



NEWS

RAYMOND POE, DIRECTOR • BRUCE RAUNER, GOVERNOR

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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COMMUNITY GARDEN SEEKS GARDENERS FOR 2018 SEASON

Informational Meeting Scheduled for March 6

SPRINGFIELD, IL – The Illinois Department of Agriculture is actively seeking individuals or families who are interested in starting their own gardens and learning more about the local foods movement.

The Illinois Department of Agriculture’s Community Garden is located on the infield of the Illinois State Fair Grandstand race track and features 200 garden plots. Of those plots, 100 are designated for organic gardening, and the remaining 100 plots are assigned for non-organic gardeners.

“The Community Garden is an ideal place for those who might not have space at their home, but still want to grow their own fruits, vegetables, flowers, herbs, and other plants,” said Agriculture Director Raymond Poe. “It provides a safe and friendly environment along with access to mentors to help you learn if you are a beginner gardener.”

Each plot costs \$20 and can be tilled for you for an additional \$10. The Department will supply water, tools, and compost free of charge. In addition, mentoring will be available from the experts at the University of Illinois Extension Master Gardeners.

Those interested in participating in the 2018 growing season are encouraged to fill out a garden application located on Department’s [website](#). All new and returning gardeners are invited to attend our kickoff meeting on **March 6th at 5:30 pm** in the IDOA Auditorium, located at the corner of Sangamon Avenue and 8th Street (Gate 11) on the Illinois State Fairgrounds. Here gardeners will learn about the garden requirements, the Plant-A-Row program, and will be introduced to the University of Illinois Master Gardeners.

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Weather permitting the Community Garden will open on March 30th.

If you would like more information about this year's Community Garden, visit the Department's [website](#) or contact the Department at (217) 785-5594.

SAVE THE DATE
Community Garden Meeting
March 6, 2018
5:30 pm
IDOA Auditorium
801 E. Sangamon Ave
Springfield, IL.

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