

Community Garden Etiquette, Rules, and Policies

Adam Kohl, City of Gresham Community Garden Manager
971-231-4191 / adam@outgrowinghunger.org

Garden Etiquette

1. Each gardener is expected to work along side others and resolve any conflicts respectfully.
2. Please do not place or allow plants (including weeds) to grow beyond the boundaries of your plot, or to shade other plots.
3. If your pet must go with you to the gardens, you are responsible for any damage.
4. At the end of the season, leave your plot in good condition for the next season.

Garden Rules

1. Your plot must be actively used and maintained throughout the season. Plots must be worked or planting begun (weather dependant) by May 1st. Gardeners are encouraged to weed and plant earlier, as weather permits
2. The minimum requirements of “starting your plot” include:
 - o Working the soil
 - o Weeding or planting seeds/starts
3. Each gardener must maintain the pathway surrounding their plot. Wood chips will be provided by the City of Gresham. No plastic or carpet is allowed in the paths.
4. Gardeners must keep their plots and paths free from garbage, furniture, and unused or broken garden items, regardless of source. Contact the Garden Manager if you need help disposing of “dumped” items.
5. Gardeners who have consistently weedy, unsightly plots or pathways will be notified and asked to clean up their assigned plot/pathway within 14 days.
6. Unused or abandoned plots will be reassigned. Gardeners using less than half of their plot may be asked (but not required) to share the unused portion with a gardener on the waiting list.
7. Crops must be federally legal, for home use and not commercial purposes.
8. Do not allow plants to shade other garden plots, grow into, or hang over into the walking paths.
9. Pets must be leashed and not allowed to run free through the gardens. Do not allow pets to relieve themselves on the garden plots; pick up any waste your pet creates immediately.
10. Do not use chemicals, such as, herbicides (weed killers), insecticides (insect killers) or chemical fertilizers in the garden areas. Resources on Organic Gardening and related topics are available, including:
 - o Organic Materials Review Institute: www.omri.org.
 - o Metro: www.oregonmetro.gov/garden
 - o OSU Master Gardener hotline: 503-445-4608 or mcmastergardeners@yahoo.com
11. By October 31st, annual crops should be harvested, plant residue cleaned up, and all plots covered, mulched or some way maintained to prevent erosion during the winter.
12. Failure to comply with Garden Rules may result in your plot being reassigned to a gardener on the wait list, and may affect your eligibility for future garden plot rental.

Please notify the Garden Manager of any personal matters that prevents you from tending your plot or if you will be gone for an extended period of time. Failure to communicate in either situation may prompt us to conclude that the plot is abandoned and the plot may be reassigned to another gardener.

Garden Policies - Registration

1. Registered gardeners are responsible for keeping addresses and phone numbers current with the Community Gardens Program. If we are unable to reach you after 3 attempts (disconnected phone, returned mail, etc.) we will conclude the plot is abandoned.
2. Plot registration is required annually. Renewal begins October 1st for the following season. Returning gardeners must complete renewal by December 31st. To renew your registration, visit the utilities desk on the first floor of Gresham City Hall or complete the on-line registration process. Plot changes may be made from January 1st – January 31st
3. Starting February 1st, registration opens to new gardeners. Your plot will no longer be reserved for you but you may register for any available plot.
4. Plots are not transferable, you may not choose another person to take over your plot or registration fee.
5. All gardeners including co-gardeners sharing the plot must complete and return the “Gardener Agreement” form before entering the garden.
6. Once your registration fee is paid, the plot is yours until December 31st.
7. The plot fee is non refundable if cancellation occurs 3 or more weeks beyond registration.
8. Do not share lock combinations with anyone who is not a registered gardener or co-gardener.

Composting & Waste

1. Compost bins are provided at each garden, for the disposal of garden debris only. Please do not put weeds which have flowered into the common compost bins, as the seeds may survive the composting process.
2. You may purchase your own small bin, which should be placed inside your plot and out of the way of other gardeners.
3. If you have composting materials which are weedy or exceed the capacity of the bins, contact the Garden Manager to make arrangements for removal.

Harvest time

1. Please monitor your plots frequently so that food is not wasted!
2. If you are unable to use all of your harvest before it spoils, consider donating excess food to:
 - o Meals on Wheels, 600 NE 8th (503-953-8201) and 124 NE 181st (503-953-8156)
 - o SnowCap, 17788 SE Pine (503-674-8785)
 - o Zarephath Kitchen and Pantry, 59 NW Ava Ave, Gresham (503-667-7932)
3. Harvest only from your assigned plot(s). If you suspect vegetable/garden theft, please contact the Garden Coordinator.
4. If you see that another gardener is letting food spoil in the garden, don't pick it without explicit permission of the plot owner. For assistance, contact the Garden Manager

Water

1. Please water only your assigned plot and do not let water drip or flood other plots or paths. Please conserve water whenever possible by hand watering and using mulch.
2. Water is available in the gardens from May 1st through October 31st.