



Spruce Lane Community Garden Guidelines

The Community Garden at Spruce Lane has been in operation since 1992 and has produced many tons of produce for those willing to grow their own food in our garden. About 30 varieties of vegetables are grown each year. Harvest can begin as early as mid June and continues to the end of September. Seeds, tools, instruction and encouragement are all provided.

The Community Garden is a non-profit project started by Edith Schaeffer and operates on her land. It is supported by various community groups and local agricultural societies affiliated with the Food Security Initiative in Lacombe, which supplies volunteer gardeners who grow their share for the Lacombe Community Suppers throughout the year. Last year, we partnered with Michener Services to start our tender seedlings in greenhouses. Garden and Greenhouse volunteers are always welcome.

We are most grateful for the financial support we receive from time to time. To learn how to support the Garden with a financial contribution, please call Edith at 403-885-4666.

Please read these Guidelines carefully to be sure you are familiar with the structure and operation of our community garden.

Philosophy

We believe that community gardens are more successful and more fun when we garden together. Spruce Lane community gardeners work together on a large section of the Spruce Lane land. We have an experienced instructor, Edith, who directs our activities each week.

The Basics

- We garden Wednesdays from 6:15pm to approximately 9:00pm from May until October.
- All instruction is provided. No experience is necessary.
- All seeds and tools are provided. Gardeners use hand tools only; watering is done by watering can from a large collection barrel on site.
- We weigh or count our harvest and divide it by the number of registered gardeners in attendance. For instance, if we pick 60 onions and 6 gardeners are present that night, everyone takes home 10 onions.
- Families are welcome but parents must supervise their children at all times.

Week One: May 5, 2010 - 6:15pm – dusk (roughly 8:30pm – 9:00pm)
Come prepared to work in the garden

Getting Here

- Spruce Lane Organics is located just west of Highway 2A, between Lacombe and Blackfalds. Watch for the driveway signage on the left about 1km north of the Blackfalds overpass.

Cost

- Registration Fee: \$30, due on registration, plus \$7/week
- If these fees are a barrier to your participation, please let Edith know and she will assist you to make your garden happen.

Absences

- If you are unable to keep your Wednesday commitment please have someone fill in for you. If absent with no replacement, you will forfeit that week's harvest and you will need to make up the time.
- If you have holidays planned, you can pre-work your hours or have a friend come and garden in your place.
- Remember, you must do the work to share in the harvest.
- Each summer you are allowed one emergency grace week where you are allowed to miss a session without making it up. Note that all this is designed for emergencies, such as illness, not holidays which can be planned around.

What to Expect

- Lots of produce.
- To meet gardeners from all walks of life. Some are experienced, most are novices.
- To look forward to seeing what's ready to be harvested. It's addictive!
- The novelty to wear off as you pull weeds in the rain. Hang in there!
- To be stiff (sore muscles) after some weeks. It's good exercise digging potatoes.
- That in the peak of the harvest we might need to harvest twice a week just to keep up!
- To bring appropriate clothing and footwear – we garden on all but the very rainiest of days.
- That once harvesting begins, bring totes or bags to haul your produce to your vehicle.
- That some people partner with a friend, and then split the duties or split their harvest.

The Fine Print!

- Please note that while the garden practices all organic methods, and has for many years, it is not “certified organic”.
- All gardeners and guests must stay within the fenced garden area. Everyone gardens at their own risk. Watch for gopher holes and uneven ground.
- If gardening in a group isn't what you are looking for, or if you want more autonomy, Edith also rents more typical community garden plots.

A Note from Edith

I am honoured to have you take part in the Spruce Lane Community Garden. Together we can make a difference in your health by providing good food for those that dine at your table. Gardening has always been very dear to me, and I am passionate about helping everyone learn how to grow and appreciate fresh, locally grown produce. I look forward to meeting our new gardeners and to a very successful season. I can be reached at 403-885-4666 for questions, now and throughout the season.

See you at the garden!

Edith



Planting List

The following are the vegetables which are generally grown in our garden, along with their harvest period, and storage options. Note that you can request additional varieties at the bottom of the chart.

