots and plant dishes for stagnant water
- If you do use plant dishes, clean and scrub the inner sides thoroughly to remove mosquito eggs
Safety

- Always use gloves when handling soil, 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 fertilizers, are kept in a secure location out of reach of children or animals
Plant Choice

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 6 hours of sunlight a day and daily watering.

Choy Sum
Brassica rapa

Bayam
Amaranthus tricolor

Lettuce
Lactuca sativa

Learn about these plants and more at www.florafaunaweb.nparks.gov.sg
Kang Kong
*Ipomoea aquatica*

Sweet Potato
*Ipomoea batatas*

Kailan
*Brassica oleracea*

Kale
*Brassica oleracea*

Ceylon Spinach
*Basella alba*

Ulam Raja
*Cosmos caudatus*
Fruited Vegetables

Fruited vegetables need a minimum of 6 hours of sunlight a day and regular fertilizing.

Brinjal
*Solanum melongena*

Pumpkin
*Cucurbita moschata*

Tomato
*Solanum lycopersicum*

Corn
*Zea mays*

Winged bean
*Psophocarpus tetragonolobus*
Bitter Gourd
Momordica charantia

Lady’s-Finger
Abelmoschus esculentus

Loofah
Luffa cylindrica

Winter Melon
Benincasa hispida

Soybean
Glycine max

Long Bean
Vigna unguiculata
Herbs & Spices

Herbs and spices are aromatic plants used for the flavouring of our food. Some have medicinal properties. Most are non-woody (herbaceous) plants that need full sun and regular fertilizing.

**Chili**  
*Capsicum annuum*

**Fragrant Pandan**  
*Pandanus amaryllifolius*

**Curry Leaf Tree**  
*Murraya koenigii*

**Basil**  
*Ocimum basilicum*

**Mint**  
*Mentha spp.*
Ornamentals

These are plants grown for their brightly coloured flowers or foliage. Most of these need full sun, lots of watering and frequent fertilizing.

**Heliconia**

*Heliconia* cultivars

**Portulaca**

*Portulaca oleracea*

**Chinese Rose**

*Hibiscus mutabilis*

**Philodendron ‘Gold’**

*Philodendron erubescens*

**Summer Snapdragon**

*Angelonia angustifolia*
Attracting Biodiversity

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.

**Sendudok**  
*Melastoma malabathricum*

**Pagoda Flower**  
*Clerodendrum paniculatum*

**Golden Dewdrop**  
*Duranta erecta*

**Turk’s Turban**  
*Malvaviscus arboreus*

**Blue Snakeweed**  
*Stachytarpheta indica*
Ground Cover

Ground cover plants are small shrubs that spread quickly to cover the area where they are planted. They help prevent soil erosion and growth of weeds.

**False Heather**  
*Cuphea hyssopifolia*

**Pinklady**  
*Heterotis rotundifolia*

**Betel Vine**  
*Piper betle*

**Yellow Peanut Plant**  
*Arachis pintoi*

**Rainbow Vine**  
*Pellionia repens*
Fragrant

These plants give off a scent when they flower, filling your Community Garden with a lovely fragrance.

**Orange Jasmine**  
*Murraya paniculata*

**Cape Jasmine**  
*Gardenia jasminoides*

**Yesterday-Today -Tomorrow**  
*Brunfelsia pauciflora*

**Water Jasmine**  
*Wrightia religiosa*

**Water Gardenia**  
*Gardenia tubifera*
For more information, visit our website: www.nparks.gov.sg/cib

Alternatively, email us to find out more at communityinbloom@nparks.gov.sg

For more varieties of plants and their growth requirements, visit Flora and Fauna web at www.florafaunaweb.nparks.gov.sg

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