

# Community and Residential Gardening Resources 2011

List compiled by Boston Natural Areas Network

## Boston Gardeners Council

- The Boston Gardeners Council (BGC) is a voice for Boston's community and residential gardeners. The BGC meets regularly to organize and promote sustainable urban gardening efforts and community gardening. All gardeners are welcome to join. For more information contact Boston Natural Areas Network at [www.bostonnatural.org/cgCouncil.htm](http://www.bostonnatural.org/cgCouncil.htm) or call 617-542-7696 or email Karen Chaffee, BNAN Stewardship Manager, at [karen@bostonnatural.org](mailto:karen@bostonnatural.org).

## Boston Is Growing Gardens in Dorchester (BIGG)

- BIGG Dorchester works to increase community garden capacity and the number of Dorchester residents of all ages getting involved in their local community gardens and growing their own nutritious food. Programs include gardening workshops for beginners, healthy cooking demonstrations, exercising in the garden and more. For more information contact Project Manager Grantley Payne by email [grantley@bostonnatural.org](mailto:grantley@bostonnatural.org) or call BNAN at 617-542-7696.

## Compost / Compost Bins

- MA Dept of Environmental Protection composting program, Ann McGovern, 617-292-5834, [ann.mcgovern@state.ma.us](mailto:ann.mcgovern@state.ma.us) or [www.mass.gov/dep/recycle/reduce/composti.htm](http://www.mass.gov/dep/recycle/reduce/composti.htm). Offers compost workshops and discounted compost bins and online composting tips.
- Boston Building Resources (formerly Boston Building Materials Co-op) 617-442-2262, [www.bostonbuildingresources.com](http://www.bostonbuildingresources.com). Offers compost bins, rain barrels, a few garden tools, and Smart Timbers made of recycled materials for raised garden beds. And whiskey barrel planters made of recycled materials. BNAN members receive a 5% discount off member price on garden supplies.
- Boston Public Works Recycling Program Leaf and Yard Waste Collection for **residential** yard waste collection, 617-635-4959, [www.cityofboston.gov/publicworks/recycling/YardWaste.asp](http://www.cityofboston.gov/publicworks/recycling/YardWaste.asp).  
**Spring 2011 collection dates are April 25- May 20.**  
**Collection:** If you don't have time to compost your leaves or yard debris, Boston Public Works Department will. They will collect your leaves and yard waste on your recycling day and use it as natural fertilizer for Boston's community gardens.  
**Guidelines:**
  - \* Place leaves, and yard debris in large paper leaf bags or open barrels labeled "yard waste" (no plastic bags).
  - \* Yard Waste stickers for barrels are available by calling 617-635-4500.
  - \* Tie branches with string, 3' maximum length. Do not put branches in barrels.
  - \* Put barrels, bags and branches on the curb by 7:00 AM on your Recycling Day, between the collection dates listed above.
  - \* Yard waste will not be collected with trash during this period.
  - \* Yard waste in plastic bags will also not be collected.
  - \* No more Saturday collections.
  - \*Please Note: Yard waste will not be collected for the two weeks prior to the Spring Collection. Please hold on to your yard waste until collection begins the week of April 25.

- Boston Natural Areas Network coordinates orders for community gardens (Boston gardens only) that wish to receive free compost through Boston Public Works Recycling Program. Call BNAN at 617-542-7696 or email [kim@bostonnatural.org](mailto:kim@bostonnatural.org).

*Note: Check with compost, mulch and manure source for quality and testing of possible contaminants. Never add fresh manure to edible crops. When applying manures to the garden, make sure to use well-rotted manures only or you may "burn" your plants and expose edibles to harmful bacterial growth.*

## Farmers Markets and CSAs (Community Supported Agriculture)

- To locate a Farmers Market near you contact The Federation of Massachusetts Farmers Markets at [www.massfarmersmarkets.org](http://www.massfarmersmarkets.org) or phone 781-893-8222.
- To locate a CSA in your community contact Mass Dept of Agricultural Resources at [www.mass.gov/agr/massgrown/csa\\_farms.htm](http://www.mass.gov/agr/massgrown/csa_farms.htm) or [Lisa.Damon@state.ma.us](mailto:Lisa.Damon@state.ma.us), 617-626-1731. You will also find listing at Northeast Organic Farming Association's (NOFA) website at <http://www.nofamass.org/programs/csa/csa.php>.

