

Sample community garden guidelines

- Visit your garden plot often and get to know your fellow community gardeners. Find ways to pitch in to help coordinators in maintaining your site.
- Share questions, ideas, or concerns with your site coordinator. Community gardening often involves finding creative ways to work together to meet challenges.
- Keep your plot *and* the adjoining pathways well cared for. Use a garden rake on unplanted areas, and hoe weeds between rows while they're small. Allowing your plot to become overgrown with weeds may jeopardize your present and future participation in the community garden.
- Keep the lawn areas and garden paths free of rocks, weeds, and plant debris. Pick up piles of debris and hoses so as not to create a hazard to trip over or hit with the lawnmower.
- Please conserve water by watering plants in the morning or evening, rather than in the heat of the day. Apply water at the base of plants where possible. Keep hoses and connections in good repair. Use mulch (hay, straw, or grass clippings) to reduce evaporation from the soil.
- Use water wisely and conserve where possible. Unattended watering via sprinklers and/or underground watering systems is not allowed.
- Black (or other colored) plastic may only be used by permission of the site coordinator. Landscape fabric is not allowed as it is less effective for weed control and is difficult to remove after use.
- Please clean garden tools and carts and put them back in the tool shed after use.
- Place only organic materials in the compost piles. Help care for the garden site by participating in community work projects and by picking up litter as found.
- Garden organically to preserve soil fertility and avoid damaging the garden ecosystem. Organic gardening involves three main principals: 1) Feed the soil by using compost and cover crops to add organic matter and nutrients. (Chemical fertilizers such as 5-10-5 are not used in organic gardening.) 2) Apply natural mulches (such as hay or straw) to suppress weeds, reduce water loss, and add organic matter to the soil. 3) Use natural, botanical, and biological insect controls to avoid harming beneficial organisms and pollinators. (Don't use synthetic pesticides, as they can have unwelcome side effects to plants, wildlife, and people.)
- Organic gardening produces healthier soils and safer ecosystems. Organic insect controls include Bt (a bacterium), rotenone, pyrethrum, Neem, copper soaps, and various homemade remedies. Please use caution and read instructions before applying any pesticide. A good source for organic pest controls is Gardener's Supply Company (www.gardeners.com) or Gardens Alive (www.gardensalive.com).
- Gardeners are responsible to clean up their garden plot by the closing date for the garden site.
- These guidelines are intended for the health and safety of all. If you have questions, suggestions, or are experiencing a problem, please talk with your garden site coordinator. Thanks for your help, and have a great season in the garden!