












Mission 1 — Liberty Gardens

Field Guide Library

-  #1 Starting Your First Garden
-  #2 What to Plant This Month
-  #3A Composting 101 — Getting Started
-  #3B Composting 101 — Building Better Soil
-  #4 Root Cellar Basics
-  #5 Small Spaces, Big Harvests
-  #6 Seed Saving Basics
-  #7 Water Wise Gardening
-  #8 Small-Space Water Collection
-  #9 Small Helpers, Big Harvests
-  #10 Gardens Build Community



REVIVAL FOR SURVIVAL FIELD GUIDE

MISSION 1 – LIBERTY GARDENS

Grow Together.

FIELD GUIDE #1

STARTING YOUR FIRST GARDEN



Every garden begins with a first seed.

WHY THIS MATTERS

Growing food doesn't require acres of land, expensive equipment, or years of experience.

Many successful gardens begin with a few containers, a small raised bed, a handful of seeds, and a willingness to learn.

The goal isn't perfection. The goal is participation.



1 START SMALL

One of the most common mistakes new gardeners make is trying to grow too much too soon.

Begin with easy, productive plants.

- Tomatoes
- Peppers
- Lettuce
- Green Beans
- Herbs

These plants are beginner-friendly and help build confidence quickly.

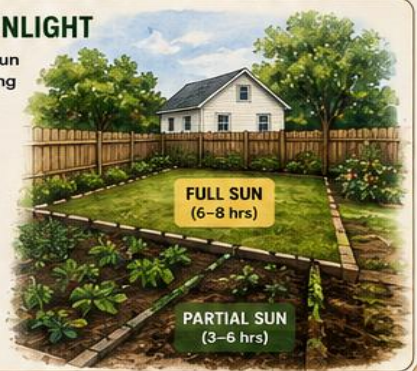


2 KNOW YOUR SUNLIGHT

Most vegetables require full sun to thrive. Observe your growing space before planting.

FULL SUN
6-8 hours daily
Tomatoes, peppers, beans, squash, cucumbers, corn

PARTIAL SUN
3-6 hours daily
Lettuce, spinach, herbs, peas, root vegetables



3 WATER CONSISTENTLY

Gardens prefer deep watering instead of frequent shallow watering.

A GOOD RULE:
Water the soil. Not the leaves.



Consistency produces healthier, stronger plants.

4 BUILD HEALTHY SOIL

Healthy soil creates healthy plants.

- Add organic matter:
- compost
 - aged manure
 - leaves
 - grass clippings
 - organic matter



HEALTHY SOIL IMPROVES:

- Moisture Retention
- Root Growth
- Nutrient Availability
- Plant Resilience

5 WELCOME POLLINATORS

Bees and pollinators help gardens thrive. Plant a variety of flowers and herbs to support them.

- Sunflowers
- Zinnias
- Native Wildflowers
- Flowering Herbs (Lavender, Basil, Mint)



A healthy garden supports a healthy ecosystem.

6 HARVEST & LEARN

Every season teaches something. Successes teach. Mistakes teach. Keep notes to improve each year.

- Planting dates
- Varieties grown
- Weather observations
- Harvest amounts
- What worked
- What to try next



7 SHARE THE EXPERIENCE



- Family participation
- Community connection
- Skill building
- Healthier lifestyles
- Stronger neighborhoods



LIBERTY GARDENS CHALLENGE

 PLANT YOUR FIRST SEED <input type="checkbox"/>	 GROW ONE VEGETABLE <input type="checkbox"/>	 TEACH ONE PERSON <input type="checkbox"/>	 SHARE ONE HARVEST <input type="checkbox"/>	 INSPIRE ONE NEIGHBOR <input type="checkbox"/>
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SMALL ACTIONS CREATE STRONG COMMUNITIES.

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Grow Food. Grow Skills.
Grow Freedom. Grow Together.

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STRONG ROOTS. STRONG COMMUNITIES. STRONG AMERICA. ★ ★

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Grow Together.

FIELD GUIDE #2

WHAT TO PLANT THIS MONTH



WHY THIS MATTERS

- Improves germination
- Reduces plant stress
- Increases harvests
- Reduces frustration
- Builds gardening confidence

"The best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago. The second best time is now."












RIGHT PLANT. RIGHT TIME. BETTER HARVESTS.

Planting at the correct time improves germination, reduces stress, increases harvests, and builds gardening confidence. Every season has crops that thrive—make the most of yours!

1 COOL SEASON CROPS

Best planted when temperatures are mild.


 LETTUCE Fast growing and great for salads.	 PEAS Love cool weather and climb.
 SPINACH Nutrient rich and cold hardy.	 BROCCOLI Strong, hardy and nutritious.
 CARROTS Grows well in cool soil.	 KALE Very cold tolerant and productive.
 ONIONS Reliable, easy to grow.	 RADISHES Quick harvest and beginner friendly.

 Cool season crops can often be planted early in spring or late in fall.

2 WARM SEASON CROPS

Love heat and sunshine.

 TOMATOES The garden favorite!	 CORN Tall, fun to grow and productive.
 PEPPERS Sweet or spicy, always productive.	 BEANS Bush or pole, both are winners.
 CUCUMBERS Vine crop that loves warmth.	 SQUASH Zucchini, yellow, and more.

 Warm season crops should be planted after the danger of frost has passed.

