

FAQs

What is a plant swap?

A plant swap is an informal gathering of people who love to garden. They bring plants from their own gardens to share with other gardeners. The swap is open to beginning gardeners all the way up through Master Gardeners. The swap is FREE! Absolutely no money is to be exchanged.

What are the requirements to participate in the Montpelier Parks & Recreation Plant Swap?

There are no requirements for participating except to bring along plants or seeds to swap. The first 30 swappers receive a free plant. If you don't have anything to swap just come and see how it's done!

This is my first swap. What should I bring?

Bring 1 or more plants or bring packets of seeds. Plants and seeds should meet the following guidelines:

- Container sizes from 3 inches to 1 gallon. 1 ticket per plant. Plants in 1 gallon containers will receive 2 tickets. Cell packs of multiple small plants will be treated as 1 plant and receive 1 ticket. The number & size of plants will determine the number of tickets you receive.
- One package of bulbs/corms is worth 1 ticket. Amaryllis bulbs are worth 1 ticket per bulb. Please include a minimum of 6 bulbs or corms of tulips, daffodils, or crocus per package.
- 1 ticket per seed packet. It should be seed from the last 2 years unless it is rare. Minimum 10 seeds per packet. Please do not bring seeds that will not come back true (e.g. seeds that have been collected from hybrid plants). Most plants purchased from garden centers are hybrids. Seeds from heirloom plants or native plants growing in your own garden should come back true.
- Plants should be attractive, healthy, and weed-free. Diseased or insect infested plants will not be accepted.
- Plants should be rooted in their normal growing medium. Usually this is soil but water garden plants are accepted if they are packaged well and will not leak.
- Any kind of clean containers may be used to swap plants. Some examples include strawberry baskets, cottage cheese containers, old pots from other plants, and heavy duty cardboard boxes.
- Please try to dig up plants no sooner than 24 hours before the swap. All plants should be evenly moist, weed-free, and in a "ready to plant" stage.
- To help other gardeners, please print off and complete some of the plant information forms from the Montpelier Parks & Recreation website: www.montpelierpark.net to include with your plants.
- Also, please label your plants. Tape on the outside of the container is fine as are clean popsicle sticks or cut up pieces of a plastic cottage cheese container that have been written on with indelible ink.

What shouldn't I bring?

Invasive plants, weeds, diseased plants, cannas (unless they are seed grown).

Unfortunately, many cannas worldwide have been infested with viruses in the last several years. The leaves become streaked and mottled and eventually they die. We don't want to risk spreading the plant virus around. Currently, there is no solution for the problem except growing plants in tissue culture in a laboratory. If you have good cannas, hang on to them!

The Ohio Invasive Plants Council lists the following invasive species in Ohio: Amur, Morrow, Japanese & Tatarian Honeysuckle; Glossy Buckthorn & Common Buckthorn; Garlic Mustard; Purple Loosestrife; Common Reed Grass; Reed Canary Grass; Autumn-Olive & Russian Olive; Multiflora Rose; Asian Bittersweet; Japanese Knotweed; Narrow-leaved & Hybrid Cattail; Eurasian Water-Milfoil; Smooth Brome Grass; Canada Thistle; Common & Cut-Leaved Teasel; White & Yellow Sweet Clover; Tree-of-Heaven; Lesser Naiad & Curly Pondweed. These plants will not be allowed at the plant swap.

Exactly how does the Montpelier Parks & Recreation Plant Swap work?

When you arrive, bring your plants to the check-in table at the Municipal Park Shelterhouse. A volunteer will help you determine onto which table to place your plants. You will receive tickets for the plants you bring. As plants arrive they will be divided up by type onto the tables. Participants may look at the selections until the time for the swap to begin but must not swap anything until the appointed time.

For the initial round of the swap everyone will have the opportunity to pick out 1 plant of their choosing. After everyone has 1 plant then participants may pick out all of their remaining plants. This will insure that everyone has the chance to find that 1 plant they were really hoping to have. Participants may only take home as many plants as they have in tickets. Large plants worth 2 tickets will be marked as such. Please remember to be generous with other swappers.

Participants are free to leave at any time. However, at the end of the swap participants may win door prizes with their tickets. Any plants remaining at the end of the swap will become the property of the Montpelier Parks & Recreation Department.

What plants should I swap?

Herbs, perennials, annuals, vegetables, and heirlooms are always popular. Examples of fruits and vegetables include tomatoes, peppers, strawberries, rhubarb, and sweet potatoes. Daylilies, hibiscus, Russian sage, Echinacea (coneflowers), and hostas are good perennials to consider. These are just ideas. Search around your garden for things you'd like to share!

Are children welcome?

Yes, but children under the age of 12 should be accompanied by an adult. Children 12 and older are free to participate in the swap as long as they bring something to swap.

Are pets welcome?

Pets are allowed at the Municipal Park as long as they do not bother others. However, no pets will be allowed in the plant swap area during the swap.

Should I bring a garden cart or wagon?

Absolutely. If you have anything to make your job of carrying your treasures home or to your vehicle easier, please bring it. However, tractors, lawn mowers, utility vehicles, golf carts, and the like will not be allowed. Also, don't forget to bring something to put into your vehicle to keep your plants safe on the way home. Cardboard boxes work great!

What if it rains?

The plant swap will be held rain or shine!