

Growing Community



**Starting and nurturing
community gardens**



Government of South Australia
SA Health



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Cover: Planting at Henley Community Garden, SA. Photo: Carolyn McArthur

“Gardens, scholars say, are the first sign of commitment to a community. When people plant corn they are saying, let’s stay here. And by their connection to the land, they are connected to one another”

Anne Raver

Welcome!

Community gardens are places where people come together to grow food and community. This booklet, and its companion website, were created to encourage the establishment of new community gardens and to support the flourishing of those already growing. The booklet and website have been designed to be relevant to

- groups starting a community garden
- professionals considering using community gardening as part of their programs
- people who are asked to support community garden projects
- those sustaining and developing established community gardens.

The information this booklet contains is based on questions posed by people starting community gardens, and advice from experienced community gardeners, as well as research in community development, project management, and sustainable gardening.

There are as many ways of starting and maintaining a community garden as there are gardeners. This booklet is not intended to be prescriptive, but to provide resources, contacts and information for groups to develop their own ways of working, and to draw on others' experience to avoid some of the common pitfalls.

The website

Throughout the booklet there are references to further information available at <http://www.canh.asn.au/projects/community-gardens.aspx>. This website contains up-to-date web links, workshop handouts, administration forms that you can adapt for your own garden, and additional resources. You can also download the pdf version of this booklet from the website.

Essential community garden resources

Australian City Farms and Community Gardens

Network connects and advocates for community gardens around the country. The website has information on starting a community garden, news and updates about community gardens around the country and links to more resources. Join their listserv to draw on the wisdom of hundreds of community gardeners. See website for regional contacts.

www.communitygarden.org.au

Australian Community Foods contains contact details for community gardens across Australia.

www.communityfoods.org.au

The American Community Gardening Association has start up information and resources, links, and access to publications. www.communitygarden.org

The Canadian **City Farmer** website has extensive information and links about urban agriculture and community gardening, including some Australian content.

www.cityfarmer.org and www.cityfarmer.info

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