



GREATER LANSING
foodbank
GARDEN PROJECT

MEMBER OF
FEEDING
AMERICA

OUR MISSION:

Partner to alleviate hunger, one meal at a time, to create a future where everyone has access to nourishing food.

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GROWING HEALTHY FOOD, CULTIVATING CONNECTIONS

Fall 2019

Garden Notes

End of Season Garden Plot Clean Up for Community Gardeners

DEADLINE: Sunday, October 20, 2019

We hope you had a great growing season with bountiful harvests! Please follow these simple steps to prepare your garden plot for spring tilling:

REMOVE:

- All stakes
- Burlap & weed cloth
- Diseased plants
- Fencing
- Large sticks & trellis materials
- Litter & trash
- Plastic planting containers
- String
- Tomato cages



Reminders:

- Bag and remove your trash and other garden items
- Harvest ripe crops (you can continue to harvest after the clean-up deadline)
- You may leave all corn and sunflowers standing in the gardens we till. We will bring a tractor to mow your plot in November, cutting debris and leaving the organic matter to break down. *For no-till gardens with raised beds, chop up thick woody stalks with a shovel or loppers.
- Gardeners must leave plots clear by deadline to be eligible for a plot next year!



Grow-A-Row, because no one should go hungry

All home and community gardeners are encouraged to plant and grow extra vegetables and donate the harvest to their local pantry or community kitchen.

You can make a difference in the lives of others by using the power of your own garden!

WHY GROW AN EXTRA ROW?

- ✓ Help provide fresh, healthy produce to those in need.
- ✓ Contribute to the sustainability of agriculture.
- ✓ Help create a future where everyone has access to nourishing food.

Fall Garden Tips



- Plant garlic and leeks in perennial beds 6 weeks before the ground freezes. Your local farmer's market is a great source of garlic; use the largest cloves for planting. For more information, "Growing Great Garlic" by Ron Engeland is an excellent book that is available at the Resource Center (RC).
- A cover crop, like rye and oats, will improve your soil. Cover crop seeds, along with sowing instructions, are available at the RC and in many of our garden sheds.
- Keep your plot well harvested. Rotting vegetables will attract rodents, disease, theft and other pests.
- Preserve your harvest. Get free canning jars and equipment at the RC by appointment. We have water baths, pressure canners, food mills and canning jars in various sizes.



GROW-A-ROW Fresh Produce DROP-OFF LOCATIONS

Your extra garden-grown produce can make a difference to those in need



Cristo Rey Community Center
1717 N High St., Lansing
(517) 372-4700

First Presbyterian Church
(Northwest Initiative)
510 Ottawa St., Lansing
(517) 574-5124

Haslett Food Pantry
1427 Haslett Rd., Haslett
(517) 505-3147

Holt Community Food Bank
2021 N Aurelius Rd., Holt
(517) 388-8624

Letts Community Center
1220 W. Kalamazoo St., Lansing
(517) 483-4311

Mason Food Pantry
118 W Oak St., Mason
(517) 676-2563

Siren/Eaton Shelter
520 Robinson Rd., Charlotte
(517) 543-0748

Southside Community Kitchen
(St. Casimir Church)
800 W Barnes Ave., Lansing
(517) 375-2977

For a full listing of produce drop locations, visit www.gloffbank.org
> Get Involved > Give Food > Grow A Row Program Listing

Garden Project *Gardener Survey 2019*

Please return by Thursday, October 31st

This survey will be used to get your opinions on your gardening experience, so we can improve! It will also be used to report back to our funders. We are interested in your honest feedback.

All questions are optional. This survey can be confidential. You do not need to give your name unless you would like a response or would

*like to be entered in the raffle. Please fold in half, tape shut, affix stamp, and mail by Oct. 31st. **Thank you for sharing!***

Save a stamp!
Complete the survey online at:
<http://bit.ly/2019gardenersurvey>

Your completed survey enters you in a raffle to win prizes throughout October!
Gift Certificates, Garden Project T-shirts
& Favorite Gardening Books

1. Were your grocery bills reduced because you gardened this year? Yes No
2. Did your diet improve because of your garden this year? Yes No
3. Where do you garden? Home Community Garden, please name: _____
4. What is your home zip code? _____
5. Number of people eating food from your garden plots: _____
6. In my household, I/we: Have enough food to eat
 Have enough food to eat, but not always enough *fresh fruits and vegetables*
 Sometimes do not have enough food to eat
 Often or usually do not have enough food to eat
7. How important is the garden to your family's diet?
 Essential: More than 50% of our fresh produce comes from the garden
 Very important: 10%-50% of our fresh produce comes from the garden
 Not very important: Less than 10% of our fresh produce comes from the garden
8. What did you do with your produce? (check all that apply)
 Ate Fresh Canned Froze Dried Sold
Gave away by: Giving directly to those I know are food insecure
 Sharing with my neighbors or friends
 Donating to pantry/community kitchen. *Which pantry?* _____
9. What is the biggest challenge you face in growing food in your garden?
10. Check the TOP 5 REASONS you garden:
To eat more fruits and vegetables.....
To provide food for my family and myself
To grow food for donation.....
To spend less money on food
To eat more foods that are traditional for my culture/family background
To improve my mental well-being.....
To be more physically active
Just to be outside
To improve community/neighborhood engagement
For community/neighborhood beautification.....