3 START SEEDS OR BUY PLANTS?

SEEDS



- Lower cost
- Greater variety
- Rewarding experience
- Builds self-reliance

STARTER PLANTS




- Faster harvests
- Easier for beginners
- Less indoor setup needed
- Great for short growing seasons

4 DON'T FORGET POLLINATORS!

Plant flowers alongside vegetables.

 SUNFLOWERS Provide pollen and beauty.	 ZINNIAS Bright blooms attract bees.	 NATIVE FLOWERS Support local pollinators.	 FLOWERING HERBS Like basil, mint & thyme.
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 Healthy pollinators = healthier plants and higher yields!

5 KEEP A SIMPLE GARDEN JOURNAL

Tracking your garden helps you grow smarter every year.



EVERY SEASON TEACHES SOMETHING.

LIBERTY GARDENS CHALLENGE – THIS MONTH



PLANT ONE NEW CROP
Try something new this month.



TRY ONE FLOWER FOR POLLINATORS
Help the pollinators help your garden.



START A GARDEN JOURNAL
Track your progress and learn.



TEACH SOMEONE WHAT YOU'RE GROWING
Knowledge grows when we share.



SHARE A GARDENING TIP
Small tips make big differences.



SMALL ACTIONS CREATE STRONG COMMUNITIES.

GROW FOOD.
GROW FRIENDSHIPS.
GROW HOPE.



FIELD GUIDE TAKEAWAY

The right plant at the right time creates healthier gardens and bigger harvests.

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FIELD GUIDE #3

COMPOSTING 101

Turn Waste Into Life.

Composting is one of the easiest ways to improve soil, reduce waste, and save money. Nature does the work. We just help it along!



WHY COMPOST?

- ✓ Reduces household waste
- ✓ Improves soil structure
- ✓ Adds nutrients naturally
- ✓ Helps retain moisture
- ✓ Attracts beneficial life
- ✓ Saves money
- ✓ Good for the planet
- ✓ Teaches self-reliance



THE BASICS – HOW IT WORKS

1

ADD GREENS

Nitrogen rich materials



- Fruit & veggie scraps
- Grass clippings
- Coffee grounds
- Green leaves

2

ADD BROWNS

Carbon rich materials



- Dry leaves
- Straw
- Shredded paper
- Cardboard (torn)

3

LAYER ALTERNATING

Greens and browns



Like a lasagna!

4

KEEP IT MOIST

Like a wrung-out sponge



- Not too wet
- Not too dry

5

AERATE & WAIT

Turn every 1-2 weeks



- Oxygen feeds microbes
- 4-8 weeks for finished compost

WHAT TO COMPOST

GREENS (Nitrogen)

- ✓ Fruit & veggie scraps
- ✓ Coffee grounds & filters
- ✓ Grass clippings
- ✓ Fresh leaves
- ✓ Tea bags (no staples)
- ✓ Plant trimmings

BROWNS (Carbon)

- ✓ Dry leaves
- ✓ Straw or hay
- ✓ Shredded paper
- ✓ Cardboard (torn)
- ✓ Sawdust (untreated wood)
- ✓ Small twigs

DO NOT COMPOST

- ✗ Meat, fish, bones
- ✗ Dairy products
- ✗ Oils & grease
- ✗ Pet feces or kitty litter
- ✗ Diseased plants
- ✗ Weed seeds (unless hot composting)

COMPOST BIN OPTIONS



Tumble Bin



Wooden Bin



Wire Mesh Bin



Compost Pile

SIGNS OF GOOD COMPOST

- ✓ Smells earthy (like forest soil)
- ✓ Warm in the center
- ✓ Materials break down
- ✓ Dark, crumbly, rich texture
- ✓ No visible food scraps
- ✓ There's life! (worms, bugs)



QUICK TIPS FOR SUCCESS



Chop scraps smaller



Keep a good mix of greens & browns



Keep it moist but not soggy



Turn or fluff every 1-2 weeks



Add a little soil or finished compost to speed things up



Keep bin in partial shade

USES FOR FINISHED COMPOST



Add to your...

- ✓ Garden beds
- ✓ Raised beds
- ✓ Potted plants
- ✓ Seed starts
- ✓ Trees & shrubs
- ✓ Flower beds
- ✓ Lawn top dressing
- ✓ Houseplants

TROUBLESHOOTING



Smelly?

Too much green. Add more browns & turn.



Too dry?

Add water while turning.



Too wet?

Add browns, straw or shredded paper.



Not breaking down?

Chop smaller, turn more, add greens.

KIDS CAN HELP!

- ✓ Collect scraps
- ✓ Add layers
- ✓ Turn the pile
- ✓ Watch the magic happen!



"Compost today... Harvest tomorrow."

Small actions. Big impact. Grow together.

LIBERTY GARDENS CHALLENGE



Start your compost



Add greens & browns



Keep it moist



Turn it 1-2x a week



Use it in your garden!



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FIELD GUIDE #3

COMPOSTING 101

Turn Waste Into Rich, Living Soil!

Healthy Soil
Healthy Plants
Healthy Community

WHY COMPOST?

- ✓ Reduces waste
- ✓ Improves soil
- ✓ Saves money
- ✓ Feeds your plants
- ✓ Protects the environment
- ✓ Builds self-reliance

Composting is nature's
— way of recycling.
Anyone can do it!

1 WHAT IS COMPOST?

Compost is decomposed organic matter that turns into dark, nutrient-rich soil.



