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# New Hampshire

Department of Agriculture,  
Markets & Food

Lorraine S. Merrill, Commissioner

April 29, 2011

Ms. Joanna Whitcomb  
Hanover Community Garden

Dear Joanna,

The Department of Agriculture, Markets and Food would like to thank you for participating in our recent survey of New Hampshire's community gardens. Without your willingness to participate, and the thoughtful and honest responses provided by you and the other participants, an accurate assessment of the current activities within the very diverse community garden arrangements would not have been possible.

The survey has addressed key questions about pesticide use and other relevant factors regarding community gardening in New Hampshire. The findings of this survey effort will be used as an important component of the "*New Hampshire Community Garden Initiative*" a regulatory review process being undertaken by the Department of Agriculture, Markets & Food to determine the applicability of current pesticide regulations relative to pesticide use within community gardens. A copy of the "*New Hampshire Community Garden Initiative*" summary document, which will include an overview of community gardening along with the survey methods and results, will be available to you at a later date. A brief summary including some preliminary survey results has been included below for your information.

The survey, which took place in January/February 2011, was developed primarily as a tool for assessing the prevalence of pesticide use within community gardens as compared to the current pesticide regulations and the requirements for pesticide applicator certification. Other related information about community gardening activities and arrangements was also collected for use in an analysis and decision-making process. The results indicate that of the twenty-eight gardens surveyed, most are relatively small being less than .25 acres (53%) and are typically situated on private (47%) or town (44%) lands. Only 9% of community gardens were located on state lands. Other important findings were that most (55%) of the community gardens do not allow any pesticide use while 30% of the gardens allow all pesticide types and 15% allowing only organic pesticide use within the gardens. Another interesting finding of the survey was that a vast majority (71%) of the gardens donate or trade at least some of the food raised with many gardens contributing to local food pantries and other outlets serving needy individuals and families within their communities.

Thank you again for your assistance with this important survey effort. You will be contacted when the "*New Hampshire Community Garden Initiative*" summary is available.

Sincerely,

*Bob Bruleigh*

Robert Bruleigh

NH Department of Agriculture, Markets & Food  
Division of Pesticide Control