

## **TEN STEPS TO START A COMMUNITY GARDEN**



1. **Organize a meeting of at least 8-10 interested people and determine**
  - a. If a garden is needed or wanted
  - b. Or is there is an existing garden that needs help instead of starting a new one
2. **Form a Planning Committee to gather Information and determine specific start up tasks, assign those tasks and create a timeline for task completion**
  - a. People who will be devoted long term to the garden
  - b. People who can offer short term help
  - c. Form sub committees to list and deal with startup and long term tasks
3. **Identify all your resources –List your assets**
  - a. Local groups Toledo Grows, OSU Extension, Land Bank, Retailers in area, etc.
  - b. Existing community gardens' gardeners
  - c. Folks with skills- carpentry, writing, fundraising gardening, art, photography
4. **Determine start up and long-term expenses and plan fundraisers and approach sponsors**
  - a. Garden tools, wood for raised beds, soil, plants, water bill, etc.
5. **Choose a Site –consider seriously the size of a garden which will be easiest to maintain**
  - a. 8 hrs of sun and soil type (clay or sand)
  - b. Soil testing to determine if soil is contaminated or safe
  - c. Water source for garden
  - d. Who owns the land?- get permission to use land –sign a lease agreement
6. **Prepare and develop the site**
  - a. Design should be functional and aesthetically pleasing
  - b. Raised beds (which type of wood to use), In ground plots or both
  - c. Amend existing soil for plots with compost and fill beds with 50-50 soil/compost mix
7. **Organize the Garden**
  - a. Spacing of garden plots or beds, pathways and their width, gathering area
    - i. Beds should be no more than 4' wide for easy reach into center of bed
    - ii. 3'-4' wide pathways between beds for easy mowing and wheelbarrow access
  - b. Vegetable plants, pollinator/native plants and herbs to be planted where
  - c. Storage and Compost areas
8. **Plan for Children**
  - a. Kid zones for planting and play with plants to touch, pick and smell
9. **Determine rules and schedules and put them in writing**
  - a. Daily and weekly maintenance –Plan to work together as a group to tackle chores
  - b. Responsibilities—who does what
10. **Help members keep in touch with each other**
  - a. Weekly workday with everyone working together as a group
  - b. Regular gathering and celebrations
  - c. Bulletin Board and/or Email



### **Contact Us**

Give us a call for more information about our services

**Toledo GROWS**  
900 Oneida St.  
Toledo, OH 43608

(419) 720-8714

Visit us on the web at  
[www.toledogrows.org](http://www.toledogrows.org)