## Finding a Plot in a Community Garden

- In time for the growing season, the community garden map on the BNAN website that includes all 150 community gardens in the city has become interactive. You can now easily locate gardens near your home or in your neighborhood and see garden aeriels, photographs of the garden and street views to and around the garden and learn the address and owner. Check out <http://bostonnatural.org/cgFind.htm> today. It is also a great way to take a virtual tour of the city's gardens. If you do not have access to a computer, call us and we can send a paper map of all the community gardens.

Once you find a garden you are interested in, contact us and we will give you the name and contact information for the garden coordinator. All garden coordinators are urged to update their gardener list to identify available plots as early as possible. The garden coordinators, who are volunteers, will give you information on obtaining a plot, fees, rules, clean-up days, special events in the garden, and more. If you find that a garden has a waiting list for individual plots, you may want to volunteer to help maintain communal areas and help at garden clean-ups. In addition, BNAN has a list on its website of gardens that have plots available along with the contact information. The list is updated throughout the spring as coordinators report plot availability to us.

For a copy of our printed map of community gardens or the name of a garden coordinator contact BNAN at 617-542-7696, or email [info@bostonnatural.org](mailto:info@bostonnatural.org).

- For information on the South End Lower Roxbury Open Space Land Trust community gardens call SELROSLT at 617-437-0999, write to them at PO Box 180923, Boston, MA 02118 or visit the website at [www.landtrustgardens.org](http://www.landtrustgardens.org).
- For Somerville community gardening information call the Somerville Conservation Commission at 617-625-6600 ext 2500.
- For Cambridge community garden information call the Cambridge Conservation Commission at 617-349-4680 or visit their website at <http://www.cambridgema.gov/boardsandcommissionsdirectory/boardsandcommissionsdirectory/conservationcommission.aspx>.
- For community garden information along the Southwest Corridor Parklands call MA Department of

Conservation and Recreation, Southwest Corridor Parkland at 617-727-0057.

- For community garden information in areas outside of Boston, if not listed above, contact the community's town hall.

### Grants for Assisting Community Gardens

- **NEW ENGLAND GRASSROOTS ENVIRONMENT FUND (NEGEF).**  
**NEGEF's Boston Grants Initiative** provides grants up to \$10,000 to groups working on environmental projects and includes funding for community gardens in the neighborhoods of Boston, Chelsea, Somerville and Cambridge.  
**NEGEF's Small Grants Program** provides grants up to \$2,500 to fund community involvement in projects that address a wide range of environmental issues and includes funding for community gardens. Gardens must be outside of Boston, Chelsea, Somerville and Cambridge.

For more information, deadlines and before submitting a proposal, please contact Ginny Callan at [callan@grassrootsfund.org](mailto:callan@grassrootsfund.org) or call NEGEF at 802-223-4622. More information is available on their website at [www.grassrootsfund.org](http://www.grassrootsfund.org). If your community garden would like assistance in writing your NEGEF proposal BNAN will assist you, please call BNAN at 617-542-7696 or email [vidya@bostonnatural.org](mailto:vidya@bostonnatural.org).

- City of Boston Department of Neighborhood Development. Grassroots program for funding for community garden construction. Contact Andria Post Ergun, Grassroots Program Director at 617-635-0203, [aergun.dnd@cityofboston.gov](mailto:aergun.dnd@cityofboston.gov) and [www.cityofboston.gov/dnd/PDFs/D\\_Boston\\_Grassroots\\_CDBG.pdf](http://www.cityofboston.gov/dnd/PDFs/D_Boston_Grassroots_CDBG.pdf).

