

Main Street Plant Swap FAQs

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What's a plant swap?

A plant swap is an event that allows people to bring plants from their own gardens to trade for new plants from other gardeners.

Where and when is it?

It will be held Saturday, June 16th from 10am until 1pm at the Farmer's Market Pavilion (corner of Ashmun and Portage).

Who is hosting this Plant Swap?

The Main Street Design Committee/Garden Sub-Committee is hosting this event.

How does the Swap work?

For every individually packaged and labeled plant you bring, you'll receive one ticket. With that ticket, you can then "trade" for another plant, brought by someone else.

What kinds of plants will be included?

The Main Street Plant Swap is intended for almost any perennials, herbs and even vegetables. We have no idea what others will bring, so the variety of species is completely unknown at this point. But we are hoping for a great selection!

When you say "almost any" perennials, what does that mean?

We welcome all perennials except those on the invasive species list for Michigan. If you're not certain whether or not your plants are invasive, please refer to this site for more information;

www.michigan.gov/invasives

Do I have to be a gardener to participate?

No, absolutely not. But you will need to bring individually packaged and labeled plants to trade in order to take part.

Can I purchase plants from the Plant Swap?

Unfortunately, no. We will not be selling any plants this year.

How should I package my plants?

Each plant needs to be individually packaged and labeled – although packaging does not need to be anything elaborate. I'm going to be using small plastic pots that held annuals I purchased last year. Use a piece of masking tape and a marker to label them, or anything else that's simple and won't easily wash off.

What should the label include?

The label needs to have the common name of the plant, it needs to indicate if the plant requires sun, partial sun or partial shade, and if it flowers, color of the flower could be included as well.

What if I'm not sure what my plant is?

If you're not sure, you are welcome to send me a picture of the plant ahead of time and I'll try to help you figure it out - leitz@sault.com. But otherwise, if you aren't sure, please don't bring it.

Does the Plant Swap cost money?

No, it's free.

Why does it say I can "drop off my plants at 8am" but the Swap doesn't begin until 10am?

In order to avoid a lot of chaos at 10am, we are encouraging people to deliver their packaged plants to the registration table at the Swap well ahead of 10am. You can drop off your plants, get your tickets and go enjoy the morning elsewhere. At 10am, we'll begin allowing people to choose their plants.

What if I can't get there until later in the morning?

We'll accept plants until 12 noon, but of course, the earlier you get there, the better selection of plants you will be able to choose from.

So at 10am, I can just choose all the perennials I want and leave?

Not exactly. In order to be fair, we're going to allow each person to walk through the Swap area numerous times, and choose two plants per walk. For example, if you have ten tickets, you can take five walks through the Swap area. We hope this will enable all participants to have a fair opportunity to choose a variety of plants.

What should I do with the plants I choose while I wait for another walk through the Swap?

We recommend everyone bring a cardboard box or two, with your name written on it, to hold your plants while you walk through the Swap. We will have a few people monitoring the boxes to prevent any unauthorized trades!

Can I bring my children?

Well behaved children are welcome anywhere! But there won't be much for them to do, so please keep that in mind if you plan to bring your kids.

What about my dog?

We love dogs! But for obvious reasons, a plant swap is not the greatest place for dogs to spend their Saturday morning. So sorry, but no dogs.

What if it rains?

Plants love rain – so do most gardeners. This is a rain or shine event.

Where should I park?

There are many parking options in the area, although you will not be able to park within the Farmer's Market Pavilion. If you need help getting your plants to your car, we should have a few helpers available.

What's in it for us?

We are very hopeful people will donate a few extra plants or gift us with their left over plants. All plants we receive will be used to enhance downtown gardens.

What if I just want to help?

We can always use more volunteers! And we have great volunteer t-shirts for everyone who shows up to lend a hand! You can contact me at leitz@sault.com or just come down to the Farmer's Market Pavilion Saturday June 16th, before 10am, and we'll put you to work!

What if I just want to donate to the Main Street gardens?

Any and all donations would be very welcome!