

**CAN YOU  
DIG IT**

CHARLOTTE COMMUNITY  
GARDEN TOUR

2013

## Gardening Resources

### How do I start a container garden?

It doesn't take much to start a container garden! All you need is a plastic tub or other container for growing, potting soil, & seeds or plants. For information and instructions for creating a container garden check out the following website:

[www.urbanext.illinois.edu/containergardening/herbveggiecontainers.cfm](http://www.urbanext.illinois.edu/containergardening/herbveggiecontainers.cfm)

### What should I plant and during what season?

With each season comes a different and exciting selection of fresh fruits and vegetables, which is what makes gardening so fun! You can find out what should be planted for each season by visiting:

[www.friendship-gardens.org/gardening-101](http://www.friendship-gardens.org/gardening-101).

## Gardening Classes in the Charlotte area:

- CPCC: [www.cce.cpcc.edu/personal-interest/HomeandGarden](http://www.cce.cpcc.edu/personal-interest/HomeandGarden)
- Extension Master Gardeners of Mecklenburg County: [www.mastergardenersmecklenburg.org/master-gardener-events.html](http://www.mastergardenersmecklenburg.org/master-gardener-events.html)
- Friendship Gardens: [www.friendship-gardens.org](http://www.friendship-gardens.org)
- Mecklenburg Cooperative Extension: [www.mecklenburg.ces.ncsu.edu](http://www.mecklenburg.ces.ncsu.edu)
- Renfrow Hardware in Matthews: [www.renfrowhardware.com](http://www.renfrowhardware.com)



### How can I get a community garden started?

It's easier than you may think. Check out Eat Smart Move More North Carolina's planning and resource guide at: [www.nccommunitygarden.ncsu.edu/primer.html](http://www.nccommunitygarden.ncsu.edu/primer.html)

The guide describes a community garden, its benefits, how to find or start a garden and tips for growing, storing, preparing and enjoying fruits and vegetables

### I am really interested in organic gardening; do you have any resources for that?

Friendship Gardens provides an excellent resource for organic gardening, including tips for pest and disease control. Check out the list of homemade organic controls to try in your garden when you visit [www.friendship-gardens.org/organic-pest-and-disease-control](http://www.friendship-gardens.org/organic-pest-and-disease-control).

**I like the idea of a vegetable and fruit garden but don't have the time to start from scratch. Do you know of any businesses that specialize in this?**

You can simplify the process by purchasing transplants, soil, and compost from local hardware stores or large discount chain stores. If you are looking for a company to come build a garden in your yard for you, check out the following companies:

Instant Organic Gardener: [www.instantorganicgarden.com](http://www.instantorganicgarden.com)

Microfarm Organic: [www.microfarmgardens.com](http://www.microfarmgardens.com).

**I want to start composting; any resources for that?**

Composting is a great way to help nurture your plants and is great for the environment as well! For information on how to get started check out Mecklenburg County's Solid Waste and Recycling website: <http://charmeck.org/mecklenburg/county/SolidWaste/homecomposting/Pages/default.aspx>

**I want to grow my own fruits and vegetables, but I am concerned about food safety?**

Food safety is an important topic to be considered. Fortunately, there are several practices and techniques you can use to keep your produce safe to eat. Check out this great resource on food safety for school and community gardens at [www.growingsafergardens.com/food-safety-curriculum](http://www.growingsafergardens.com/food-safety-curriculum)

If you have specific questions regarding food safety, check out Mecklenburg County's Environmental Health website: [www.envhealth.charmeck.org](http://www.envhealth.charmeck.org)

**Local Gardening Resources:**

**Charlotte Green:**

[www.charlottegreen.org](http://www.charlottegreen.org)

**Friendship Gardens:**

[www.friendship-gardens.org](http://www.friendship-gardens.org)

**Instant Organic Gardener:**

[www.instantorganicgarden.com](http://www.instantorganicgarden.com)

**Master Gardeners of Mecklenburg County:**

[www.mastergardenersmecklenburg.org](http://www.mastergardenersmecklenburg.org)

**Mecklenburg County Cooperative Extension:**

[www.mecklenburg.ces.ncsu.edu](http://www.mecklenburg.ces.ncsu.edu)

**Mecklenburg County Fruit & Vegetable Coalition:**

[www.mcfvc.charmeck.org](http://www.mcfvc.charmeck.org)

**Renfrow Hardware:**

[www.renfrowhardware.com](http://www.renfrowhardware.com)

**Wipe Out Waste:**

[www.charmeck.org/mecklenburg/county/SolidWaste/homecomposting/Pages/default.aspx](http://www.charmeck.org/mecklenburg/county/SolidWaste/homecomposting/Pages/default.aspx)