

Front Yard Gardening in Elgin

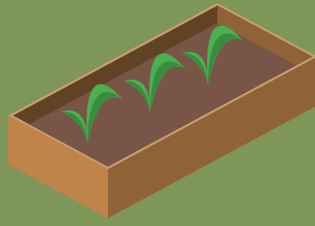
The guidelines below will help you create a front yard garden that is compliant with city of Elgin municipal code.

Location



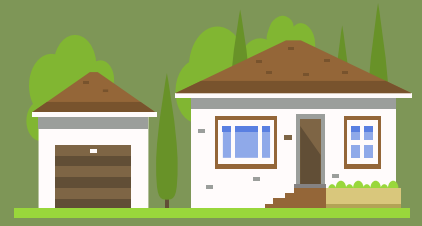
Gardening may be done on private property in the front yard. The tree bank, which is the area between the front property line and the street, is public property and not available for gardens.

Bed Construction



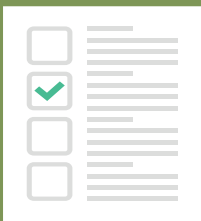
You may have an in-ground or raised bed front yard garden. To help maintain your raised bed and prevent decay, use sturdy materials such as cedar, redwood, cement blocks, or bricks. Avoid plywood, OSB, particle board and pressboard.

HOA Considerations



If you are a member of a Home Owners Association (HOA), please check the rules regarding front yard gardening. Contact your HOA for more information.

Permits



If you would like to add gates and fences to your front yard garden, permit applications are available online cityofelgin.org/permits, or can be obtained in person at City Hall. Greenhouses and composting structures are not permitted. For other questions regarding permitted structures and activities in the front yard, contact Elgin 311.

Code Compliance



To comply with Elgin municipal code, avoid a front yard garden style that would change grade elevations and may cause erosion or drainage issues onto nearby sidewalks or neighbors' yards. Gardens must be maintained and kept free of weeds, debris, and pests.

Size and Setback



To keep lines of sight open, plants may not block the view in control areas. To assist in keeping open views, garden setback needs to be one foot from the property line. Please contact Elgin 311 for line of sight control areas on your property.

Weeds



Please prevent and remove any noxious weeds in your garden. A list of noxious weeds is available at cityofelgin.org/code and in chapter 9.16.010 of the municipal code.

Produce/Flower Sales



For health and safety, selling crops in your front yard requires approval from the City's Health Department. To request approval, please contact Elgin 311.

Paint



If you would like to paint your raised bed, it must be maintained to prevent chipped or peeling paint.



For gardening tips, tricks and best practices, please visit cityofelgin.org/gardening.