



Yellowknife Community Garden Collective

Spring 2004

Well the first day of spring came and went. We saw freezing temperatures and icy winds., but the new season is upon us and I imagine everyone is poring over seed catalogues, checking out websites, or already busy starting seeds available around town.

Membership Sign-up

We need to confirm who is returning before we start to allocate plots to new members. Membership is \$5 per partner 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**.

Our Mailing Address is:

Yellowknife Community Garden Collective,
P.O. Box 21,
Yellowknife, NT X1A 2N1

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 at the spring social, May 13. As soon as we know our returning members, we can give our new members advance notice, so they can plan for spring planting.

Gardening Workshops

The Yellowknife Garden Centre will be hosting several workshops throughout April and May. All the classes are at Yellowknife Garden Centre
101 Drybones Road
11 am Saturdays
No cost, just show up

April 3 All the dirt on dirt and healthy lawns

April 10 Composting

April 17 Raised Bed Gardening

April 24 Landscaping Ideas

May 1 Annuals

May 15 Container Gardening

May 22 Perennials, trees, shrubs

Should be very informative for all gardeners.

Soil Preparation

What plants need is Nitrogen (N), Phosphorus (P) and Potassium (K). So some of you are saying well that is all and good but this means nothing to me. As it goes it means nothing to me too. So I found a few clues:

Nitrogen is bone meal and grass clippings, or blood meal - now that is something I can grasp. Next Phosphorus is also found in bone meal and blood meal. Great only 2 items to remember!

Next you need to know the ratios = 5 parts manure (well I know manure is manure so I do not have to think about that) to 2 parts phosphorus that's bone meal or blood meal. I am getting it!

You dig in the manure then spread the phosphorus (phosphate is also the same) even over your plot.

But we have one other thing to get our soil ready for the season. It is Potassium, I know if I eat bananas I get Potassium, I wonder if it works for soil? Guess, not. Potassium is obtain from the manure we have already put on the soil or compost, but you can add wood ash or seaweed. Forget the seaweed unless you are from Newfoundland and have ties to get some. You need a fare amount of Potassium so if you buy a couple bags of compost you should get enough.

Remember Yellowknife soil loses its nutrients fast so you have to replenish each year.

Hopefully, this will be something you can use. Great gardening this season.

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.

Site Re-Configurations

We are going to try something new this year. Rather than three plots going across the garden, the site will be separated by one walking path down the center with the security plot incorporated into each member's plot. Members will donate the appropriate amount of produce from their plot. We will determine the results of this experiment at the end of the season.



Yellowknife Community Garden Collective

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. 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.

Rototillers

We are looking for a few good tillers. If you are willing to loan us your tiller for the weekend we are doing site preparation, it would be most appreciated. Contact a site manager.

Spring Social

Date: Thursday, May 13

All members and people on waiting list are encouraged to attend! Information sheets about the YK Community Garden will be available. New and potential members can gather gardening tips and meet existing members.

Feel free to bring your favourite fresh vegetable recipes. Volunteer sheets will be available for you to sign up and do your part to keep our garden collective active.

Time: 7:00 to 9:00 pm

Location: YK Library Meeting Room.

Board Members – email will be added in the next newsletter

Lisette Self	Chair
Margot Jennings	Co-Chair
Laurie Morton	Secretary/Archivist
Shannon Ward	Membership Co-ordinator
Joyce Cole	Liason Co-ordinator
	Compost Director
Joyce Cole	Resources Co-ordinator
Laurie Lapka	Publicity
Tim Laity	Site Manager
Mark Simmons	Asst. Site Manager
Murray Wick	Asst. Site Manager



Yellowknife Community Garden Collective

Membership Obligations

Please Note: 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



Yellowknife Community Garden Collective

Gardening References

Below is a list of books and websites related to organic gardening. Check with the Public Librarians for more information about library resources. 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.

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...

www.ptialaska.net/~pbabcock/patch - One woman's account of gardening in Alaska

<http://www.recipegoldmine.com/garden/garden39.html> - This site delivers recipes as well as some organic gardening tips

<http://davesgarden.com/welcome.php> - This site is filled with discussion boards and recipes. Some interesting tips

All of these sites have plenty of links and information for every gardener.



Yellowknife Community Garden Collective

Waiver Form for Members

As a member of the Yellowknife Community Garden Collective, I do hereby agree to the following:

- I shall abide by the terms and conditions of membership as described in the Yellowknife Community Garden Collective by-laws and regulations;
- I shall retain all rights and obligations of membership as described in the Yellowknife Community Garden Collective by-laws and regulations so long as my membership is in good standing;
- I hereby release from all liability and save harmless the Yellowknife Community Garden Collective, and all past, present and future Board Directors, for any loss, injury or damage (including death) to members, their families or their guests resulting from or relating to Yellowknife Community Gardens Collective activities;
- I hereby release from all liability and save harmless the Yellowknife Community Garden Collective, and all past, present and future Board Directs, for any loss or damage to members' property resulting from or relating to Yellowknife Community Garden Collective activities;
- I confirm that I shall keep current personal liability insurance in an amount sufficient to indemnify the Yellowknife Community Garden Collective, and all past, present and future Board Directors, against any loss, injury or damage (including death) resulting from or related to the carrying out of activities of the Yellowknife Community Garden Collective.

(Member's Signature)

(Date)

(Witness' Signature)

(Date)

(Member's Name - please print)

(Witness' Name - please print)



Yellowknife Community Garden Collective

Membership Application Form

Each gardening partner must fill out a form

Name: _____

Date: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Yellowknife X1A _____

E-mail: _____

1. Would you like a plot? Yes No

2. Who are you planning to garden with?

3. Did you have a plot last year? Yes No

Your plot number last year

4. If you answered yes to question #3, would you like the same plot? Yes No

Note: if you do not wish to have the same plot, a new plot will be assigned to you by means of a lottery for all vacant plots. Please contact the Site Manager if you have special consideration or needs.

5. Please include your payment to confirm membership.

Membership fee: \$5 per person x _____ people = \$ _____

Plot fee: \$20 per plot = \$ _____

(Maximum of one plot)

TOTAL = \$ _____

Membership paid by (print name): _____

Plot Fee paid by (print name): _____

Note: If paying by mail, please make your cheque payable to the Yellowknife Community Garden Collective. Please do not send cash by mail - provide cash payment to the Treasurer, or Membership Co-ordinator, in person. Return completed application form and payment to Box 21, Yellowknife, NT, X1A 2N1.

TO ENSURE YOUR MEMBERSHIP, PLEASE SUBMIT YOUR FORM BY APRIL 15