11. Please rate each of the following aspects of working in your Community Garden:

	<u>Great</u>	<u>Good</u>	<u>Fair</u>	<u>Poor</u>	<u>Comments</u>
The location of the garden(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
The shed was stocked with the tools you need.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
The quality of the garden resources (soil, water, etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
The organization and management of the garden.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
The social atmosphere of the garden.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
The helpfulness of GP staff and volunteers.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

12. How vital were these Garden Project services to your gardening efforts?

	<u>Essential</u>	<u>Useful</u>	<u>Neutral</u>	<u>Didn't Use</u>	<u>Comments</u>
Tools (in sheds and at RC)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
The garden itself (land, water, etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Staff time and advice.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Seeds and plant starts.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Materials (compost, woodchips)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Workshops and trainings.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Other:_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

13. Any final comments on your overall gardening experience or stories you'd like to share?

14. To enter the GP prize raffle, write your name & best way to contact you:

*Place
Stamp
Here*

**The Garden Project
PO Box 16224
Lansing, MI 48901**

Calendar of Fall Workshops & Events

Harvest Party Fundraiser

Wednesday, September 18th | 5:30-7:30 PM
Van Atta's Greenhouse & Flower Shop
9008 Old M-78, Haslett, MI 48840

Garden Project needs your help as we continue to support our network of community and home gardeners across the Greater Lansing area. This garden party with hors d'oeuvres is a great way to lend support! Ticket: \$50, Friend of the Garden: \$250, Sponsor: \$500

GP Annual Perennial Plant Exchange

Saturday, September 21st | At 1:00 PM
GP Resource Center in Foster Park

Fall is the best time to plant perennial flowers for blooms next year. Bring healthy, LABELED plants from home that you would like to trade. If you don't have any plants, come anyway; you can select perennials for yourself after the first two exchange rounds!

Autumn Potluck & Garden Showcase

Tuesday, October 1st | 5:30-7:00 PM
Northwind Community Garden
4960 Northwind Dr., East Lansing, MI 48823

Celebrate the year's harvest at Northwind Community Garden in Meridian Township. Bring a dish to share. There will be awards, games, tours and more!

For more information or to RSVP to any of the above events, contact the Garden Project office at (517) 853-7809 or email gardenproject@glfoodbank.org.

Let's Garden Lansing!



www.letsgardenlansing.org

Thanks to the support of many excellent community partners, there are garden related workshops and events almost every week! Visit www.letsgardenlansing.org for an updated listing of local gardening happenings near you.

2019 Season Highlights



We know it was a tough growing year, given the rainy start and dry spell of late summer, but you are a resilient network and we've enjoyed seeing beautiful, garden-grown produce come out of your plots!

The new, self-select system at the RC was a hit! Gardeners "shopped" the tables full of plants and volunteers helped stock, water and answer growing questions!



Garden Tour was beautiful! Guests visited Village Summit, St. Stephens Church, ICLB plots and many others!

Students from MSU have been using the gardens for research on compost, biodiversity, culture, diet and more. One told us, "I have met some of the absolute nicest people through the gardens."



Volunteer groups have given the gardens a real boost this year — GM, Accident Fund, neogen and many others have come out and dug in!



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GreaterLansingFoodBank.org

[facebook.com/TheGardenProject](https://www.facebook.com/TheGardenProject)

GROWING HEALTHY FOOD, CULTIVATING CONNECTIONS

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HEARTFELT THANK YOU!

A heartfelt thank you to all
our Garden Leaders, funders,
supporters and volunteers.
You are appreciated more than
you will ever know!



Volunteer Opportunities

- Garden Project hosts individuals and groups every month of the year! Whether it is garden clean-up in the fall or seed sorting in the winter, we would love to have you join us! Visit our website at glfoodbank.org/get-involved to check out our current projects.
- Greater Lansing Food Bank gleans produce from local orchards and farm fields to feed those in need. To become a volunteer gleaner this fall, call Sarah S. at (517) 908-3698 or email volunteers@glfoodbank.org.