



## 2017 RESOURCES AND HELPFUL THINGS TO KNOW

### GARDENER APPLICATIONS/WAIVERS

Please return completed Plot Applications/Waivers and associated plot fees (checks payable to "Denver Urban Gardens") from all gardeners to DUG by June 1, 2017 or as soon as possible. **Every gardener must complete this one-page Application/Waiver every year.** This information is critical for DUG to accurately report the reach of community gardens to funders. As important, if not more so, DUG needs the signed waivers from gardeners every year to maintain liability insurance. You may return application/waivers with payment in person or by mail to DUG at 1031 33rd Street, Suite 100, Denver CO 80205 before June 1. Thank you for helping us collect this valuable information.

### COMMUNICATION

Websites: [www.dug.org](http://www.dug.org) or [www.dug.org/gl](http://www.dug.org/gl) (for garden leader specific resources)

Email: [dirt@dug.org](mailto:dirt@dug.org)

Phone: 303.292.9900

Listserv: [www.groups.google.com/group/denverurbangardens](http://www.groups.google.com/group/denverurbangardens)

We encourage you and all of your gardeners to subscribe to the DUG Listserv to connect by email with the gardening community of Denver and beyond.

### COMPOST

Compost orders for your community garden must be placed online at <https://dug.org/order-compost/> DUG 's supplier is Rosa Floral. They will supply **A1 Organic Class 1 EcoGro compost**. In addition to the amount of compost requested, Garden Leaders will be asked how much the garden can contribute to the cost of the compost. The cost is \$26 per yard and the delivery fee is \$50-\$75 depending on the location. If the garden can not contribute, DUG will pay for up to 6 cubic yards of compost per year, to be delivered in a single load. If your garden needs more than 6 yards, they are responsible for the additional cost. A note: the average established 10' X 15' plot requires 1/4 to 1/2 of a yard of compost per season. This provides enough compost to be spread 1/2" to 1" thick per plot. Newer plots often benefit from a little extra compost, while older plots are more seasoned and do not require as much.

As delivery costs are substantial, please plan to have the yearly load delivered once and order only what you need. Saturday & Sunday deliveries are available, but orders will need to be placed at least one week in advance. Please make sure you can be at the community garden to receive the compost at the scheduled delivery time. At most community gardens, this pile will need to be moved out of the street, alley or drive and into the plots upon delivery. Please plan accordingly.

Rosa Floral also offers crusher fine for pathways at \$20 per yard for DUG gardens. Note that crusher fine should last 3-5 years with effective weed maintenance. Gardens should plan for this to come from their garden budget.

If you are interested in learning how to compost at your community garden, fill out a request at [www.dug.org/mc-request](http://www.dug.org/mc-request) so we can arrange for a Master Composter to come and teach you and your gardeners the basics. You may choose a one-time presentation or sign-up for a three part series of classes that educate your gardeners and the neighborhood about how to maintain healthy compost (and as such, a healthy garden!) throughout the season.

You may also visit our website for information about the free public composting classes at the Gove Garden Compost Demonstration Site, scheduled throughout the summer.

### WATER/IRRIGATION

*Water Turn On:* In Denver the average date of last freeze is in early May. At sites where DUG is responsible for the water system, the process typically begins no later than the first week of May, depending on the weather.

*Water Turn Off:* In Denver the average date of first freeze is in early October. At sites where DUG is responsible for the water system, the process typically begins in early October, depending on the weather.

*Water System Breaks:* If your community garden has a break in the irrigation system, gardeners are asked to find the backflow device or the main shut off valve and turn off the water. Once the water is off, gardeners should contact their garden leader to determine if the capability exists within their garden to properly complete the repair. If you require DUG's assistance and the break is underground, gardeners and/or garden leaders will need to dig up the group around the break to expose the broken pipe. That includes digging a hole large enough to allow for the repair, including the ground below and on either side of the break.

