

Sample Garden Start-Up Cost Estimate

This list is a guide for determining start-up costs for a community or school garden. The actual costs will vary depending on the unique situation of each garden, as well as donations and in-kind services. The estimates are based on a ½-acre garden site with 25'x30' in-ground beds for a total of 20 plots with a 60'x50' common area. For more information and resources related to coordinating a garden and building strong and resilient garden communities, go to www.vcgn.org, or call us at (802) 861-4769.

Professional services	
Permits	\$50
Site design	\$140
Tilling	\$150
Soil testing	\$24
Construction	\$200
Set-up supplies	
Stakes	\$80
String	\$20
Fencing	\$600
Main garden sign	\$300
Other signage	\$50
Compost bin supplies	\$200
Picnic table/bench	\$100
Compost (10 yards)	\$450
Mulch (woodchips, straw, burlap bags)	\$100
Wheelbarrows (2)	\$80
Long-handled tools (20)	\$200
Hand tools	\$40
Hoses	\$60
Watering cans	\$40
TOTAL START-UP COSTS	\$2,464
Extras and Annual Maintenance	
Garden Coordinator stipend	\$1-?
Land rental	\$1-?
Insurance	\$500-\$1,000
Water system	\$100-\$3,000
Shed	\$200-\$800
Shade structure	\$100-\$300
Greenhouse	\$300-\$1,000
Raised beds	\$150-\$300 each
Seeds/starts	\$50-\$200
PR, printing	\$100-\$200
Event supplies	\$100-\$200