### Organic Soil Amendments

- If you are interested in bulk purchase of organic soil amendments we suggest you contact Northeast Organic Farming Association (NOFA) at [www.nofamass.org/programs/bulkorder/index.php](http://www.nofamass.org/programs/bulkorder/index.php), phone 978-355-2853. You may also order organic soil amendments through Fedco Seeds at [www.fedcoseeds.com](http://www.fedcoseeds.com), phone 207-873-7333; or Johnny's Selected Seeds at [www.johnnyseeds.com](http://www.johnnyseeds.com), phone 877-564-6697 as well as other suppliers.

*Note: Check with compost, mulch and manure source for quality and testing of possible contaminants. Never add fresh manure to edible crops. When applying manures to the garden, make sure to use well-rotted manures only or you may "burn" your plants and expose edibles to harmful bacterial growth.*

### Other Gardening Supplies

- "Good Gardening Practices" postcard. Now in English, Spanish, and Vietnamese. Postcard provides an easy reference for healthy gardening practices. Lists 10 points to be used by gardeners to help protect gardeners from polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), lead (Pb) and other contaminants commonly found in the urban soil. Guidelines were prepared by Boston University School of Public Health, Dept. of Environmental Health. For additional postcards to distribute to gardeners please email [kim@bostonnatural.org](mailto:kim@bostonnatural.org) or call BNAN at 617-542-7696. Postcards are distributed to community gardeners free of charge.

### Other Community Garden Organizations

- See local community garden organizations listed on this resource list under "Finding a Plot in a Community Garden".

- American Community Gardening Association. Join the nationwide community gardening movement. Valuable information online, get in contact with community gardeners from around the country. Join ACGA at their annual conference August 18-21, 2011 in New York City. Write ACGA, 1777 East Broad Street, Columbus, OH, 43203, email [info@communitygarden.org](mailto:info@communitygarden.org), call 877-275-2242 or visit [www.communitygarden.org](http://www.communitygarden.org).

### Plants and Seeds

- BNAN holds the Spring and Fall Festivals and Perennial Divides at City Natives, 30 Edgewater Drive, Mattapan Square. Bring perennial divisions, bulbs, etc., and take home plants. Select New England native plants and other items available for purchase. Call BNAN at 617-542-7696 or visit [www.bostonnatural.org/evtSpringFestival.htm](http://www.bostonnatural.org/evtSpringFestival.htm) and [www.bostonnatural.org/evtHarvestFestival.htm](http://www.bostonnatural.org/evtHarvestFestival.htm). Dates for 2011 are Saturday, May 21 and Saturday, October 1 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
- BNAN provides free seeds for Boston community gardens. Seeds must be pre-ordered in January by garden leadership for the entire garden. Seeds are distributed at the close of the Annual Gardeners Gathering in March. For further information please visit [www.bostonnatural.org](http://www.bostonnatural.org) or phone BNAN at 617-542-7696 or [email kim@bostonnatural.org](mailto:kim@bostonnatural.org).
- ReVision Urban Farm offers vegetable, herb and flower seedlings for sale. Their selection includes heirlooms. You may contact them to see if they can grow your favorite variety. Call 617-822-FARM(3276) or [www.vpi.org/farm/](http://www.vpi.org/farm/) for information and order form to pre-order seedlings.
- America the Beautiful Fund offers free seeds for community projects. There is a small processing fee. Visit [www.america-the-beautiful.org/free\\_seeds/index.php](http://www.america-the-beautiful.org/free_seeds/index.php) or phone 202-638-1649.
- Seeds of Change donation program, There is a small handling charge for organic seed donations for community projects. Contact [www.seedsofchange.com/donations/default.aspx](http://www.seedsofchange.com/donations/default.aspx) or phone 1-888-762-7333.

### Rototilling, Snow Removal, Grass Mowing

- Check with neighbors and local businesses for local contractor to provide these services to your garden or contact Boston Natural Areas Network at 617-542-7696 or [info@bostonnatural.org](mailto:info@bostonnatural.org).

### Soil Testing

- University of Massachusetts at Amherst Soil Testing Lab. Phone 413-545-2311 or check [www.umass.edu/soiltest](http://www.umass.edu/soiltest).

