



A program of **CLIMATE ACTION EVANSTON**

Maintaining your Garden

Edible Evanston's Vision:
Inspiring and supporting a culture
of sustainable food growing and
sharing throughout the Evanston
community

New Gardeners Class Series

July 2025

Upcoming Events

- Food Forest Workdays
 - Every Saturday 10-12 Eggleston Park
- Repair Cafe
 - August 9: 10-1 Main Library
- Harvest Festival
 - September 27: Eggleston Park
- Final New Gardener Class
 - October 23: 6-7:30 Robert Crown Library

How's it going for you?

ATE STRAIGHT FROM THE GARDEN	LOST A TOOL	MADE A BOUQUET FROM THE GARDEN	TOO MUCH ZUCCHINI	FORGOT TO WATER
POLLINATOR SIGHTING	FIRST TOMATO HARVESTED	GROUNDHOG INVASION	HAD A VOLUNTEER PLANT	HARD DIRT UNDER FINGERNAILS
GREW SOMETHING FROM SEED	PLANT BOLTED TOO SOON	 FREE SPACE	POISON IVY INCIDENT	WAITED TOO LONG TO HARVEST
VISITED BY A HUMMINGBIRD	WEEDS TOOK OVER	HARVESTED BEFORE IT WAS READY	FORGOT TO PUT ON SUNSCREEN	GARDENED AFTER THE SUN WENT DOWN
FORGOT WHAT YOU PLANTED	MADE A SALAD 100% FROM GARDEN	TOMATO HORNWORM SIGHTING	SHARED A HARVEST	GREW TOO MUCH OF SOMETHING

What we're covering

- Watering
- Weeding
- Pruning
- Pests and Disease

Watering

When?

- 1 inch a week- tuna can tip
- Check the soil- up to your first knuckle
- Plant signals in morning
- When you can! but morning or evening is ideal

How?

- Deep and infrequent
- Wet the soil, not the plant (mulching)



Weeds

What is a weed?

- Any plant where you don't want it

Types of weeds

- Perennial vs annual

Why do we need to weed?

- Decrease competition
- Increase airflow
- Decrease disease and pest opportunity
- Decrease invasive species



How to Weed



Perennial

- Try to get the root out
- Solarize
- Smother

Annual

- pulling
- cutting at the ground level
- don't let it bloom or go to seed

Additional options

- Chemicals (toxic or nontoxic)
- Tilling
- Propane weed burner



Pruning

Why?

- Create more airflow
- Control plant growth
- Control ripening
- Remove diseased materials

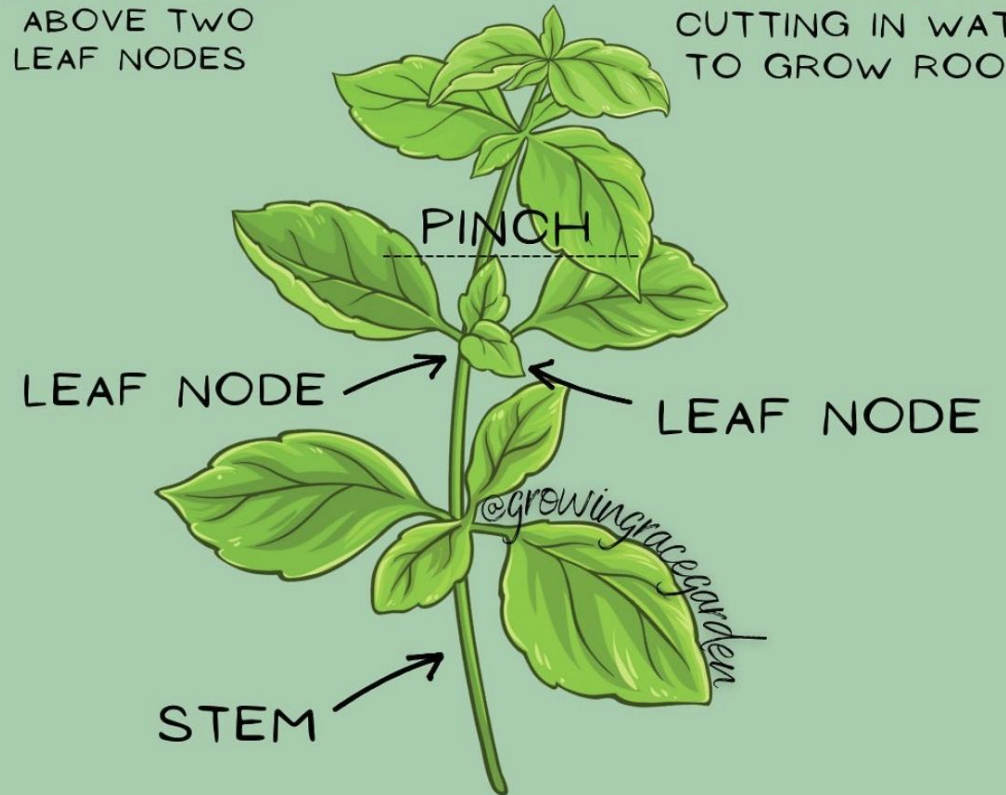
How?

- Clean, sharp clippers or tool
- Clean between plants
- Cut above a leaf intersection to not leave a stub

HOW TO PRUNE BASIL

PINCH OFF STEM
ABOVE TWO
LEAF NODES

PROPAGATE NEW
CUTTING IN WATER
TO GROW ROOTS



Pests and Disease Management

Disease and Pest Triangle:

- Organism (the Bad Guy)
- Host plant (Your Beloved Plant)
- Environment (favoring the Bad Guy or YBP)
 - Pruning
 - Mulching
 - Proper watering
 - Strong, healthy plants



The best treatment
is prevention!

Pests and Diseases

Pests

- Animals
- insects
- ... people

Diseases

- Bacterial
- Viral
- Fungal



Common Pests

Animals

- Mammals
- Birds

Invertebrates

- Chewing
- Sucking
- Boring



Management

- Barriers
 - fencing
 - row cover
 - diatomaceous earth
- Traps
- Hand picking (ew)
- Sprays

Common Diseases



85% of all plant diseases are fungal

- Blight on cucumbers (F)
- Verticillium wilt on tomatoes (F)
- Powdery mildew (F)
- Early or late blight on tomatoes

*Prevent fungal diseases through good garden hygiene

What to do now that there is a disease?

Identify the disease—use apps, Google Lens, Picture This, or other sources like books—especially if you want to try to treat it with chemicals

- Remove diseased parts, or the whole plant
- Treat with appropriate intervention (repeat)
- Do nothing and accept some damage

Put diseased material in Yard Waste or Trash*
Grow resistant varieties next year**

Q&A

