



Newsletter 1: March 2001

Yellowknife Community Garden Collective

Welcome Returning Members !

Gardening season 2001 has begun! Even though it was -32° out the other week, it's time to think about the YCGC and how you would like to be involved this year.

In this package you will find, among other things, a membership form, a waiver form that is required by the YCGC, the bylaws of the YCGC, and plot assignments as they were last summer.

Membership Sign-up

Board members have received interest from many non-members who wish to get a plot this year. Before we start to allocate plots to new members we need to confirm with the current membership who will be returning. Membership is \$5 and plot fees are \$20 per plot. Should you wish to renew your membership, please **return your membership application, signed waiver form, and payment, to the membership co-ordinator by April 15**.

Please make cheques payable to the YCGC. Your membership and plot assignment will be confirmed as soon as possible, and you will be provided with receipt of payment and your membership card.

Please confirm your membership as soon as possible !! This will give new members some advance notice that they will be gardening, too.

Plot Allocation

As in years past, people are asked to pair up (min. 2 people per plot) in order to provide other Yellowknifers with the opportunity to garden. For returning members: if there are any changes to your gardening arrangements for this year (plot partner, do not want to keep same plot ...), please contact a site manager. Do so as soon as possible please — even before sending in your membership application form. This will help to avoid any confusion in confirming this year's gardening arrangements.



Seed Exchange & Ordering Party

7:30 pm, April 10, 2001
Library meeting room

Come join us for an evening of garden planning, seed trading and ordering, and sharing of garden stories.

If you have saved your own seeds or have extras from previous years that are still viable please bring them along to swap. Bring a favorite seed catalogue, there will be a variety to choose from... this is a chance to put in a joint seed order and reduce shipping costs.

And remember to bring a mug, as the kettle will be whistling for a hot cup of tea for you and your gardening friends. Community Garden Members and friends welcome! For more information please call Roxanne at 920-2585.

Food Security Plots

Procedures for the food security plots should remain the same as last year. Carrots and potatoes seem to be a good choice both for the gardeners and the groups receiving the food. Seeds and seed potatoes will be supplied through YCGC. The number of plots allocated for each type of produce will also be determined, and a sign-up sheet (first come, first serve) will be posted in the shed.



Spring Social

Date: Sometime End of April

All members and people on waiting list are encouraged to attend !
If you don't hear anything, please contact a Board member !

Developing Community Spirit and Pride



Yellowknife Community Garden Collective

Membership Obligations

Please Note: Effective this year all volunteers are asked to print their names on the “sign in” sheets at each volunteer event. These sheets will be available from the Site Co-ordinators. The sheets may be tallied at the end of the season to evaluate the level of participation from the Collective Membership. So, be sure to sign up at each event you participate at!!

All members shall:

- ❖ Agree to participate in person or by proxy at the AGM and other society activities
- ❖ Agree to and sign a liability waiver
- ❖ Use organic gardening methods in the food security and personal plots
- ❖ Maintain their allocated personal and food security plots
- ❖ Use water conservation methods
- ❖ Use water for garden purposes only
- ❖ Follow garden etiquette

Etiquette

- ❖ Assist in the maintenance of the garden site, the perimeter of the site under the Adopt-a-Street program, and other community garden plots as required
- ❖ Organize with their partners, the planting, tending, harvesting and distribution of produce from the food security plots
- ❖ Ensure children and guests are supervised at all times

Security

- ❖ Lock the garden site and shed when leaving the site unattended
- ❖ Not share the lock combination with non-members
- ❖ Report any problems to the Site Manager as soon as possible

Gardening Practice

- ❖ Use only organic fertilizers and pest controls
- ❖ Dispose of weeds and diseased or infested plots off-site — do not compost
- ❖ Keep paths clear of equipment and materials such as weeds and rocks
- ❖ Manually water the garden plots using watering cans, not hoses and sprinklers

Equipment

- ❖ Maintain all communal equipment in good repair
- ❖ Ensure tools and equipment are secured in shed before leaving garden site
- ❖ Ensure water tap is completely turned off before leaving garden site

Garbage

- ❖ Remove own garbage from site. The garbage bin in shed is to be used for non-biodegradable garbage only



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Gardening References

Below is a list of books and websites related to organic gardening. By no means is this an exhaustive list but it is a good start to kick off this years gardening season.

If anyone knows other useful references, please pass them on to Shelly Johnson to send out to the rest of the membership. As well, all donations of any gardening books, magazines, pamphlets to the garden site would be greatly appreciated. Good luck and happy gardening in the 2001 season!

Shelly Johnson
Site Manager, johnson@yk.com or 873-5799

Books at the Yellowknife Public Library – Under the Non-Fiction Section # “635” there are a number of gardening books.

Bennet, Jennifer. The Harrowsmith Northern Gardener. Call Number: 635.0971BEN
ISBN # 0-9200656-22-6

Briggs, Chriss D. Plant Magic: For Northern Gardeners. Call Number: 635.952BRI

Campbell, Stu. The Mulch Book: A Complete Guide For Gardeners. Call Number: 635.04CAM
ISBN# 0-8266-659-2

Carr, Anna et al. Rodales Chemical-Free Yard and Garden: The Ultimate Authority in Successful Organic Gardening Call Number: 635.04584ROD, ISBN #0-87857-951-6

Ellis Barbara W. and Bradley, Fern Marshall. The Organic Gardener's Handbook of Natural Insect and Disease Control: A Complete Problem Solving Guide to Keeping Gardens and Yards Healthy Without Chemicals. Call Number: 635ORG, ISBN # 0-87596-124-4

Shields, Dinah and Edwina von Baeyer. The Reluctant Gardener: A Beginner's Guide to Gardening in Canada. Call Number: 635.9SHI, ISBN# 0-394-22233-4

Websites

The City Farmer - <http://www.cityfarmer.org/>

They advise “...Sit up, bear with us as we add to this site week by week and listen to the birds singing in our garden.” From this beginning, the website has developed into a political horticulture with topics ranging from growing food to love at the garden site. Information for the Yellowknife Community Garden can be found at this site at: <http://www.cityfarmer.org/yellowkn98.html>

You Grow Girl - <http://www.yougrowgirl.com/>

The self-described site as the “indie rock” of gardening is loaded with the – how to, columns, features and forums – for all your garden needs. There is even a section for gardener's art! A fertile site that is user friendly and definitely worth bookmarking!

I Can Garden - <http://www.icangarden.com/>

A Canadian website, seemingly out of Alberta, contains information for the beginner and professional alike. There is a particularly good section on links to such things as garden lore, herb gardening, seed exchanges etc...