

## Form A: Formal Community Garden Start Up Checklist

This checklist is provided to assist new community garden groups.

There are many different qualities and styles of community gardens. This checklist may help with planning your type of garden. Getting these questions clear at the start will help the new garden to get it off to a great start.

### 1. What type of community garden do we want?

Will the community garden be: (please tick one)

a shared garden where participants share the gardening and the harvest

an allotment garden where participants garden their own plot and share the maintenance of common areas

a garden with both allotment and shared gardening spaces

Allotment Gardens:

How long can allotments be held while they are not being used?

What size will we make each allotment?

### 2. Will we garden organically?    Yes    No

If yes, how will this be explained to new gardeners and visitors?

### 3. What will be the purpose of our community garden?

Recreation and community building: (please tick)

a safe place where people can grow food together and get to know each other

a place where parents can bring their children

Other: (please state)

Food security and nutritional health:

access to fresh, nutritious food

supplementing the family food supply

other: (please state)

Education:

Will the garden be open to use and/or visit by community groups / schools / other educational bodies?    Yes    No

Will the gardeners offer workshops (e.g. compost making, starting a garden etc) to the public?    Yes    No

**4. What types of plants will we grow?**

When considering what types of plants to grow in your community garden, remember that fruit and nut trees need plenty of space and should be spaced about 3m to 5m apart.

- |                    |               |                   |            |
|--------------------|---------------|-------------------|------------|
| vegetables         | herbs         | fruit/nut trees   | flowers    |
| berry fruit shrubs | water crops   | medicinal plants  | bush foods |
| herbal tea plants  | native plants | indigenous plants |            |

(Native plants originate in Australia; indigenous plants originate in the local area)

**5. Will we keep animals?    Yes    No    If yes, what animals?**

- |          |               |      |
|----------|---------------|------|
| chickens | other poultry | bees |
|----------|---------------|------|

other: (please state)

Outline any issues with regard to managing the animals and how you will address them

**6. What structures are we likely to want to build in the community garden?**

**Please note: some structures may require a DA, please check our website for more details <http://www.kiama.nsw.gov.au/>**

- seating with sun and rain shelter
- lockable storage shed
- plant propagation nursery
- outdoor cooking facilities
- children's play area
- public art
- education signage and facilities
- rainwater collection, storage and use

other: (please state).

**7. What training do we need?**

Gardening and construction skills:

- |                         |                                |
|-------------------------|--------------------------------|
| garden establishment    | making compost                 |
| seed saving             | pest and disease management    |
| plant propagation       | organic gardening              |
| planting and harvesting | developing a planting calendar |
| animal management       | improving garden soils         |
| mulching and irrigation |                                |

other: (please state)

Design Skills:

- site assessment
- gardener needs assessment
- garden design

Other Skills:

promotion and recruitment skills  
running a community organisation  
other: (please state)

volunteer management  
effective meetings

Are any of these skills available in the community gardening group?      Yes      No

If not, where will we find these skills?

**8. Is our community garden prepared to be involved in any Council Initiatives to demonstrate its social and environmental goals?      Yes      No      e.g.**

waste and recycling      water conservation      energy efficiency      biodiversity  
sustainable living      food security      nutritional health      pollution  
other: (please state)

**9. What types of environmental programs (if any) will we implement in the community garden?**

We will demonstrate the reuse and recycling of waste organic matter through:

composting      mulching      worm farming  
use of recycled materials  
other: (please state)

How will we conserve water in the garden?

rain tanks      mulching      low water use plants  
low water use irrigation  
other: (please state)

How will we support biodiversity?

Will we plant non-hybrid seed of heritage or heirloom vegetables and fruits so that we can collect, save and replant?      Yes      No

Will we propagate and distribute seed of endangered or rare native (indigenous) plants?      Yes      No

other: (please state)

**10. How will we fund the garden?**

How will we fund ongoing costs of the community organisation and the garden?

apply for grants  
membership fees  
other self-funding  
other: (please state)