



Grace Covenant Community Garden

798 Merrimon Avenue
Asheville, NC

The Community Garden is a three season garden, tended spring through fall. This is the eighth year that the garden has been tended by vested volunteer gardeners from Grace Covenant Church and the community. The garden volunteers are organized into 4 teams, 2 teams work each week on Wednesday or Saturday. About 75% of the vegetables produced are donated to community organizations that serve our neighbors having difficulty affording fresh vegetables and in need of better nutrition. In addition to the garden at Grace Covenant Church the gardeners grow potatoes and cabbage at Jasperwood Farm in Leicester with Anthony Cole's Family.

Some of the community organizations we donate vegetables to—

Loving Food Resources

ABCCM

Veterans Restoration Quarters

Western Rescue Mission

UMC Haywood Street Community Table

BeLoved Asheville

East Asheville Welcome Table, Grosse UMC

Green Opportunity Southside Community Kitchen

Community Gardens come in many different styles—

- GC Community Garden grows **Farm Style**. Crops are planted in blocks so that they have the same cultural requirements. This planting practice facilitates replanting different crops during the garden season. Crops are not interplanted or mixed with competing crops. Dedicated rows hold similar vegetables, flowers, or herbs.
- **Crop Selection** is based on which vegetables are most desired and used by area community kitchen and food pantries & which crops typically produce healthy and high yield fruit.
- **Seeds are** purchased from independent seed farms, such as Johnnies. We select varieties that have demonstrated disease resistance or tolerance. No GMO seeds.
- **The Garden is CLOSED on Mondays** for disease and insect treatment, if necessary. We practice low spray options, primarily organic insecticides. We use commercial fertilizers based on annual soil tests. We follow the guidelines of the Southeastern Vegetable Crop Guide written by the SE Agricultural and Land Grant Colleges and Universities.
- **Gardeners may harvest** for their family table (except on Monday). Crops generally benefit from frequent harvesting as they mature.
- **Each Team** has a team coordinator who helps the gardeners with their work, teaches harvesting techniques and shares the results of their team's work with other team coordinators

This year we are partnering with our neighboring McDonald's to compost and use their coffee grounds in the garden—

a new McDonald's business practice toward sustainability and reducing waste. Mc Donald's is generously purchasing the large wire composting bins. "Composting with coffee is a great way to make use of something that would otherwise end up taking up space in a landfill. Composting coffee grounds helps to add nitrogen to your compost pile." Read more at Gardening Know How: Composting with Coffee Grounds – Used Coffee Grounds for Gardening

<https://www.gardeningknowhow.com/composting/ingredients/coffee-grounds-gardening.htm>

Garden Managers

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