



Plot management

1. Good soil



Good soil needs long-term investments!
The best time for soil improvement work is in spring.

Turn over the soil with a big fork to make it fluffy.
Perlite helps make the soil more water-permeable, if it feels very heavy.

Soil turning is a good moment to remove weeds and roots.
- first turn all the soil with a shovel and/or garden fork
- then pick away loose roots and plants from the top soil
- shake away extra soil from the roots!
- use the metal rake and rake the top soil back-and-forth to get more roots separated to the top of the soil for easy removal

Use fertilizer if needed:
- we recommend natural fertilizers such as horse/chicken poop
- instructions for distribution are in the bag
- fully composted plant parts are also good soil improvements
- the ready-to-use composts are marked every year!

The composts are for composting garden waste only!

Please shake away extra soil before putting plants in the compost! Otherwise it fills up fast.

The composts are on a rotating scheme, so that there is enough time to compost and transform old plant parts into new, rich soil.
Check the signs, which compost is open for use.

We usually organize a talkoot in spring for doing some preparations together.
Ask about talkoot if you didn't hear any plans by the beginning of May!

We can also go get some horse poop together if people are interested.

2. Weeds



Lemon balm



Horsetail

Weeds come very fast as soon as the weather gets warm in mid-may.
Take care to remove the weeds from your plot, so they don't spread!

The most common weed is horsetail, which grows wild in the forest
and spreads via roots.

It is difficult to remove all roots which go very deep.

Try to pick away the horsetail and also remove the root!

Or keep picking away what is above ground, so the root will starve.

Lemon balm is a nice and tasty herb, that is common in Finland.
However, it spreads via roots and can take over the garden.
The best is to fence off the lemon balm with a plastic edge that goes
20cm deep into the ground.
Otherwise, keep a watchful eye on the roots to stop the plant from
spreading!

Horsetail is a problem weed!
Please separate the horsetail roots
and put them in the blue barrels for
composting!

2. Weeds



Yellowcress



Creeping bellflower (*Campanula*)



Dandelion



Goutweed

Other very common weeds:

Dandelions are beautiful flowers that are also edible. Unfortunately they spread very efficiently via the fluffy seeds.

They also re-grow from the root, so please make sure to also get the root when you remove dandelions!

Yellowcress spreads very fast via seeds. It has a dense root system, so make sure to shake away the soil before you put it in the compost. The plant gets big fast, so it is smart to remove the plant before it grows big.

Creeping bellflower is very beautiful, but very effective to spread. It is most often recognized from the round leaves when the plant is still small.

If you want to have the flowers, please watch the plant carefully and pick the flowers before they make seeds! Separate the seeds into the problem plant compost.

Goutweed is very common in Finland and can cover entire fields.

It spreads fast via both roots and seeds. Getting all the roots is difficult, but it is important to try taking the main root also when weeding.

3. Hungry wildlife



There are several rodents in the Finnish forest!
Mice, moles, and rats are found almost everywhere, also the city.
Also birds, rabbits, and deer will look at your plants hungrily.

Rodents tend to cut and collect your plants into a neat storage.

Protect your plot by putting a metal fence with small loops,
no larger than 1 cm holes.
For extra protection, put a white canvas over the important crops
and weigh down the sides carefully, so that you leave no openings
that rodents may use to slink in.

The box can be extra protected with rodent net put in the corners.
There is net in the toolshed, and during talkoot we can help with
installing it.

Nets and fences also help keep away birds.
If your plants need support, think how you can design the support
to also hold up a protective net or canvas!

3. Rodent protection



5. Support and bird protection



Happy gardening!

Feel free to contact the garden board with any questions!