

## VANDALISM

Most gardens experience occasional vandalism. However, the fear of vandalism tends to be much greater than the actual incidence. If it happens to your garden, don't get too discouraged. It happens. Get over it and keep going.

Try these ideas to deter vandalism:

- ☼ Make a sign for the garden. Let people know to whom the garden belongs and that it is a neighborhood project.
- ☼ Repair damage or replant immediately.
- ☼ Don't use barbed wire or razor wire fences. It's bad for community relations, looks awful, and may be illegal to install without a permit.
- ☼ Plant roses, barberry, raspberries or other thorn-enhanced plants along your fence for extra protection.
- ☼ Create a shady meeting area in the garden and spend time there.
- ☼ Invite everyone in the neighborhood to participate from the very beginning. Persons excluded from the garden are potential vandals.
- ☼ Involve the neighborhood children in gardening. They can be the garden's best protectors.
- ☼ Make friends with neighbors whose windows overlook the garden. Trade them flowers and vegetables for a protective eye.
- ☼ Harvest all ripe fruit and vegetables on a daily basis. Red tomatoes falling from the vines invite trouble.
- ☼ Plant potatoes, other root crops or a less popular vegetable such as kohlrabi along the sidewalk or fence.
- ☼ Plant the purple varieties of cauliflower and beans or the white eggplant to confuse a vandal.
- ☼ Dust plants with flour or wood ashes – thieves may avoid plants covered in an unknown substance.
- ☼ Tie down expensive plants and garden furniture.
- ☼ Plant climbing vines on walls – no more graffiti.
- ☼ Report theft or vandalism to gardeners, police, and the neighborhood watch.
- ☼ Plant a "vandal's garden" at the entrance. Mark it with a sign: "If you must take food, please take it from here."

### Don't forget!

- ✓ Have new projects decided upon by the group, including whether or not to introduce a new feature and what it will look like.
- ✓ Keep it simple and easy to maintain in terms of labor, cost and replacement of parts.
- ✓ Don't overdesign a project or there is a greater risk that it won't succeed.