Vegetable	Row Length	Y/N?	Drying	Store	Can	Freezing	Harvest Month
Beans, burgundy	10'				x	x	7/8
Beans, green	10'				x	x	7/8
Beans, yellow	10'				x	x	7/8
Beets	20' dbl row				x	x	7/8/9
Broccoli	10'					x	8
Cabbage	10'				x	x	8/9
Carrots	25' dbl row				x	x	7/8/9
Cauliflower	10'				x	x	8/9
Chard	5'				x	x	7/8/9
Corn	25' dbl row				x	x	8/9
Cucumbers	10'				x		7/8
Lettuce	10'						6/7/8/9
Onions	113 sets		x	x		x	6/7/8/9
Parsnips	5'			x			9
Peas	45'				x	x	7/8
Potatoes	50+ hills			x			7/8/9
Radishes	5'						6/7/8/9
Spinach	5'						6/7/8/9
Squash	1 plant var.			x	x	x	8/9
Tomatoes	2 or more		x		x	x	8/9
Turnip	5'			x		x	8/9
Kholrabi	5'						8/9
Flowers							7/8/9
Herbs	variety		x			x	7/8/9
Something else?							



Spruce Lane Community Garden Application Form 2010

1. Name _____
2. Mailing Address _____
3. Home Phone _____
4. Cell / Work phone _____
5. Email address _____
6. Names of others who will be helping you in the garden
- _____
- _____
7. Have you planted a garden before? _____
8. Have you read and understand the Garden Guidelines? _____
9. Are you committed to the garden from seeding to harvest? _____
10. Do you need food preserving / canning instruction? _____
11. Would you like to carpool or do you need a ride to the garden? _____
12. How did you find out about the community garden? _____

I have read and understand the guidelines for the Spruce Lane Community Garden. I agree to follow these guidelines at all times. I understand that there are some risks involved in any outdoor activity such as gardening and I accept those risks, and agree to hold Spruce Lane and Edith Schaeffer harmless.

Signature of Gardener

Date

Please submit completed application forms and \$30 registration fee to:

Lacombe Neighborhood Place – 5102 50th Ave, Lacombe, AB. Phone: 403-782-0886

OR

Blackfalds Neighborhood Place – 5016 Waghorn Street, Blackfalds, AB. Phone: 403-885-0119

RULES AND REGULATIONS

Individual Plots

PURPOSE: To provide an environment to grow nutritious food and enhance your relationship with Mother Nature in a safe, peaceful and relaxing atmosphere.

- 1) Only honest, trustworthy, committed people will be accepted for plots.
- 2) There will be a deposit of \$20 deposit that will be returned when your plot is cleaned at season's end. Plot rental is \$90 for the season.
- 3) Neither Spruce Lane nor Edith Schaeffer is responsible for any personal loss or injury nor for any loss or damages to the gardens. You enter the property at your own risk.
- 4) No trespassing into others plots. This includes children so please keep an eye on them.
- 5) No trespassing beyond garden or driveway area.
- 6) Absolutely no pets allowed.
- 7) The use of chemicals to control weeds or bugs is strictly forbidden. The garden is maintained organically, so ask before you put anything on your plot.
- 8) Park in designated areas only. You may drive to your plot to load or unload. Parking will be refused if the privilege is abused.
- 9) Keep your plot weed free. If weeds are out of control you'll be given a phone call (message on answering machine applies) to clean up your plot. Unattended gardens after 5 days from this phone call will be tilled under.
- 10) Inform Edith if you are going away for an extended period – to avoid #9.
- 11) Pail watering only. There is a limited water supply.
- 12) Your music is for your ears only. Please keep the volume low to respect others enjoyment of nature.
- 13) Be willing to share your knowledge. We are all students and teachers.

I HAVE READ, UNDERSTAND AND ACCEPT THE ABOVE RULES AND REGULATIONS

GARDENER: _____

HOME PHONE: _____

PAID DATE: _____ PLOT#: _____

How did you hear about plot rentals? _____

WATCH BULLETIN BOARD FOR MESSAGES OR NEWSLETTERS