### Tools for Loan

- Boston Parks and Recreation Dept. has flat shovels, brooms and rakes available for garden clean-ups. Contact Mike Vardaro at BPRD at 617-635-7275.

### Trash Pick-Up, Seasonal, and Periodic Cleanups

- Boston Parks and Recreation Dept. will pick up both trash and also compostable leaf and plant material from community gardens. Materials must be separated and bagged. Place *trash in plastic bags* and place *leaves and plant materials in paper bags*. The garden should call Mike Vardaro, Boston Parks Dept., at 617-635-7275 **preferably at least a week or more in advance of the cleanup** and give the date and location of pickup. All materials to be picked up should be left outside the garden (if locked), being careful not to block the sidewalk. (*Please note: This service may not*

available to Community Gardens owned by the State/DCR. These gardens should check with Mike Vardaro.)

- For spring and fall community garden clean-ups, contact the Neighborhood Coordinator from the Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Services 617-635-3485 or [http://www.cityofboston.gov/ons/coor\\_list.asp](http://www.cityofboston.gov/ons/coor_list.asp). Boston Shines 2011 is scheduled for Friday, April 29 (Business Cleanup Day) and Saturday, April 30 (Community Cleanup Day). For more information visit [www.cityofboston.gov/ons/bostonshines/](http://www.cityofboston.gov/ons/bostonshines/). Call Neighborhood Services in advance at 617-635-3485 to request tools and trash pickup for your cleanup.

## Volunteers

- People Making a Difference. Contact Lori Tsuruda, 617-2980025, [www.pmd.org](http://www.pmd.org). Usually requires two-month advance notice.
- City Year. 617-927-2500, [www.cityyear.org](http://www.cityyear.org). Can provide 10-20 volunteers for a community garden project.
- VolunteerMatch. [www.volunteermatch.org](http://www.volunteermatch.org). Post your request for volunteers on their website.
- Boston Cares. [www.bostoncares.org](http://www.bostoncares.org). Boston Cares organizes and leads team oriented volunteer opportunities throughout Greater Boston that have a positive impact on individuals and communities. Contact Brittany Whitaker, Green Initiatives Coordinator at 617-422-0910 x204 or email [bwhitaker@bostoncares.org](mailto:bwhitaker@bostoncares.org).

## Water Issues

- Contact the organization or agency that owns the garden.

## Woodchips

- Unfortunately, woodchips are no longer available from Boston Parks and Recreation. Contact your local arborist or landscaper to see if they will drop off a load of woodchips for your garden.  
*Note: Check with compost, mulch and manure source for quality and testing of possible contaminants.*

## Workshops, Classes, Information

- BNAN Master Urban Gardener (MUG) program. Eight Saturdays of classes beginning in January. Emphasizes both horticultural and organizational aspects of the community garden. There is no cost; on completion participants provide 40 hours of community service in community garden activities. For further information please visit [www.bostonnatural.org/MUG.htm](http://www.bostonnatural.org/MUG.htm) or email [mug@bostonnatural.org](mailto:mug@bostonnatural.org) or phone BNAN at 617-542-7696.
- BNAN Master Urban Gardener at Home (MUGatHOME) program. The MUGatHOME program is for Boston residential gardeners and will train participants in sustainable residential gardening techniques suitable for urban spaces. The MUGatHome program uses the same elements as the MUG program – 40 hours of training at no cost and 40 hours of volunteer service to assist other residential gardeners. For further information please visit [www.bostonnatural.org/MUGatHome.htm](http://www.bostonnatural.org/MUGatHome.htm) or email [mugathome@bostonnatural.org](mailto:mugathome@bostonnatural.org) or phone BNAN at 617-542-7696. **Please note: You must be a Boston resident to be eligible for this program.**

