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Mary Richards reporting

Working to get more community gardens in Salt Lake

July 15th, 2010 @ 9:28am By Mary Richards

SALT LAKE CITY -- If you want a row or plot in a community garden in the Salt Lake Valley, get in line: a long line!

Right now there's an eight-year waiting list to get into one of the five community gardens in Salt Lake County operated by Wasatch Community Gardens. Community garden coordinator Brit Merrill says interest just skyrocketed because of the economy and a desire to eat more organic, fresh foods.

"The majority of people (on the list) live in an apartment or their backyard is too shaded. A lot of people just want to be a part of something," she says.

Merrill says 60 percent of the gardens are reserved for low-income growers. They are working with Salt Lake City and Salt Lake County to open up more space.

"Food that travels 500 miles and has sat in fridges and trucks is not going to taste as good as something you go out into your backyard to pick or down the street to your community garden to pick," Merrill says.

For details of the community gardening program, click here.

E-mail: mrichards@ksl.com

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### Weather

Forecasts  
 Current Conditions  
 Viper  
 Microcast  
 Water Watch  
 Snowpack totals  
 Ramp reports  
 Lawn Watering guide  
 Flood/Water Flow  
 Photo Galleries  
 Weather Planner  
 Weather Lab  
 Ask the Meteorologist  
 Ski Report  
 Weather on 5.3

### Traffic

Traffic Cams

### TV

Bios  
 Schedule  
 Contests  
 More on the Web  
 Studio 5

### Sports

BYU  
 U of U  
 NFL  
 Jazz/NBA  
 Prep  
 iCast  
 Golf Utah  
 Deseret First Duel  
 Cougar Tracks

### Opinion

Editorials  
 Contests  
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Listen LIVE  
 Podcasts  
 Lineup  
 Bios  
 Staff Blog  
 Shows  
 Utah's Morning News  
 Doug Wright Show  
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 Nightside Project  
 KSL Movie Show  
 KSL Outdoors  
 KSL Greenhouse Show  
 Matt Townsend Show  
 KSL Travel Show  
 Features  
 Speaking on Biz  
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 Metro Business Reports  
 Contests  
 Events

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General  
 Place an Ad  
 Homes  
 Home Builders  
 Neighborhood Info  
 Home Values  
 Place an Ad  
 Cars  
 Place a Car ad  
 Help

### Announcements

Place an Announcement

### Events

Post an Event

### Movies

Movie/Theater Listings

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Contact Us / Phone Numbers  
 Careers with KSL  
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 Web Resources  
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