2 THE MAGIC RECIPE

You need 4 simple ingredients:

BROWNS (Carbon) + **GREENS** (Nitrogen) + **WATER** + **AIR**



3 WHAT TO COMPOST

DO COMPOST

- ✓ Fruit & veggie scraps
- ✓ Coffee grounds
- ✓ Eggshells
- ✓ Yard trimmings
- ✓ Leaves
- ✓ Shredded paper
- ✓ Grass clippings
- ✓ Tea bags (no staples)

DON'T COMPOST

- ✗ Meat, bones, fish
- ✗ Dairy products
- ✗ Oils & grease
- ✗ Pet waste
- ✗ Diseased plants
- ✗ Weed seeds
- ✗ Glossy paper
- ✗ Chemicals

4 HOW TO LAYER IT

- 1 Add a layer of **BROWNS** (dry leaves, shredded paper)
- 2 Add a layer of **GREENS** (food scraps, grass, greens)
- 3 Sprinkle with water (damp, like a wrung-out sponge)
- 4 Repeat layers
- 5 Turn every 1–2 weeks for air
- 6 In a few weeks, watch the magic happen!

5 COMPOSTING METHODS

1 BIN COMPOSER (Easy & Neat)



2 TUMBLE COMPOSER (Fast & Easy)



3 PILE COMPOST (Simple & Free)



4 WIRE BIN (Open Air & Low Cost)



6 SIGNS OF GOOD COMPOST

Ready to use when it is:

- ✓ Dark brown and crumbly
- ✓ Smells earthy, not sour
- ✓ Original materials are hard to recognize
- ✓ Cool to the touch



Tip: If it smells bad, it's too wet or has too many greens. Add more browns and turn it!

7 USE YOUR COMPOST

Add to:

- Garden beds
- Potted plants
- Flower beds
- Tree rings
- Lawns (top dress)



8 COMPOST ALL YEAR LONG

SPRING

Start new piles, add garden waste.



SUMMER

More greens, turn often, keep moist.



FALL

Leaves are perfect browns!



WINTER

Compost slows down, but it still works!



BENEFITS OF COMPOST

- ✓ Stronger plant roots
- ✓ Better water retention
- ✓ More nutrients in soil
- ✓ Less need for fertilizers
- ✓ Healthier gardens
- ✓ Cleaner environment



LIBERTY GARDENS CHALLENGE



Start a Compost Pile



Add Browns & Greens



Keep it Moist (not wet!)



Turn it 1–2 Weeks



Use Finished Compost in Your Garden



Teach it to Someone Else

FIELD GUIDE TAKEAWAY

Composting is simple.
It saves money.
It builds healthy gardens.
It strengthens our community.

Small actions create big change!



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GROW FOOD. GROW SKILLS. GROW FREEDOM. GROW TOGETHER.



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FIELD GUIDE #4 ROOT CELLAR BASICS

STORE FOOD NATURALLY. EXTEND YOUR HARVEST.

PERFECT FOR STORING:

- ✓ Root vegetables
- ✓ Apples & pears
- ✓ Cabbage & greens
- ✓ Squash & pumpkins
- ✓ Potatoes & onions
- ✓ And more!

WHY A ROOT CELLAR?

- ✓ Extends shelf life naturally
- ✓ No electricity needed
- ✓ Saves money
- ✓ Reduces food waste
- ✓ Maintains nutrition & flavor
- ✓ Works even during outages



“The earth keeps what the earth grows.”



1 IDEAL CONDITIONS

Root cellars stay cool, dark, and humid.



TEMPERATURE
32°F – 45°F
(0°C – 7°C) is ideal.



HUMIDITY
85% – 95% helps prevent wilting.



DARKNESS
Keeps produce fresh and prevents sprouting.



AIR FLOW
Gentle ventilation prevents mold and odors.

2 CHOOSE THE RIGHT LOCATION

Look for a spot that is:

- In shade most of the day
- On higher ground
- Away from large trees
- With good drainage
- Easy to access
- Close to the house or garden

DID YOU KNOW?

At about 8 feet underground, temperatures stay steady year-round.



3 SIMPLE ROOT CELLAR OPTIONS

Use what you have. Build what works for you.

ENTRY STYLE

Walk-down stairs into the cellar.



SLOPED STYLE

Built into a hillside for easier access.



ABOVE GROUND STYLE

Partially buried or insulated structure.



BASIC FEATURES



Insulated walls



Sturdy door



Ventilation vents



Drainage gravel



Shelving or storage bins

4 WHAT TO STORE

- ✓ Potatoes
- ✓ Carrots
- ✓ Beets
- ✓ Onions
- ✓ Garlic
- ✓ Cabbage
- ✓ Turnips
- ✓ Apples
- ✓ Pears
- ✓ Winter squash
- ✓ Sweet potatoes
- ✓ Jars & canned goods



STORE ONLY:

Clean, dry, undamaged produce. Never store anything that is wet, bruised, or rotting.

5 HOW TO STORE PROPERLY



- ✓ Keep produce dry
- Brush off soil—do not wash.



- ✓ Separate items
- Keep ethylene-producing fruits (apples) away from sensitive vegetables.



- ✓ Use breathable containers
- Wood crates, baskets, or bins with holes work best.



