

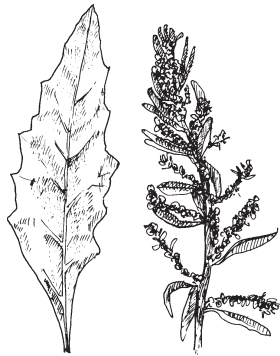
Community Garden Inventory¹

Overview

In the Community Garden Inventory, you interview gardeners and make observations as you walk through the garden. Through this “garden hike,” you learn about what plants are growing, what structures are present, and what activities take place in the garden. Then you share your findings on the Garden Mosaics website.

The Community Garden Inventory is an important database for the future of community gardens. It provides information on the locations, uses, and benefits of community gardens in neighborhoods throughout the world. Students, researchers, community planners, and organizations working to support community gardens will be able to use the information. Each *Community Garden Inventory Form* is posted online, thus making the information available to anyone who wants to learn more about these unique gardens.

Garden Mosaics is very interested in Community Garden Inventories from other countries besides the US. If you prefer to submit a *Community Garden Inventory Form* in a language other than English, please contact us at gardenmosaics@cornell.edu (we can respond to inquiries in Spanish, French, Arabic, Russian, German, and other languages). We will work with you to translate the questions into your language, and to post your Community Garden Inventory in the original language and in English.



¹ In some Garden Mosaics materials, the Community Garden Inventory is called the Garden Hike.

Anyone Can Contribute to the Community Garden Inventory...

If you wish to contribute to the Community Garden Inventory on your own or with a group of adults, go directly to the short, illustrated version of the Community Garden Inventory (called Garden Hike) following this overview, and then to the Community Garden Inventory forms on the Garden Mosaics website or at the end of this chapter. You may also want to read more about the research objectives of the Community Garden Inventory in this chapter. The rest of the information in this chapter is primarily for conducting the Community Garden Inventory with a group of youth.

Conducting the Community Garden Inventory with Youth

We have included in this chapter the following information for conducting the Community Garden Inventory with youth: inquiry and content learning objectives, assessment ideas, and comprehensive instructions. Note that for conducting this activity with youth, we sometimes use the name “Garden Hike” rather than Community Garden Inventory.

If you want to contribute data to the online Community Garden Inventory database, you will need to conduct this *i-m-science investigation* in a community garden. Community gardens are common in many large cities, and small cities often have one or more community gardens. You also may find a community garden at an apartment complex, retirement home, or church, synagogue, temple, or mosque. Some school gardens involve neighborhood adults and thus can be considered community gardens. School and home gardening and other youth programs may want to conduct the Community Garden Inventory as a one-time field trip to a community garden.

If you do not plan to contribute to the Community Garden Inventory, feel free to conduct this *i-m-science investigation* in any garden with a willing, knowledgeable, and enthusiastic gardener. In home gardens, the focus may be more on the plants and less on the structures and activities that take place in the garden.