WELCOME TO OUR

Reclaimed Water & Biosolids Garden

Creating Resources from Wastewater

At our wastewater treatment plants, we create products that help sustain soils and crops. The Reclaimed Water and Biosolids Compost Demonstration Garden represents our commitment to test the quality and safety of our products to ensure they are a valuable local resource.

What are Reclaimed Water and Biosolids?

Reclaimed water is wastewater treated to such a high level that it can be safely used for non-drinking purposes such as landscaping and agricultural irrigation, heating and cooling, and industrial processing. Reclaimed water can be available in dry summer months when a drought might strain other freshwater resources.

Biosolids are the nutrient-rich organic solids from wastewater that are recycled as a fertilizer and soil conditioner in farms and forests. A portion of our biosolids is mixed with three parts sawdust by a private company to produce an exceptional quality biosolids compost for use in landscaping and gardening. Adding biosolids compost to soils shows great promise at sequestering carbon and reducing greenhouse gases one garden at a time.

Don't take our word for it; the science is behind it!

University of Washington researchers have worked with us for almost four decades to test the application of our resources under local conditions. This 2009 garden is a field replication of greenhouse research done in 2008 to test the safety and growth response of using reclaimed water and biosolids compost to grow edible food crops and ornamental flowers. The garden's purpose is to provide scientific information about the safety and usefulness of reclaimed water and biosolids compost, promote understanding about these resources and answer any customer questions.

South Treatment Plant Reclaimed Water and Biosolids Garden research is conducted by the University of Washington.

Dr. Soo-Hyung Kim and Dr. Sally Brown School of Forest Resources, University of Washington, Seattle, WA.

Did You Know?

California alone uses 230 million gallons of reclaimed water every day to irrigate 52 different crops that are shipped around the country to local grocery stores. These crops commonly include grapes, citrus, lettuce, artichoke, broccoli, spinach, corn, peppers, tomatoes, nuts, and more.

If you've eaten any of these foods lately, you're already part of this recycling cycle!

What we're measuring:

- Plant health
- Plant growth rate and leaf size
- Presence of trace metals or pathogens: is it safe?
- Soil pH
- Nutrient levels

Food Crops – lettuce* carrot* strawberry*
Ornamentals – delphinium* amaranth* sunflower*

*Crops being analyzed. Additional food crops were planted to be used at a community luncheon in September, 2009

Vegetable Beds (one of each)

1. Tap water and sandy loam
2. Tap water and sandy loam with biosolids compost
3. Reclaimed water and sandy loam
4. Reclaimed water and sandy loam with biosolids compost

Ornamental Flower Beds (three of each)

5. Tap water
6. Controlled release fertilizer in tap water
7. Reclaimed water

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More info: http://www.kingcounty.gov/wtd • 206-684-1280

"Developing local research on local products under local conditions on resources being used globally."