*Water Conservation Classes:* As most of garden funds go directly towards covering water costs, DUG encourages all community gardens to **schedule a water conservation class** on site for all gardeners. DUG Master Community Gardeners will present for 30-60 minutes on water conservation methods that will ensure that we as community gardeners are being good stewards with our resources. Visit [www.dug.org/mcg-request](http://www.dug.org/mcg-request) like to schedule your class.

## **GARDENING TRAININGS IN YOUR GARDEN**

Volunteers from DUG's Master Community Gardener and Master Composter Training Programs are available to come to your garden and give free trainings on various gardening topics including (1) Basic Organic Gardening; (2) Organic Pest & Weed Control; (3) Seasonal, Companion and Succession Planting; (4) Soil Amendment, and (5) Water Conservation Methods, and other topics. Request a class today at [www.dug.org/mcg-request](http://www.dug.org/mcg-request) or for compost class requests specifically, visit [www.dug.org/mc-request](http://www.dug.org/mc-request).

## **VOLUNTEERS**

All volunteers need to sign a DUG waiver before participating in a community garden. Please contact DUG to receive copies of our waiver if you are having a volunteer or volunteer team come to help out in your garden. Completed and signed waivers should be returned to the DUG office.

## **MULCH**

Mulch is one way to conserve water. It also moderates soil temperature, extending the season for cool and warm season plants; prevents erosion; increases water infiltration; and enriches the soil. You may use partially decomposed leaves; alfalfa; barley or oat straw; dried, pesticide-free grass clippings; shredded corn or sunflower stalks; or thatch raked from spring lawns. If you choose straw for your mulch, below are a few locations that sell it. Note that some straw is available Certified Weed Free. Availability and prices are subject to change. Gardens are responsible to pay for and arrange delivery of their own mulch.

### *Nick's Garden Center*

2001 S Chambers Rd, Aurora  
303-696-6657

Price per straw bale \$8.99

DUG gardeners receive a 10% discount

Certified Weed Free

Delivery: \$75 min.

### *Agfinity*

55 W. Bromley Ln, Brighton  
720.685.1956

Price per straw bale \$6.95

Certified Weed Free

Delivery: \$50 min.

### *Curve Feed and Supply*

6750 W. Mississippi, Lakewood  
303.934.1249

Price per straw bale \$10.89

Certified Weed Free

No Delivery

## **PRODUCE DONATIONS**

DUG is a part of the collaboration *Produce for Pantries*, and together we connect the dots between Denver gardeners with excess produce and our neighbors in need, ultimately striving to provide local food pantries with fresh produce for their clients on a regular basis. Call the Hunger Hotline (855.855.4626) to learn which pantries are closest to your garden!

Want to start a regular produce collection and donation program in your community garden? Find information online at [www.dug.org/gl](http://www.dug.org/gl) and consider attending the Garden Leader Round Table on Produce Donations (more info below).

## **GARDEN LEADER ROUND TABLES**

Garden Leader Round Tables connect DUG's network of garden leaders in small groups (10-20 leaders or steering committee members) around a particular topic of their interest or expertise, to collaborate in finding solutions to common challenges that exist across the larger DUG network of community gardens. The discussion takes place over a potluck meal. Find out more information and RSVP at <http://dug.org/garden-leader-round-tables>.

Thursday, May 25: Starting a Produce Donation Program **at** West Washington Park Community Garden, 201 Grant Street, Denver

Monday, June 26: Engaging Your Gardeners **at** Samuels Elementary Garden, 3985 S Vincennes Ct, Denver

Thursday, July 7: Community Garden Fundraising **at** The Horsebarn, DUG's headquarters

## **RESOURCES FOR GARDEN LEADERS**

Applying for a grant? Need to reference DUG's financial policies or print out an Expense Reimbursement Request form? Have a question about how to handle theft and vandalism in the garden? Access information and answers to your questions online at [www.dug.org/gl](http://www.dug.org/gl).

If you cannot find what you need there, email ([dirt@dug.org](mailto:dirt@dug.org)) or call DUG to speak with the Director of Garden Support.