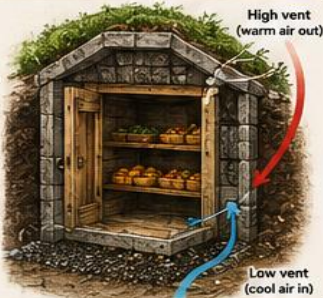
- ✓ Don't overcrowd
- Air needs to circulate between items.



- ✓ Check regularly
- Remove any spoiled or softening items.

6 BUILDING TIPS

- ✓ Insulate walls and ceiling
- Use straw bales, foam board, or natural insulation.
- ✓ Ensure good drainage
- A dry cellar lasts longer and keeps food safe.
- ✓ Add ventilation
- Use two vents: one low, one high.
- ✓ Build strong, seal tight
- Keep out rodents, insects, and excess moisture.



7 MAINTENANCE

- Sweep & clean a few times a year.
- Check for leaks or excess moisture.
- Inspect vents for blockages.
- Repair cracks or weak spots.
- Keep the door sealed & secure.

ROOT CELLAR CHECKLIST

- Cool (32°F – 45°F)
- Humid (85% – 95%)
- Dark
- Good ventilation
- Dry and clean
- Pests under control
- Properly stored food
- Regularly checked

A GOOD ROOT CELLAR CAN EXTEND YOUR HARVEST FOR 3–6 MONTHS OR MORE!

LIBERTY GARDENS CHALLENGE



Harvest with care
Pick mature, undamaged produce.



Store it right
Keep it clean, dry, and sorted.



Check often
Monitor temperature and humidity.



Share knowledge
Teach others how to store food naturally.



Build food security
Small steps today, security tomorrow.

FIELD GUIDE TAKEAWAY

Root cellars connect us to timeless knowledge, simple solutions, and a more self-reliant future.

*Healthy food.
Strong community.
Stronger together.*



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FIELD GUIDE #5
**SMALL SPACES,
BIG HARVESTS**
APARTMENT & BALCONY GARDENING



ANY SPACE CAN GROW FOOD.
ANYONE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

WHY IT MATTERS

- ✓ Fresh food saves money
- ✓ Reduces trips to the store
- ✓ Builds healthy habits
- ✓ Creates independence
- ✓ Strengthens resilience
- ✓ Anyone can do it!



"Where you plant a seed, hope grows."

1 COOL CLOSET STORAGE

Many vegetables store well in cool, dark, dry places.



- Potatoes
- Onions
- Garlic
- Winter squash



A closet or pantry can be your mini root cellar!

2 CRATES & BASKETS

Wooden crates and baskets create air flow and keep food fresh longer.



Build a mini root cellar in a cool closet!

3 BUCKET STORAGE

Food-grade buckets are great for root crops.



Store in a cool place away from sunlight.

4 UNDER-BED STORAGE

Use shallow, ventilated containers under beds to store:

- Onions
- Garlic
- Winter squash



Cool, dark, and convenient!

5 REFRIGERATOR EXTENSION

Store these crops for longer with the right method.

- Carrots
- Beets
- Cabbage
- Leafy greens



TIPS FOR SUCCESS

- Wrap in paper towels
- Use breathable bags
- Store in humidity drawer
- Don't wash until ready to use

6 DRYING & DEHYDRATING

Simple, space-saving ways to preserve your harvest.



Use a drying rack, oven on low, or a dehydrator.

7 SIMPLE PRESERVATION

Even in small spaces, you can preserve your harvest.

- WATER BATH CANNING**
Perfect for tomatoes, sauces, jams & more.
- FREEZING**
Great for vegetables, herbs, berries & cooked meals.
- DEHYDRATING**
Extends shelf life of fruits, herbs & vegetables.
- VACUUM SEALING**
Keep food fresh longer with minimal freezer burn.

Small steps today. More security tomorrow.

8 HERBS & GREENS ALL YEAR

Grow fresh in jars, pots, or window boxes.



GREAT IN SMALL SPACES

- Basil
- Mint
- Parsley
- Thyme
- Green onions
- Cilantro

*Fresh flavor.
Healthy food.
Right at home!*



LIBERTY GARDENS MESSAGE

"You don't need acres of land to participate. A balcony garden, a few containers, and a willingness to learn can produce food, skills, and confidence."

RENTING? NO PROBLEM!



Use movable containers



Try vertical gardens



Hang planters



Reuse & repurpose



Grow where you are planted!

Your home doesn't define your ability to grow.

LIBERTY GARDENS CHALLENGE



Grow something on your balcony or windowsill



Store one crop using a method from this guide



Preserve part of your harvest



Learn one new preservation skill



Share your food or knowledge with someone



FIELD GUIDE TAKEAWAY

Small spaces can still produce BIG results. Start where you are. Use what you have.

Grow together.



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FIELD GUIDE #6

SEED SAVING BASICS

The seeds you save today grow the freedom of tomorrow.



WHY SAVE SEEDS?

- ✓ Saves money
- ✓ Preserves your favorite varieties
- ✓ Adapts plants to your local climate
- ✓ Builds self-reliance
- ✓ Protects food diversity
- ✓ Strengthens future generations



"When we save seeds, we save freedom."

Save Today. Grow Tomorrow.

Saving seeds is easy, rewarding, and one of the most powerful ways to build food security, self-reliance, and stronger gardens for generations to come.

1 CHOOSE THE RIGHT PLANTS

Not every plant will produce good seeds. Choose strong, healthy plants.

- ✓ Disease-free
- ✓ High yielding
- ✓ True to type (the variety you want to save)
- ✓ Well adapted to your area



Best rule: Save from the best!

