



MILLINGTON baptist church

MBC Gardening Tips

Thank you so much for helping to keep our MBC campus looking great! If this is your first time (or maybe even if you've done it before), here are some helpful tips to make your experience more pleasant and more productive.

1. What you will be doing:

- a. Depending on the season and where on the campus you will be working, it will probably be either weeding or "deadheading", or a combination of both. Deadheading is when the stalks of flowers that have already bloomed get cut off, both for appearance and for the health of the plant.
- b. If have the equipment and are comfortable using it, you could also help in pruning some of our shrubbery and hedges.

2. What you should know before you start:

- a. The most important thing is "which ones are the weeds?". We don't want to be pulling up or damaging the "good" plants. We can help with that, or you can ask someone you are working with who has more experience. Every garden area has from one to five or six "good" types of plants in it, so you want to be able to identify those. Everything else is a weed.
- b. Note that there are plants which in other gardens might be what someone wants to grow, but in these gardens are considered weeds. Two good examples are violets and morning glory. We have lots of both, but don't want them anywhere (at least not now).
- c. A basic principle of weeding is that you always want to get as much of the root as possible. With some, this is easy; with others much harder. Many weeds have strong underground networks of roots that help the plant spread. We can never get all those roots, but the more we pull up with each weed, the weaker the network becomes.
- d. When removing a weed, each type of weed has a removal method that works best. Some (like Canadian thistle, common mugwort or sedge grass) can best be pulled out by hand, grabbing them as close to the ground as possible. Others, like dandelions or plantain, need to be dug out using a weeding fork, getting as much of the root as possible. Experience will help you know what method works best.

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3. What to wear:

- a. Comfort matters, but so does protection – from the sun, from insects, and from the plants themselves.
- b. We recommend long pants and long-sleeve shirts, even in hot weather. A wide-brimmed hat will provide sun protection. You should also be using bug spray.
- c. Please also wear a good pair of gardening gloves. Many of our plants and weeds can be very hard on the hands with stickers and rough surfaces, and your hands will stay a lot cleaner. Gloves also give good protection from insects.

4. What to bring:

- a. Water. Unless you know that water will be provided, please bring your own bottle or thermos of cool water, and drink it regularly, especially in hot weather.
- b. Tools. If you have them, please bring a weeding fork and pruning shears.

5. Be careful!

- a. Gardening itself should not be hazardous, but you do need to watch for poisonous plants (like poison ivy, which we have very little of) and biting or stinging insects (especially bees and hornets). You probably will not encounter these, but it is possible, and bee stings can be painful, especially if you are allergic.
- b. Pay attention to your body, especially in hot weather. Feel free to take a break, drink some water and cool down in the shade.

6. Enjoy yourself!

- a. If you're working in a group, make it a time of good conversation and fellowship, getting to know your fellow gardeners better.
- b. If you're working alone, this is precious time to reflect on the beauty of God's creation, as you help to improve the appearance of our campus.
- c. We believe God is glorified through the work of making our campus look better, and it helps to make our church more welcoming to our regular worshippers and visitors alike.

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