

Monticello Area Community Garden

2018 Garden Guidelines

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the Monticello Area Community Garden. We are glad you have decided to join us in the garden! Perhaps you are here because you do not have suitable space for gardening or are you are reluctant to dig up part of your yard. Maybe you are here because you want to garden next to others who are like-minded and have a love of growing plants.

The garden is a partnership between Kirby Medical Center, the City of Monticello, & University of Illinois Extension in Piatt County.

Two plot sizes are available:

12' x 12'

12' x 24'

Each plot is considered an annual garden plot; currently perennial garden plots are not available. The space will be tilled and planted in a cover crop annually.

The garden is restricted to organic practices. Organic gardening means that the **use of synthetic chemical pesticides or fertilizers is not permitted**. This policy is in place for your protection, as well as your harvest, the soil & wildlife. Discuss organic gardening practices with other gardeners, share your experience and ask for their input if you are unsure of how to solve a problem. If you have additional questions regarding organic or other garden practices, please contact the Piatt County Extension Office, 210 S. Market Street, Monticello, (217) 762-2191. Please be aware that some homemade remedies can cause irreparable damage to the soil and/or plants. Please do your research!

GENERAL INFORMATION

Gardens are assigned on a first come, first served basis. Priority will be given to return gardeners who finished the previous season in good standing. Please send your application to Callie Jo McFarland at cjm@cityofmonticello.net or to Beth Allhands at vallhand@illinois.edu.

Garden Fees

12' x 12' - \$30 annually

12' x 24' - \$50 annually

Deposit - \$30 (any size plot)

Season Open/Close

Garden Opens – April 1

Garden Closes – Oct 15

CONTACT INFORMATION

Questions and concerns regarding the Monticello Area Community Garden should be directed to Beth Allhands at vallhand@illinois.edu.

ORGANIC GARDENING RULES & GUIDELINES

Upon registration for the Monticello Area Community Garden, you are agreeing to abide by these rules and guidelines, or you are subject to relinquish your plot and deposit. Please read the following guidelines carefully.

1. Non-organic pesticides, herbicides and/or fertilizers are strictly prohibited. Rotenone, although listed as an organic method, is not allowed. If something is questionable, please ask.

2. Plots should be nicely maintained – weeds should not be allowed to grow taller than 12". Gardeners should manage weeds before they go to seed. Gardeners with inadequate weed control will receive a warning. Unattended weeds are cause for garden forfeiture after two warnings have been issued.

3. Keep your plantings within your assigned plot area, and maintain a mandatory clean edge around your garden.

Full plots with border will measure: 12' x 24'

Half Plots with border will measure: 12'x 12'

4. Fences are allowed but material must have prior approval from the Monticello Area Community Garden Working Group. The Working Group includes: Callie Jo McFarland – City of Monticello, Steve Tenhouse – Kirby Medical Center, Doug Harlan, Candice Hart and Beth Allhands - University of Illinois Extension. Fences cannot be taller than 5' and must be placed in a manner that allows other gardeners to access water spigots. All fencing materials must be hauled to and from the parking area by hand—no vehicles are allowed beyond the paved parking area, nor on the Kirby Medical Center Wellness Trail. Please contact Beth Allhands at 217-762-2191 or vallhand@illinois.edu with fencing material details for approval.

5. Any mulch used in the garden should be organic and be tillable into the ground at the end of the season. Examples of organic material mulches include: straw, wood chips, grass clippings, and leaves.

6. Thin, plastic mesh netting is not allowed. This light netting can blow away and poses a threat to area wildlife.

7. If you use floating row cover, please be certain it is securely anchored; high winds are very likely in the garden.

8. Water hoses are provided and will be stored in a garden storage unit. Personal storage units are not allowed.

9. You must provide your own garden tools, equipment & supplies, including seeds and/or plants. Kirby Medical Center, the City of Monticello, nor the University of Illinois Extension are responsible for loss of personal equipment, supplies, plants or produce.

10. Keep pathways free of tools and debris. Recoil hoses neatly after use and return them to the garden storage unit. Report problems with hoses to Beth Allhands.

11. Diseased plants should be removed from the garden. Please dispose of such material in your home waste collection. Help reduce the spread of disease by not putting these plants in the compost pile or leaving them along the garden edges.

12. All disease-free plant material can be added to the compost pile. Only biodegradable materials are allowed in the compost site. Do not leave plant waste in the garden area. Please see pages 5-6 for a list of materials that can be safely composted.

13. Perennial plantings are not permitted. The garden area will be tilled annually.

14. Contact Beth Allhands at 217-762-2191 with any problems or concerns you may have.

Failure to adhere to these guidelines will result in the following procedures:

1. Gardener in violation will receive one warning by phone call or email.

2. If violation not corrected within 10 days, a postcard will be sent. 3. If the issue has not been resolved after a period of an additional 10 days, the garden plot in violation will be mowed, and the garden deposit forfeited.

END OF THE SEASON CLEANUP

The following guidelines must be **completed on or before October 15, 2018**. Failure to meet these standards at that time will result in forfeiture of garden deposits.