2 WHEN TO SAVE SEEDS

Seeds must be fully mature.

- ✓ Fruits: fully ripe
- ✓ Dry pods: brown and brittle
- ✓ Leaves: bolted and gone to seed
- ✓ Flowers: dried seed heads



If in doubt, wait longer!

3 COLLECTION BASICS

Gather seeds on a dry day.

- ✓ Use clean hands or tools
- ✓ Keep different varieties separate
- ✓ Remove chaff, pods, pulp, or plant debris



Clean seeds store better!

HOW TO CLEAN & DRY SEEDS

TOMATOES & WET SEEDS

Ferment in water for 2–3 days. Good seeds sink. Rinse and dry.



BEANS & PEAS

Let pods dry on the plant. Shell and remove any damaged seeds.



LETTUCE & GREENS

Let plant bolt and flower. Seeds will form and dry. Shake or rub out seeds.



SQUASH, CUCUMBERS & MELONS

Scoop seeds from ripe fruit. Rinse off pulp and dry well.



HERBS

Cut seed stalks when dry. Place in a bag and shake.



Dry seeds completely before storing. Spread on paper or screens in a warm, dry, shaded place.

5 HOW TO STORE SEEDS

Proper storage keeps seeds viable longer.

- ✓ Seeds must be completely dry
- ✓ Use airtight containers
- ✓ Add a silica packet or dry rice (optional)
- ✓ Label with name & date
- ✓ Store in a cool, dark, dry place



COOL



DARK



DRY

Most seeds stay viable for 2–5 years. Some (beans, peas) can last much longer!

6 TROUBLESHOOTING

PROBLEM	CAUSE	SOLUTION
Seeds mold	Not dry enough	Dry longer, store in air tight container
Low germination	Stored too warm or too long	Store cooler, use fresher seeds
Seeds damaged	Harvested too early or handled rough	Let mature fully, handle gently
Pests in seeds	Not cleaned well	Clean thoroughly before storing

Good seeds come from good care!

7 SEEDS TO START WITH

These are some of the easiest crops for beginners.



Start simple. Gain confidence. Expand each season!

8 KEEP A SEED JOURNAL

Track your seeds and results each year.

- ✓ What you planted
- ✓ Where seeds came from
- ✓ How they grew
- ✓ What worked well
- ✓ What to improve



Every season teaches something.

LIBERTY GARDENS CHALLENGE – THIS SEASON



Save seeds from one of your favorite plants.



Dry and store those seeds properly.



Label and record your seeds in a journal.



Share seeds or knowledge with someone else.



Plant your saved seeds next season.



FIELD GUIDE TAKEAWAY

When you save seeds, you save more than plants— you save skills, independence, diversity, and hope.

Save seeds. Grow freedom.



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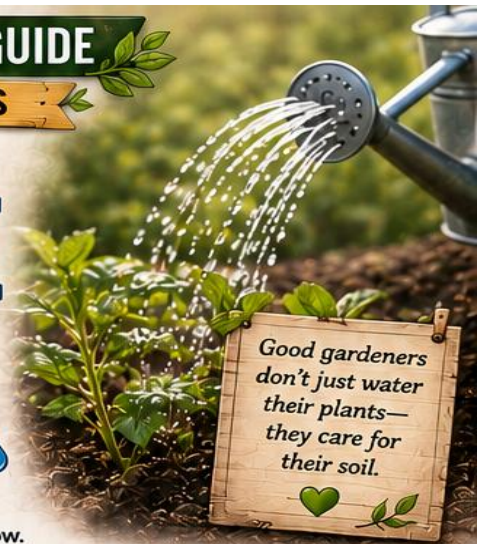


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FIELD GUIDE #7

WATER WISE GARDENING



WHY IT MATTERS

- 💧 Water is essential for life.
- 💧 Fresh water is limited.
- 💧 Wise use saves money.
- 💧 Healthy soil holds water.
- 💧 Strong gardens build strong communities.
- 💧 Small changes make a BIG impact.

EVERY DROP MATTERS

Healthy plants. Strong gardens. A better tomorrow.
Use water wisely today so your garden can thrive tomorrow.

Good gardeners don't just water their plants—they care for their soil.

1 WATER DEEP, NOT OFTEN

Deep watering encourages strong roots and drought-tolerant plants.



- ✔ Water slowly and deeply.
- ✔ Moisture should reach 6–8 inches deep.
- ✔ Water less often, but thoroughly.
- ✔ Shallow, frequent watering creates weak roots.

Deep roots = strong plants!

2 BEST TIME TO WATER

Timing makes a big difference.

BEST: MORNING

Water early so plants have time to soak it in. Less evaporation & disease. Plants use water all day.



OK: EVENING

Water late if you must, but leaves stay wet longer. Avoid water sitting on leaves. Good for hot, dry days.



Avoid midday watering!
Most water evaporates before plants can use it.

3 MULCH SAVES WATER

Mulch is one of the simplest and most powerful tools.



- ✔ Reduces evaporation by up to 70%.
- ✔ Keeps soil cooler.
- ✔ Blocks weeds.
- ✔ Improves soil as it breaks down.
- ✔ Use 2–4 inches around plants.

Mulch today, water less tomorrow.

4 CAPTURE RAINWATER

Use free rain for free growth!



Rain that falls on your roof can feed your garden.

