



GARDENER APPLICATIONS/WAIVERS

DUG's Plot Applications/Waivers are online and can be accessed by computer or smart phone. The link will be emailed to garden leaders in February or can be requested online (<https://dug.org/gl/>). Please send the application link to your gardeners, tell them the plot fee and required number of garden service hours and ask them to complete the form and pay the associated plot fees and DUG dues before June 1st, 2021. Gardens whose gardeners have limited access to computers or phones, can request on site assistance from DUG staff. If people are not able to pay online, you can accept cash and checks (checks payable to "Denver Urban Gardens") and return this to DUG. **Every gardener must complete this one-page Application/Waiver every year, even partners and shared plots.** 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. 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

Mighty Networks: www.community.dug.org

We encourage you and all of your gardeners to subscribe to Mighty Networks, DUG's online community to connect virtually with the gardening community of Denver and beyond. You can request a garden circle to connect with your gardeners too.

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 \$34 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 Senior Director of Operations (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. The timeline at other sites is similar.

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. The timeline at other sites is similar.

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 ground 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 ensure that we as community gardeners are being good stewards with our resources. **If you would like to schedule a water conservation class, please reach out to DUG at dirt@dug.org.**

GARDENING TRAININGS IN YOUR GARDEN

DUG will be hosting on site trainings for the garden micro-networks every summer. These will be announced in the Garden Leader newsletters and are open to Garden Leaders and gardens from all the nearby gardens. If you would like additional trainings, please reach out to dirt@dug.org.

VOLUNTEERS

All volunteers need to sign a DUG waiver before participating in a community garden. Please contact DUG to have your volunteers register with us before they work in your garden. DUG's Volunteer Coordinator, Laura can register your volunteers, add your garden events to DUG's volunteer calendar and identify volunteers groups to help with garden projects. Contact her at laura@dug.org

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
\$14.99/ bale
Delivery available

Curve Feed and Supply
6750 W. Mississippi, Lakewood
303.934.1249
Certified Weed Free
\$14.99/ bale
No Delivery

PRODUCE DONATIONS

DUG encourages gardens to share all their extra produce with people who are experiencing hunger. Call the Hunger Hotline (855.855.4626) to learn which pantries are closest to your garden.

In addition, *Fresh Food Connect* will connect you with nearby food banks or 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 Senior Director of Operations 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 submit 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.