- BNAN Students Learning through Urban Gardening (SLUG) program. SLUG will provide teachers and school gardeners with an introduction to multiple garden-related activities that will relate to various BPS learning standards through hands-on participation and relevant discussion. For further information please visit [www.bostonnatural.org/SLUG.htm](http://www.bostonnatural.org/SLUG.htm) or email [slug@bostonnatural.org](mailto:slug@bostonnatural.org) or call BNAN at 617-542-7696
- BNAN *Seed, Sow & Grow* horticultural series. Programs held February through October, workshops are free, all are welcome, registration is required. *Seed, Sow & Grow* is an opportunity for gardeners to learn urban gardening techniques and concepts with BNAN staff, special instructors, and fellow gardeners. For further information and a *Seed, Sow & Grow* program schedule check [www.bostonnatural.org/SeedSowGrow.htm](http://www.bostonnatural.org/SeedSowGrow.htm) or email [info@bostonnatural.org](mailto:info@bostonnatural.org) or call BNAN at 617-542-7696.
- Arnold Arboretum, Jamaica Plain. Call 617-524-1718 or [www.arboretum.harvard.edu](http://www.arboretum.harvard.edu) for info.
- New England Wildflower Society. For list of courses go to [www.newfs.org](http://www.newfs.org) or call 508-877-7630.
- Massachusetts Horticultural Society. Call 617-933-4900 or visit [www.masshort.org](http://www.masshort.org). Plant hotline: call or email the experts on the Master Gardener HelpLine for free gardening advice. 617-933-4929, TTY 781-235-5655, [mghelpline@masshort.org](mailto:mghelpline@masshort.org).
- Check gardening and horticultural course offerings through Boston Center for Adult Education, 617-267-4430 or [www.bcae.org](http://www.bcae.org); Cambridge Center for Adult Education, 617-547-6789 or [www.ccae.org](http://www.ccae.org); Brookline Adult Education, 617-730-2700 or [www.brooklineadulted.org](http://www.brooklineadulted.org); or your local adult education center.
- Other Websites:
  - American Community Gardening Association: [www.communitygarden.org](http://www.communitygarden.org)
  - City Farmer - Canada's Office of Urban Agriculture: [www.cityfarmer.org](http://www.cityfarmer.org)
  - Cornell University Dept. of Horticulture Gardening Resources: [www.gardening.cornell.edu/](http://www.gardening.cornell.edu/)
  - Dave's Garden: [davesgarden.com](http://davesgarden.com)
  - Green Guerillas (NYC): [www.greenguerillas.org](http://www.greenguerillas.org)
  - Garden Fact Sheets Database: <http://plantfacts.ohio-state.edu/>
  - Garden Mosaics Project: [www.gardenmosaics.cornell.edu/](http://www.gardenmosaics.cornell.edu/)
  - Kidsgardening.com: [www.kidsgardening.com](http://www.kidsgardening.com)
  - National Gardening Association: [www.garden.org/home](http://www.garden.org/home)
  - Ohio Extension Service Web Garden: [webgarden.osu.edu/](http://webgarden.osu.edu/)
  - Regional Environmental Council of Central Massachusetts: [www.recworchester.org/UGROW/index.html](http://www.recworchester.org/UGROW/index.html)
  - San Francisco Garden Resource Organization: [www.sfgro.org](http://www.sfgro.org)
  - The Trustees of Reservations: [www.thetrustees.org](http://www.thetrustees.org)
  - University of Connecticut Invasive Plant List: [www.hort.uconn.edu/CIPWG/](http://www.hort.uconn.edu/CIPWG/)
  - UMASS list of New England Natives: [www.umassgreeninfo.org/fact\\_sheets/plant\\_culture/umass\\_native\\_plts.pdf](http://www.umassgreeninfo.org/fact_sheets/plant_culture/umass_native_plts.pdf)
  - Urban Harvest: [www.urbanharvest.org](http://www.urbanharvest.org)
  - USDA Plant Database: <http://plants.usda.gov/>
  - Windowbox.com: [www.windowbox.com](http://www.windowbox.com)

Resource list updated 3/23/2011. Information compiled by Boston Natural Areas Network. Phone 617-542-7696, [www.bostonnatural.org](http://www.bostonnatural.org) or email [info@bostonnatural.org](mailto:info@bostonnatural.org).