5 DIY WATERING SOLUTIONS

Save water. Save time. Save money.



Right water, right place, right time.

6 DROUGHT-TOLERANT CROPS

Choose plants that thrive with less.



- ✔ **Herbs:** rosemary, thyme, sage
- ✔ **Legumes:** beans, peas, lentils
- ✔ **Roots:** sweet potatoes, carrots, beets
- ✔ **Greens:** kale, chard, collards
- ✔ **Others:** okra, sunflowers, squash, tomatoes, peppers

Right plant, right place, less waste.

7 SOIL THAT HOLDS WATER

Great soil = less watering.

- ✔ Add compost regularly.
- ✔ Improves soil structure.
- ✔ Sandy soil? Add organic matter.
- ✔ Clay soil? Add compost to improve drainage.
- ✔ Healthy soil acts like a sponge.



Feed your soil, and it will hold your water.

8 WATER SMART HABITS

Small habits. Big savings.



Check soil before watering. Stick your finger 1–2 inches deep.

Water the soil, not the leaves. Keeps plants healthier.

Use leftover kitchen water (no soap or grease).

Plan ahead for rain. Water less when rain is in the forecast.

Group plants with similar water needs together.

Smart habits today, Strong gardens tomorrow.

9 SIGNS OF OVER OR UNDER WATERING

TOO MUCH WATER	NOT ENOUGH WATER
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 💧 Yellowing leaves 💧 Wilting despite wet soil 💧 Mushy or soft stems 💧 Fungus or mold 💧 Poor root growth 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☀️ Dry, cracked soil ☀️ Wilting or drooping leaves ☀️ Crispy, brown edges ☀️ Stunted growth ☀️ Flowers or fruit dropping

Observe, Adjust, Grow.
Your plants will thank you!

WATER WISE GARDENS CHALLENGE

<p>Set up a way to collect rainwater.</p> <input type="checkbox"/>	<p>Add mulch to your garden.</p> <input type="checkbox"/>	<p>Water deep and less often.</p> <input type="checkbox"/>	<p>Improve your soil with compost.</p> <input type="checkbox"/>	<p>Use a DIY watering solution.</p> <input type="checkbox"/>	<p>Track your water & adjust as needed.</p> <input type="checkbox"/>
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FIELD GUIDE TAKEAWAY

Water is life.
Use it wisely.
Protect it fiercely.
Our gardens, our future,
depend on every drop.



REVIVAL FOR SURVIVAL FIELD GUIDE

MISSION 1 – LIBERTY GARDENS

FIELD GUIDE #8

SMALL-SPACE WATER COLLECTION

EVERY DROP COUNTS



WHY COLLECT WATER?

- ✓ Saves money
- ✓ Reduces water waste
- ✓ Helps plants thrive
- ✓ Reduces runoff
- ✓ Builds self-reliance
- ✓ Good for our environment

Every drop you collect makes a difference.

You don't need a big yard to collect rainwater. Small systems save water, support your plants, and reduce waste.

EASY WAYS APARTMENT DWELLERS CAN COLLECT RAINWATER

1 BALCONY GUTTER SYSTEM

Simple, effective, and inexpensive.

- ✓ PVC pipe cut in half (3"-4" works great)
- ✓ Zip ties or pipe clamps
- ✓ Slight slope toward outlet
- ✓ Cut PVC pipe lengthwise.
- ✓ Attach to railing or awning edge.
- ✓ Slope slightly toward one end.
- ✓ Add hose or downspout.
- ✓ Direct into bucket with lid or screen.

Great for container gardens, herbs, vegetables & flowers!

2 TARP RAIN FUNNEL

Perfect for small balconies.

- ✓ Waterproof tarp or awning material
- ✓ Attach corners with hooks, cords or zip ties
- ✓ Stretch tarp with a slight slope.
- ✓ Secure corners to railing or hooks.
- ✓ Funnel water to the center.
- ✓ Direct into bucket.

Collects a surprising amount during rainstorms!

3 SELF-WATERING CONTAINERS

Capture rain where your plants grow.

- ✓ Use planters with built-in reservoirs.
- ✓ Rain fills the reservoir naturally.
- ✓ Plants draw what they need.
- ✓ Less watering, healthier plants!

Easy, efficient, and plant-friendly!

4 BALCONY DRIP RECOVERY

Reuse what your plants don't.

- ✓ Catch excess water in saucers or trays
- ✓ Pour saved water into your bucket to reuse
- ✓ Place saucers or trays under pots.
- ✓ Collect excess water and soil runoff.
- ✓ Pour into your bucket.
- ✓ Reuse for your garden!

Don't waste a single drop.

5 CONDENSATE COLLECTION

Use water from your AC unit.

- ✓ AC units produce gallons of condensate!
- ✓ Place container under drip tube.
- ✓ Make sure it stays clean.
- ✓ Great for ornamental plants.
- ⚠ Not recommended for edible crops unless equipment & conditions are known to be safe.

Free water you're already paying for!

6 PORTABLE RAIN BARREL

Small barrels fit small spaces.

- ✓ Downspout diverter (optional)
- ✓ Overflow hose
- ✓ Spigot for easy access
- ✓ 20-30 gallon barrels are perfect for apartments.
- ✓ Place near downspout or use a balcony gutter system.
- ✓ Use with a mesh screen to keep debris out.

More storage = more water for your plants!

