

# From the Ground Up: Assessing the Risks and Maximizing the Benefits of Gardening on Urban Soils



Photo credit: Greenest City

Recognized winners in seven categories from across Canada for:

- leadership
- innovation
- commitment to building sustainable communities

**TPH Wins  
Category 1!**

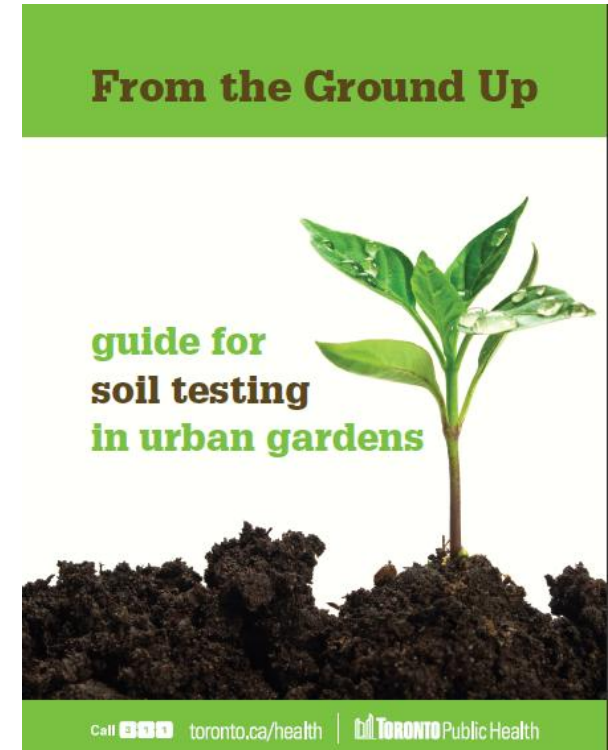
**Legislation,  
Program and Policy  
Development**



Canadian  
**URBAN**  
Institute

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**URBAIN**  
du Canada

- Engage
- Empower
- Innovate
- Reduce Risks
- Reduce Inequities
- Encourage gardening
- Increase food growing



"The report presented here is a **landmark** one... it offers a great set of tools to help in answering questions about safe soil. Toronto is already recognized as a **global leader** in the urban agriculture movement, and this unprecedented report will help reinforce this reputation."

Dr. Joe Nasr, Toronto Urban Growers



Photo credit: Greenest City

# What people are saying...

“It is a **“must have”** document that is used in part of setting up any community garden.”

Susan Berman,  
Toronto Community  
Garden Network

Guide is “practical and helpful.”

Etobicoke Master Gardeners

“This workshop was truly liberating....Thank you so much – what a tremendous resource.”



Photo credit: Greenest City

Workshop participant

“It was so refreshing to see the approach you are taking....and really making the whole soil testing process **accessible** and **do-able for communities**. I have been talking non-stop about the great things I've learned about soil testing - this is so well done and necessary information for our city!”

Katie German, FoodShare



Photo credit: Everdale

“This is exactly what Toronto needs to **promote more urban-food growing** at all scales, and in particular, to provide more redevelopment options for brownfield sites.”



Photo credit: Everdale

Dr. Wally Seccumbe Co-Founder, Everdale

# What people are saying...

“TPH's Guide for Soil Testing is **vital** to our community food projects.”

Ashlee Cooper, Evergreen



Photo credit: Everdale



“TPH's Guide has **stimulated enthusiasm** for initiating and expanding growing projects across Scotland. ...work is currently underway to modify the guide for use in Scotland.”

