

HEFC Community Garden

Greetings to our new and established residents! We at Hanover Friends welcome you and are thrilled to announce “a New Beginning” for us which we are offering to you! In the coming months we will begin a Spring planting of a community garden with raised beds prepared for you. This is a joint effort with the Master Gardeners of Hanover County. If you are interested, please review the following for details!



Hanover Evangelical Friends Church Community Garden Bed Application

Please review and complete both sides of this application and waiver.
Please direct all questions to your Garden Coordinator, as noted below.

1. ABOUT YOU: *Each gardener must fill out their own waiver and application, even if sharing a bed.*
(Please print)

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ County: _____

Zip: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email: _____

2. SIGNATURE:

I have read, understand, and agree to the terms and responsibilities as stated in the Gardener
Authorization & Responsibilities.

Signature _____ Date _____

(or Parent/legal guardian signature if participant is under the age of 18).

3. Gardening Experience:

Please indicate your gardening level

Beginner- needs guidance _____ Experienced- needs little or no guidance _____

The Hanover Master Gardeners Association is available to provide classes on sustainable gardening
topics as needed. Please note topics that you are interested in

If you have questions, please contact Nora Righter, **Garden Coordinator** at nmrighter@gmail.com

Return to HEFC office, 6420 Mechanicsville Turnpike, Mechanicsville, VA 23111

For Administrative Use Only

Date Received _____

Garden Coordinator Approval _____ Date _____

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GARDENER AUTHORIZATION & RESPONSIBILITIES

With your signature below, you acknowledge as a participating gardener responsibility for the following:

1. Beds are available to area residents on a first come, first served basis. The Garden Coordinator will maintain a waiting list. Gardener must submit a new application each spring.
2. If for any reason you find you cannot care for your garden, you are required to notify the Garden Coordinator and plan with other gardeners to water and maintain your bed(s) during your absence. If a garden appears neglected/abandoned (unwatered and/or overrun with weeds), you will be given ten (10) days' notice to maintain your bed(s). After this time your bed(s) will be re-assigned.
3. Each gardener is responsible for using sustainable /organic gardening methods; **the use of non-organic pesticides, herbicides and fertilizers is prohibited.** If you are new to organic gardening guidance is available.
4. Water; use of rain barrels is open to all gardeners. Watering cans are the responsibility of each gardener. When rain barrels are empty, gardeners must bring water from home. Church water faucet & hose use is prohibited.
5. Gardeners are responsible for their own tools, support structures (staking, tomatoes cages, trellising) and removal of same when not in use. No tools, water cans or other supplies may be left at the garden. All support materials must be removed at the end of the season.
6. Gardeners will be responsible for keeping their beds harvested and free of weeds.
7. Each gardener is responsible for clearing his/her bed(s) before the close of the season. All dead plants, weeds, trash, tools, sticks, and cages are to be removed by November 31 each year.
8. Gardeners are encouraged to use the compost bins with the following guidelines: No diseased plants, chemically treated materials (plants or cardboard), and only black ink shredded paper.
9. Use of alcohol, tobacco products and prohibited substances is disallowed.

Got Questions?

Questions regarding the Community Garden should be directed to the Garden Coordinator:
Nora Righter by email at nmrighter@gmail.com.

For "how to" questions regarding gardening the following resources are available:

1. Hanover Extension Master Gardener Volunteer
804-752-4310
email hanover.master.gardener@gmail.com
web site www.hanovermastergardeners.org
2. The Extension Service web site is an excellent resource: www.ext.vt.edu

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Basics of Composting

Compost is decomposed organic matter that is useful for improving soil fertility. The active process of making compost is simply creating a setting where soil microorganisms can break down plant matter. We call this setting the “compost bins”. The decomposition will occur all by itself given enough time. To speed up the process we try to keep a balance of 1 part “green matter” to 4 parts “brown matter”. This means for every shovel- full of green matter we add at least 4 of brown matter.

The green matter is high in nitrogen and includes fresh untreated grass clippings, coffee grounds, fresh vegetable trimmings, and green plant trimmings. The brown matter is high in carbon and includes dried leaves, shredded paper, newspaper, paper towel rolls and brown paper bags.

Not everything brown and green is good for the compost bin. Remember what goes in to the bin will eventually be added back into the garden beds and becomes part of the next season’s harvest. Here is a list of things we **NEVER** add to the compost bin and should be placed in the large trash bin.

- **NO** trimmings, grass or leaves from yards that have been chemically treated with pesticides or herbicides. Pesticides will stop the decomposition in the bin and herbicides can survive the composting process and impact the next season’s harvest. **When in doubt- leave it out!!**
- **NO** weeds as they may contain seeds.
- **NO** diseased plants- dispose of them in the trash bin.
- **NO** paper or cardboard that contains ink other than black or that has been treated with antifungal agents or pesticides.

There are several compost bins near the garden beds. One will be an active bin, one will be a supply of brown matter (dried leaves or shredded paper/cardboard), and possibly a bin of finished compost. Feel free to make additions to the active pile and top with a layer of brown matter. Each bin will be labeled appropriately. Finished compost will be spread on the garden beds at the beginning of each garden season Spring and Fall by the Garden Coordinator.