QUICK TIPS

- Always use a screen or mesh to keep out leaves and bugs.
- Cover buckets or barrels with a lid to keep water clean and mosquitoes away.
- Check local rules before modifying building structures.
- Clean your system regularly for best results.
- Use collected water within 7-14 days for healthiest plants.

"You don't need acres to make an impact. You just need intention and a willingness to act."

OTHER CREATIVE IDEAS



HANGING BOTTLE COLLECTORS
Use cut plastic bottles on small surfaces.



UMBRELLA CATCHMENT
Place a basin under an umbrella during rain.



WINDOW LEDGE TRAYS
Use shallow trays to catch runoff from windowsills.



GROW BAG RESERVOIRS
Use trays under bags to catch and reuse water.

HOW MUCH CAN YOU COLLECT?

It depends on rainfall and your system size. Here's a general idea:

ROOF / COLLECTION AREA	1 INCH OF RAIN (Approximate)
10 sq ft	0.6 gallons
20 sq ft	1.2 gallons
50 sq ft	3.0 gallons
100 sq ft	6.0 gallons

Every inch of rain is valuable!

LIBERTY GARDENS CHALLENGE



Build or set up a water collection system.



Collect your next rainfall.



Use it to water your plants.



Save water. Support life. Strengthen your community.

FIELD GUIDE TAKEAWAY

Small actions lead to BIG change. Collect water. Use it wisely. Grow a better tomorrow.



LIBERTY GARDENS

REVIVAL FOR SURVIVAL 2026
ONE COMMUNITY. ONE PURPOSE. ONE FUTURE.

MISSION 1
LIBERTY GARDENS

LEARN MORE. GET INVOLVED. BE PART OF THE REVIVAL.
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FIELD GUIDE #9

SMALL HELPERS,

BIG HARVESTS.



More pollinators.
More food.
More abundance.
It's that simple.

WHY POLLINATORS MATTER

- ✓ Help produce 1 out of every 3 bites of food we eat
- ✓ Increase size, quality, and quantity of harvests
- ✓ Support healthy ecosystems
- ✓ Keep biodiversity strong
- ✓ They're free, natural and hard-working!

"When we protect pollinators, we protect our future."

Healthy pollinators. Healthy gardens. Healthy future.

Pollinators are nature's partners. They help flowers turn into fruits and seeds, increase yields, and keep our food supply growing strong.

MEET THE SMALL HELPERS



BEES
The #1 pollinators! Hard-working and great at moving pollen.



BUMBLEBEES
Excellent in cooler weather and love tomatoes, beans, and berries.



BUTTERFLIES
Beautiful pollinators that love flowers and help many garden crops.



HOVERFLIES
Look like bees, but are fly cousins. Their larvae eat aphids!



LADYBUGS
Aphid eaters! They protect plants naturally.



NATIVE BEES
Solitary bees are gentle, efficient, and vital to our gardens.

CREATE A POLLINATOR PARADISE

Give them what they need!



FOOD
Plant flowers with nectar and pollen.



WATER
Shallow water with rocks or marbles for safe landing.



SHELTER
Leave some stems, brush piles, or bee houses for nesting.

A little habitat goes a long way!

BEST POLLINATOR PLANTS

Plant a variety. Bloom all season.



LAVENDER



BORAGE



BLACK-EYED SUSAN



BEE BALM



SUNFLOWER



ZINNIA



YARROW



MILKWEED

Include herbs! Basil, cilantro, thyme, mint, rosemary, and dill all support pollinators.

AVOID THESE HARMFUL PRACTICES



PESTICIDES
Many chemicals harm or kill pollinators.



SINGLE VARIETY PLANTING
Large areas of one crop offer little food or habitat.



CLEAN EVERYTHING UP
Leaving bare soil and no cover leaves pollinators with nowhere to live.



PLANTING ONLY BIG BLOOMS
Pollinators need many small flowers too.

Healthy habits = healthy harvests.

GARDEN ANYWHERE, HELP POLLINATORS EVERYWHERE

Whether you have a backyard, a balcony, or a community plot, you can support pollinators!

CONTAINER GARDENS



- ✓ Use pots of pollinator plants on patios, porches, or windows.
- ✓ Even a few pots can feed many helpers.

BALCONY GARDENS



- ✓ Add window boxes with flowers and herbs.
- ✓ Include a small water source.

COMMUNITY GARDENS



- ✓ Plant pollinator corridors along paths and edges.
- ✓ Work together. Grow abundance together.

DIY POLLINATOR HOMES

You can build homes for native bees!



BEE HOTEL

Drill 1/4" to 3/8" holes in untreated wood. Mount in a dry, sunny spot.



STRAW NESTER

Use hollow reeds or paper straws in a dry container. Replace yearly.

BENEFITS YOU CAN SEE!

- ✓ More flowers
- ✓ More fruits & veggies
- ✓ Better flavor
- ✓ Higher yields
- ✓ Healthier plants
- ✓ Stronger gardens
- ✓ Stronger communities
- ✓ Stronger future



EASY WAYS TO HELP TODAY



Plant pollinator flowers.



Add a water source.



Provide shelter.



Avoid harmful chemicals.



Be patient and enjoy the helpers!

Small actions. Big impact.

FIELD GUIDE TAKEAWAY

When we welcome pollinators, they reward us with abundance.

