

These Frequently Asked Questions and Answers (FAQs) are intended to help get your new community garden off to a good start by providing information from in-place community gardens on their organization, their garden design and infrastructure, and operation. The Answers reflect the diversity of gardens -- their objectives, structure, and methods. The FAQs are not intended to encompass the many ongoing specific and timely questions that are addressed on the ptcommunitygardens@yahoo.com site.

Garden: Christian Science Church Garden

Submitted by: Jo Yount

Date: 1/8/2008

<p>Q1: How is your garden group organized? How many members? What is the leadership -- core group of volunteers with lots of energy or natural leadership/organizing skills? and/or professional gardener who runs the day to day operations? other? What if any committees are there?</p>	<p>TWO OF US HAVE DONE ALL GARDENING AT THE CHURCH FOR TEN YEARS OR SO, TURNING LOTS OF GRASS INTO PERENNIAL GARDENS. AND IN 2007 WE DID A SMALL RAISED GARDEN FOR VEGGIES IN THE BACK WHICH WE DID A MAKESHIFT DEER FENCE. THE SOIL AND THE SUNNY SITE JUST WHET OUR APPETITE FOR MORE. JUDY AND I ARE THE MAJOR INSTIGATORS AND WORKERS, ANY OTHER CHURCH MEMBERS WHO HELP ARE JUST INTERMITENT.</p>
<p>Q2: Describe your Member - Host agreement. Are there Member - Host agreements you think are critical to success over time?</p>	<p>THE CHURCH MEMBERSHIP PERMITS US TO USE THE AREA, WE PAY FOR ALL SUPPLIES EXCEPT WATER.</p>
<p>Q3: How do you handle damage/injury/liability insurance for members and host?</p>	<p>BASICALLY JUST DEPEND ON OUR REGULAR INSURANCE.</p>
<p>Q4: What are the conditions to becoming a member? belonging to the neighborhood? other?</p>	<p>ANY CHURCH MEMBER CAN JOIN US WHEN THEY WANT</p>
<p>Q5: Do you have guidelines or rules about when new members can join the group, i.e., limited windows of opportunity during the year? ..</p>	<p>No</p>
<p>Q6: Do you have a philosophy, guidelines, rules, and/or by-laws? What are they?</p>	<p>NOTHING FORMAL, BUT WE DO WORK ON AN ORGANIC BASIS</p>

are they?	
Q7: What is the one-time new member financial commitment? What are the continuing dues, and how often are they collected?	DNA
Q8: How much, how often, and for what one-time expenses have you collected special dues?	DNA
Q9: Do you pay a gardener to organize and oversee member work? Why?	NO. WE BOTH HAVE MASTER GARDENER TRAINING, JUDY IS ACTIVE WITH THEM AND WAS A PROFESSIONAL GARDENER IN HER PAST.
Q10: To what extent has your membership grown after the initial garden was established, eg. after clearing, rototilling, major soil amendments, fencing, irrigation were completed?	NONE
Q11: Do you have 'categories' of membership where quantity of produce and work are 'graduated' -- similar to some CSAs where one can purchase, or work for, small (couple) or large (family) shares?	NONE
Q12: Do you offer the option of garden members having a p-patch (an individual plot)? If so, are there common garden resources that are shared with the p-patch gardeners?	NO
Q13: How are organizational functions such as bookkeeping and purchasing handled? Other non-gardening activities?	VERY INFORMAL BETWEEN US
Q14: What forms of community service does your membership perform -- food	YES, FOOD BANK AND SHARING EVERY WEEK WITH CHURCH MEMBERS. SO FAR WE HAVE WELCOMED ALL

