Home Child Care Facilities and use of Home Grown Produce Policy

This policy is designed to provide guidelines for growing produce that may be used within a home child care facility. These guidelines may be adapted and used for food service facilities that wish to grow produce at the facility location.

1. Produce must be planted in an area free of toxins, petroleum products (including but not limited to, gasoline, diesel, transmission and radiator fluid) and other sources of contamination (including but not limited to, heavy metals, sewage, soil enhancements containing asbestos (vermiculite)).

2. Waste water, including but not limited to, water used for cleaning, water from sinks, bath tubs, showers, clothes and dish washers and sewage cannot be used to water produce.

3. Non-treated animal waste cannot be used.

4. Pesticides must be used according to the instructions on the label, secured so that children do not have access to them and available for review by the inspector.

5. Produce must be thoroughly washed under running water, using a potable water source, prior to serving to the children.

6. Produce waste cannot be left on the ground. Produce waste can and will attract rats, mice, raccoons and other nuisance animals. Produce waste includes: peels, cores, whole or partial portions of the produce.

7. Compost, a mixture of various organic substances, as dead leaves or manure, used for fertilizing soil, if used, must be a completely composted product.

8. Produce cannot be processed (including cut, chopped, ground) for the purpose of packaging (including placed in bags, sealed, wrapped or frozen).

9. Produce with signs of spoilage cannot be used to feed children in a child care facility.

10. Hands must be washed thoroughly using a potable water source, soap and a sanitary means to dry hands before preparing harvested produce.

11. All children must be supervised while in the garden.

12. Harvest baskets, totes, and other containers must be kept covered and cleaned (with potable water) and sanitized before use. Containers that previously held cleaners, chemicals or other non-food items cannot be used.