*Small helpers.
Big harvests.
Better together.*



REVIVAL FOR SURVIVAL 2026
★ ONE COMMUNITY. ONE PURPOSE. ONE FUTURE. ★

MISSION 1
LIBERTY GARDENS

LEARN MORE. GET INVOLVED.
BE PART OF THE REVIVAL.
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PLANT FOR TODAY. GROW FOR TOMORROW. LEAVE A LEGACY.



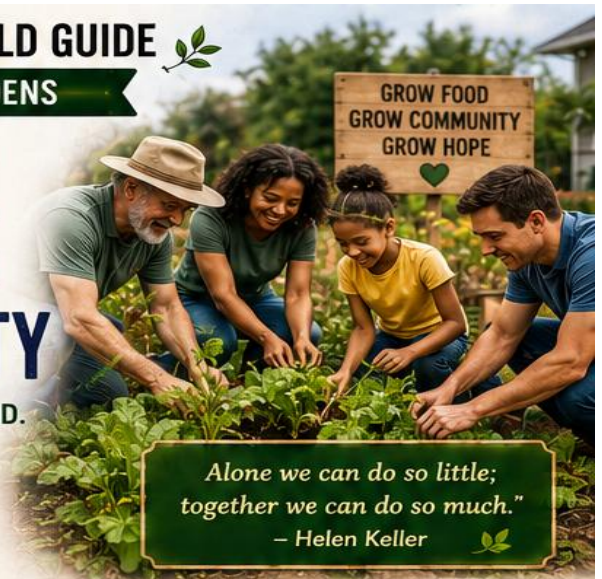
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FIELD GUIDE #10

GARDENS

BUILD COMMUNITY



Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much.
— Helen Keller

WHY GARDENS BUILD COMMUNITY

- ✓ Create connections
- ✓ Share abundance
- ✓ Build trust and friendships
- ✓ Strengthen neighborhoods
- ✓ Support local food security
- ✓ Teach and inspire future generations
- ✓ Make our communities healthier and happier



A seed planted together grows deeper roots.

TOGETHER, WE GROW MORE THAN FOOD.

A garden is more than plants in the ground—it's a place where people connect, share, learn, and look out for one another. Strong gardens grow strong communities.

WAYS TO GROW COMMUNITY THROUGH GARDENS

1 START A COMMUNITY GARDEN

Turn an empty space into a place of hope.



Parks • Church grounds
Schools • Vacant lots
Neighborhood spaces

2 SHARE & SWAP

Share what you have. Swap what you need.



Seed swaps • Plant exchanges
Harvest sharing • Tool lending
Extra starts for neighbors

3 GARDEN TOGETHER

Many hands make light work.



Work days • Build projects
Planting parties
Celebrate together

4 TEACH & LEARN

Everyone has something to teach—and something new to learn.



Skill shares • Workshops
Kids' activities • Mentorship
Learn from each other

5 GROW FOR OTHERS

Share your harvest with those in need.



Food pantries • Senior neighbors
New families • Local shelters
Spreading kindness

BUILDING BLOCKS OF A STRONG GARDEN COMMUNITY

- COMMUNICATION**
Keep everyone informed and included.
- INCLUSION**
Everyone is welcome. Every person matters.
- RESPECT**
Value each other's time, ideas, and effort.
- SHARED PURPOSE**
We work together for a better future.
- CELEBRATION**
Celebrate small wins and big harvests!

IDEAS TO GET STARTED TODAY

- Invite a neighbor to garden with you.
- Start a small herb garden to share.
- Host a seed swap or plant exchange.
- Build a Little Free Seed Library. Share seeds, share hope.
- Organize a community planting day.
- Teach a child to plant something.
- Ask: "How can our garden bless others?"

MAKE IT KID & FAMILY FRIENDLY

When families garden together, communities grow stronger.



- ✓ Give kids their own garden space.
- ✓ Create fun signs and decorations.
- ✓ Plan harvest celebrations.
- ✓ Encourage kids to teach others.
- ✓ Make memories that last a lifetime!

Kids today. Leaders tomorrow.

SUSTAIN YOUR GARDEN COMMUNITY

- Plan for the seasons.
- Take turns leading projects.
- Keep records and celebrate progress.
- Encourage new members.
- Support each other through challenges.
- Keep the vision alive.

Strong roots. Steady growth. Lasting impact.

PRACTICAL TIPS FOR COMMUNITY GARDENS

<p>START SMALL Begin with what you have.</p>	<p>USE WHAT YOU HAVE Repurpose materials. Save money.</p>	<p>KEEP IT ORGANIZED Assign tasks. Create a simple plan.</p>	<p>WATER WISELY Collect rainwater. Mulch and conserve.</p>	<p>GROW DIVERSE Plant a variety of foods, herbs, and flowers.</p>	<p>COMPOST TOGETHER Turn scraps into rich soil.</p>	<p>SHARE THE HARVEST Share often. Share generously.</p>
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SEED TODAY. STRENGTHEN TOMORROW.

A garden can feed your family today... and build a stronger, more connected community for tomorrow.

YOUR GARDEN CAN BE THE START OF SOMETHING BIG.

Every tomato plant. Every helping hand. Every shared seed. It all adds up to a stronger community.



TOGETHER, WE DON'T JUST GROW FOOD. WE GROW HOPE, CONNECTION, AND A BETTER FUTURE.

LOOKING AHEAD TO THE NEXT MISSION

Strong gardens build strong communities. Strong communities become Anchor Points of hope and resilience. Let's keep growing—together.