bank donations? community education? assisting new/startup community gardens? other?	VISITORS AND ENCOURAGED OTHERS. NOTHING FORMAL
GARDEN DESIGN AND IMPLEMENTATION	
Q15: What is the typical? the ideal? garden size? How have you taken advantage of exceptionally small/large garden plots, less than ideal amount/duration of sun, and ‘difficult’ soil types?	DNA
Q16: Describe your overall garden design/layout and what factors influenced it? Has it changed over time and why?	DECIDED BASED ON GOOD SOIL WITH THE MOST SUN AND SMALLEST AMOUNT OF FENCING REQUIRED (TOOK ADVANTAGE OF A BUILDING AND NEIGHBORS FENCE
Q17: Does your garden include art? Describe.	JUST OUR ARTISTIC FENCE AND GATES!
Q18: Describe what “organic” means in your garden. Does it apply to non-chemical insecticides, pesticides, herbicides? and non-chemical fertilizer? other?	YES! WE ARE NOT AS FUSSY AS OTHERS ARE ABOUT CITY COMPOST _ WE LIKE IT AND USE IT REGULARLY.
Q19: What if any invasive and vining crops do you prohibit (ex. Mint)?	WE TRY TO BE VERY CAREFUL HERE. JUDY IS DEATH ON THINGS THAT SPREAD BY UNDERGROUND RUNNERS!
Q20: What produce have you chosen to grow -- perennial/annual vegetables? fruits? flowers? What season(s) have you chosen to grow -- spring-summer-fall, or winter garden also? What types of food use have you chosen -- immediate consumption? food preservation?	MOSTLY VEGGIES, ONLY FRUIT IS RASBERRIES, FLOWERS ARE SUPPOSEDLY RESTRICTED TO THOSE WHICH NEED DEER FENCING _ LIKE OUR TULIPS. MOSTLY FOR IMMEDIATE CONSUMPTION EXCEPT POTATOES AND WINTER SQUASH.

Do you grow for seed production?	
Q21: What materials and methods of irrigation/watering and why? What suggestions regarding rain barrels?	DRIP IRRIGATION AND LOTS OF COMPOST _ EASIEST. RAINBARRELS TEND TO HAVE WATER IN THEM WHEN YOU DON_T NEED IT.
Q22: Any advice or considerations in selecting a water meter (assuming there is a host-provided water source)?	DNA
Q23: What infrastructure (fencing, hoop house, watering/irrigation, compost bins, tool shed, and other) did you put into place initially? How has it grown? What approximate costs?	DEER FENCE FIRST. (COULD WORK THIS OUT FOR THOSE WHO NEED IT BUT FRANKLY DON_T REMEMBER.) PLAN ON HOOP HOUSE THIS YEAR. (DO NOT KNOW YET)
Q24: What methods do you use for managing compost -- bins, heaps, sheet-composting, other? How many households contribute compost material? Does the garden accept neighborhood waste? What kinds of problems have you experienced and how were they solved?	SO FAR, TAKING IT TO CITY FACILITY _ NOW THAT IT COSTS, WE ARE LOOKING AT NEAT AND EASY ALTERNATIVES. (HAVEN_T FOUND ANY SO FAR)
Q25: What is a good lab for soil testing? What kinds of soil test do you recommend?	DNA
Q26: What suggestions do you have for getting low-cost, free, donated, or loaned equipment and materials for garden startup activities?	BE WILLING TO WORK.
Q27: What grant sources are available?	DON_T KNOW
Q28: For what projects/materials has your garden received grants?	CHURCH MEMBERS MAKE INFORMAL CONTRIBUTIONS FOR VEGGIES THEY TAKE.
Q29: What methods have worked to	DNA

develop your garden incrementally? Do you have suggestions for starting with a small section and developing the garden as infrastructure and membership grows?	
OPERATIONS	
Q30: How does membership communicate (other than gardening together) -- phone trees, email list, at-garden message board, regular meetings?	DNA
Q31: Do members meet regularly? For what purpose? How frequently? What location? What is your meeting format (committee reports? problem solving? social/food? other?)	YES, THE TWO OF US USUALLY MET AS WE WORK, AND ONLY RARELY WORK ALONE.
Q32: How are decisions made -- by leader(s), by member consensus? both? other?	CONSENSUS OF TWO!
Q33: How are work parties organized -- around a special task (ex. fence building)? or regular, weekly sessions for ongoing gardening (planting, weeding, watering, etc.)?	DNA
Q34: How is work shared and/or assigned?	MUTUAL AGREEMENT
Q35: How do you harvest so that produce is shared equitably and that produce use is maximized?	DNA