Dr. Jackie Hyland,  
Fife National Health  
Board, Scotland



## Our Team:

Monica Campbell

Ronald Macfarlane

Barbara Emanuel

Lauren Baker

Barbara Lachapelle

Jill McDowell

Gary Baker

Solomon Boye (PF&R)

Jodi Callan (formerly TEO)

Susanne Goldacker (formerly TPH)

Josephine Archbold

The screenshot shows a web browser window with the following content:

- Page Title:** Soil and gardening ...
- Navigation Menu (Left):** Environmental Health, Air Quality, Bed Bugs, Built Environment, ChemTRAC, Environmental Pollutants, Lead, Pesticides, Radiation, Heat Alerts, West Nile Virus, Toronto Beaches Water Quality.
- Breadcrumbs:** You are here: City of Toronto > ... > Environmental Pollutants > Lead > Soil and gardening
- Section Header:** Lead (with a Share button)
- Main Content:**
  - Soil and gardening**
  - From the Ground Up: Guide for Soil Testing in Urban Gardens**
  - Step 1 – Establish a level of concern**
  - Step 2 – Test the soil**
  - Step 3 – Take actions to reduce risks!**
- Diagram:** A diagram showing a 15m x 15m garden bed with a 40cm depth. A shovel is shown digging a hole, and a composite sample is collected from multiple sub-samples (9 sub-samples).
- Text:**
  - Download the [guide \(PDF\)](#) now.
  - Toronto Public Health developed soil screening values specifically designed for urban gardens to help you interpret the soil testing results and take action to reduce risks.
  - For more information about how the City of Toronto is incorporating this approach into community and allotment gardens on City lands, please refer to the [Staff Report: Soil Assessment Guide for New City Community and Allotment Gardens](#).
  - For more information on the soil screening values and the evidence-basis for our approach to assessing urban soils for gardening and food production, please refer to the technical report: [Assessing Urban Impacted Soil for Urban Gardening: Decision Support Tool Technical Report and Rationale](#).
- Footer:** Call or click 24/7 | Contact us | Accessibility | Comment | Subscribe | Search maps | Privacy | © City of Toronto, 2013

[https://toronto.ca/health/lead/soil\\_gardening.htm](https://toronto.ca/health/lead/soil_gardening.htm)

<https://canurb.org/awards>

## The Community Group

### Organize Your Group



### Have Public Meetings



### Create Your Garden Guidelines And Other Community Garden Documents

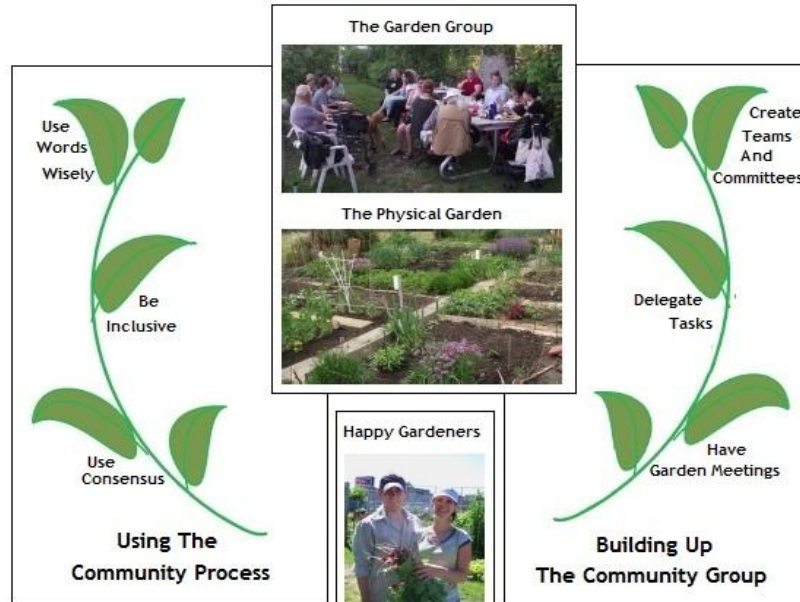


### Now You Are A Community Group



# The Steps That Lead To A Strong Sustainable Community Garden

## Organizational Sustainability



## The Physical Garden

### Find The Land



### Check The Soil Quality



### Plan The Garden Layout



### Now You Can Plant The Garden



## Financial Sustainability

### Getting Grants



### Finding Assets Within The Neighbourhood



The Gardeners  
Also Support The Garden

### Getting Community Discounts



Produced By the Toronto Community Garden Network

Author - Susan Berman