



2020 RESOURCES AND HELPFUL THINGS TO KNOW

GARDENER APPLICATIONS/WAIVERS

Please return completed Plot Applications/Waivers, associated plot fees and membership dues (checks payable to "Denver Urban Gardens") from all gardeners to DUG by June 1, 2020 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 or www.dug.org/gl (for garden leader specific resources)

Email: dirt@dug.org

Phone: 303.292.9900

Listserv: 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

DUG 's supplier is Rosa Floral. They can be reached directly at 303.452.8237, Monday through Friday from 9am-5pm. When calling, identify yourself as a DUG community garden and specify **A1 Organic Class 1 EcoGro compost**. The cost is \$35 per yard and the delivery fee is \$50-\$75 depending on the location. The garden is responsible for the cost of the compost and delivery fee. Rosa Floral will charge DUG and we will deduct it from the garden's account. If the garden does not have the funds to pay, contact DUG's Director of Garden Support (lara@dug.org) before ordering.

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 \$25 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 as well.

If you are interested in learning how to compost at your community garden, fill out a request at 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 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 or for compost class requests specifically, visit 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
Certified Weed Free

Agfinity
55 W. Bromley Ln, Brighton
720.685.1956
Certified Weed Free

Curve Feed and Supply
6750 W. Mississippi, Lakewood
303.934.1249
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!

DUG is also part of *Fresh Food Connect* (FFC). FFC will pick up produce donations from gardens and share it with communities in need. Visit their website at www.freshfoodconnect.org, enter the garden's zip code and help feed the city!

GARDEN MICRO NETWORKS

DUG's large network of garden leaders can connect and learn from each other in smaller, neighborhood groups- garden micro networks. You will be introduced to your micro network via email and be able to meet, share local resources and connect over common interests. Once a year, DUG's Director of Garden Support will meet with each group at a garden to discuss a particular topic of their interest or expertise. Together, we will discuss solutions to common challenges that exist across the larger DUG network of community gardens. The discussion takes place over a potluck meal.

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.

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