1. All full-plot and half-plot gardeners must clear their plots of all non-plant (fencing, stakes, strings, plastics, cardboard, etc.) and large plant material (corn, broccoli, sunflower stalks, etc.).

2. All non-plant items (stakes, fencing, tomato cages, etc.) must be removed from the garden and surrounding area. In order offer this opportunity we rely on gardeners to remove **all** materials brought in during the season. Do not put non-plant materials in the compost pile or waste bin.

3. Return the plot to a level state to enable fall plowing. Break up large soil clumps, level raised beds, and fill in holes and furrows.

Garden Plots Gardeners will be assigned a garden plot number before the season begins. If renewing a garden plot from previous year, you will be guaranteed the same plot if renewing before April 1.

Restrooms are located inside Kirby Medical Center. If using the facilities please be mindful of any dirt on you or on your shoes. Do not track in mud or debris from the garden.

Parking is available in the paved parking lot only. Gardeners are not permitted to drive up to their garden plots, nor drive on the Kirby Medical Center Wellness Trail. Violation of these rules will result in immediate forfeiture of your garden plot and deposit.

Compostable Items

Please compost only disease-free plant material in the community compost bin. Do not add trash or other refuse to the bin.

For more information please refer to University of Illinois Extensions – [Composting for the Homeowner](http://web.extension.illinois.edu/homecompost) site at <http://web.extension.illinois.edu/homecompost>.

TABLE 2. Partial Listing of Compostable Materials

MATERIAL	C/N	MATERIAL	C/N
Bedding, herbivorous	C & N	Hair	N
Blood meal	N	Hay	C
Bone meal	N	Lake weeds	N
Coffee grounds	N	Leaves	C
Crushed egg shells	O, alkalizer	Lint	N
Feathers	N	Manure	N
Fruit	N	Paper (non-recyclable)	C
Fruit peels and rinds	N	Peanut shells	C
Garden debris, dried	C	Straw	C
Garden debris, fresh	C & N	Pumpkins	N
Grass clippings, dried	C	Vegetable scraps	N
Grass clippings, fresh	N	Tea grounds and leaves	N

TABLE 3. Compostable Materials Requiring Special Handling

MATERIAL	C/N	COMMENT
Cardboard (non-recyclable)	C	Slow to decompose. Shred into small pieces. If desired, put in water and add a drop of detergent to further speed decomposition.
Corn cobs and stalks	C	Slow to decompose. Run through shredder or chop into very small pieces, mix with nitrogen rich material.
Diseased plants	C	Diseases may be hard to eliminate. Sun-bake plants in plastic bag until thoroughly dried, or leave in hot pile (131°-140°F) at least one week, or burn and put ashes in pile, or omit from pile.
Grass clippings with chemicals	C	Pesticides and herbicides are a concern, degradability ranges from one to twelve months. Leave grass clippings on the lawn (best) or add to pile if material composts for at least 12 months or wait 2-3 weeks before using clippings from lawn after chemicals applied. Do not use clippings as a garden mulch for at least 2-3 weeks (or after 2 mowings) after chemical application.
Hedge trimmings	C or N	Slow to decompose. Thin layers of hedge trimmings can be used occasionally for roughage; chop twigs and branches into small pieces.
Lime	O, Alkalizer	Changes pile chemistry, causes nitrogen loss, and too much lime hurts bacteria and other microorganisms. Omit from pile or use very sparingly in thin layers if pile is going anaerobic (do not mix with manure).
Nut shells - walnut, pecan	C	Slow to decompose. Pulverize with shredder.
Peat moss	O, low in nutrients	Highly moisture absorbent, slow to decompose. Mix thoroughly with other materials, add in small quantities. If possible, soak peat moss in warm water before adding to pile.

Pine Cones	C	Slow to decompose. Shred or chop into very small pieces.
Pine needles	C	Slow to decompose. Mix thoroughly with other materials, add in small quantities.
Rhubarb leaves	N	Contains oxalic acid which lowers pH and inhibits microbial activity. Add in very small quantities, mix thoroughly with other materials or omit from pile.
Sawdust	C	Slow to decompose, can negatively affect aeration. Work into pile in thin sprinklings, mix with nitrogen rich material.
Sod	N	Slow to decompose. Break into small clumps, mix thoroughly with other materials or cover top of the pile with roots up, grass down (better in fall), or compost separately with roots side up, water thoroughly, cover with a dark tarp.
Soil	O, Activator source	Can make finished compost heavy. Add small quantities in thin layers as soil activator or omit from pile (finished compost produces the same results and typically weighs less).
Walnut leaves	C	Contain juglone which can be toxic to plants. Add in small quantities, mix thoroughly; toxin will biodegrade in 30 to 40 days.
Weeds, pernicious	C	Rhizomatous root system hard to kill. Sun-bake in plastic bag until thoroughly dried or omit from pile.
Weeds, other	N	Weed seeds hard to kill. Best to use when green and no seed heads present or leave in hot pile (131-140°F) at least one week.
Wood ashes	O, Alkalizer, potash	Changes pile chemistry, can cause nutrient imbalance. Use very sparingly in thin layers; do not use on top of pile or omit from pile.
Wood chips	C	Slow to decompose. Shred or chop into very small pieces; mix with nitrogen rich material.