

Rogers Park Garden Group

Community Gardening Resources (December 2010 edition)

We have put together this listing of internet and print gardening resources that we hope will be helpful for both the novice and experienced gardener. For those looking for gardening assistance but who have no interest in Community Gardening, skip sections I and II.

I. How to start a Community Garden

www.communitygarden.org

openlands.org

II. Finding a site

A. Public vs. private

openlands.org

B. Make sure your site has a water source

III. Site Conditions Evaluation (Rogers Park is in Hardiness Zone 5b, with generally sandy soil that is alkaline on the pH scale)

A. Sunlight and shade

www.finegardening.com

B. Soil conditions

www.chicagobotanic.org (see under "Your Garden")

IV. Design Process

A. Drawing a plot plan

www.sustainable-gardening.com (under "How-To")

B. Plant research and selection

www.finegardening.com

www.bestplants.org (Chicago Botanic Garden affiliate site)

www.chicagobotanic.org (Chicago Botanic Garden home site)

www.mobot.org (Missouri Botanic Garden in St. Louis)

Native Plants in the Home Landscape For the Upper Midwest, by Keith Gerard Nowakowski (paperback book published by University of Illinois)

C. Garden design

1. Ornamental gardens

www.finegardening.com

www.mobot.org

www.sustainable-gardening.com

urbanext.illinois.edu/hort/index.html

2. Rain gardens

web.extension.illinois.edu/champaign/homeowners/051007.html

clean-water.uwex.edu/pubs/pdf/rgmanual.pdf

3. Edible gardens

www.sustainable-gardening.com

D. Drawing up the design

www.garden.org (see their How-To articles)

V. Garden Implementation

- A. Weed removal (if necessary) **PLEASE, NO ROUNDUP!!**
www.garden.org (check out their Weed Library for identification)
- B. Soil amendment (compost, peat, etc.)
www.garden.org (check out their Calculators for determining quantities)
www.chicagobotanic.org
www.sustainable-gardening.com
The Well-Tended Perennial Garden, by Tracy DiSabato-Aust (hardback book published by Timber Press, Inc.)
- C. Garden structures
 1. Borders
www.finegardening.com
 2. Raised beds
www.chicagobotanic.org (Video under "Your Garden")
www.garden.org
- D. Obtaining Plants
 1. Choosing healthy plants
www.thegardenhelper.com/selectplant.html
www.bhg.com/gardening/yard/garden-care/choosing-plants-from-a-nursery
 2. Alternative sources to nurseries
RPGG Spring Sale and September Fundraiser
Chicago Botanic Garden plant and bulb sales
Other garden groups in the Chicago area
- E. Garden planting
 1. How to plant perennials
urbanext.illinois.edu/hort/index.html
 2. How to plant shrubs
www.mortonarb.org
 3. How to plant trees
www.mortonarb.org
www.chicagobotanic.org
www.garden.org
 4. How to plant bulbs
urbanext.illinois.edu/hort/index.html
 5. How to plant annuals
Annuals for Illinois, by William Aldrich & Don Williamson (paperback book published by Lone Pine Publishing)
 6. How to plant vegetables
www.garden.org
urbanext.illinois.edu/hort/index.html
- F. Mulching the garden **PLEASE, NO MULCH VOLCANOES AROUND TREES!**
www.mortonarb.org
www.garden.org

VI. Garden Maintenance

- A. Watering: 1 inch per week depending on rainfall.
www.mortonarb.org
- B. Soil Management (compost & mulch use)
www.chicagobotanic.org
www.mortonarb.org
www.finegardening.com

C. Plant Care

1. Shrubs

www.finegardening.com

www.mortonarb.org

2. Perennials

www.finegardening.com

www.chicagobotanic.org

urbanext.illinois.edu/hort/index.html

The Well-Tended Perennial Garden, by Tracy DiSabato-Aust

3. Trees

www.mortonarb.org

D. Weed Control

www.finegardening.com

E. Integrated Pest Management

www.chicagobotanic.org

www.garden.org

urbanext.illinois.edu/hort/index.html

F. Monthly /Seasonal chores

www.chicagolandgardening.com

www.chicagobotanic.org

awaytogarden.com

urbanext.illinois.edu/hort/index.html

VII. Miscellaneous Resources

A. Websites and blogs

www.gardenrant.com

awaytogarden.com

www.sustainable-gardening.com

VIII. Chicago-area Resources

A. Community gardening grants

www.greennetchicago.org

fotp.org

Friends of the Park has grants for community gardens within city parks.

B. Community gardening free plant sources

1. Register your Community Garden with GreenCorps at

www.cityofchicago.org/city/en/depts/doi/provdrs/nat_res/svcs/greencorps_chicago.html

C. Improving your gardening skills

1. Chicago Botanic Garden offers short courses and the Master Gardener Program.

www.chicagobotanic.org/school

2. Windy City Harvest offers short courses open to the public.

www.chicagobotanic.org/windycityharvest

3. **Become a member of Rogers Park Garden Group!!**