



## COMMUNITY GARDEN POLICIES

The following is an overview of responsibilities and rules for community gardeners. We have established these policies to make the gardening experience more enjoyable; it is not our desire that anyone be put in the position of being "garden police". If a gardener is ignoring the rules and that becomes a problem, please talk with the garden coordinator to assist in finding a positive resolution.

### **Use common courtesy:**

- Allow adequate space within your designated plot for vining and spreading crops and keep them from encroaching on paths and adjacent plots.
- Plant your tall crops, such as corn, sunflowers and pole beans, on the north side of your plot to minimize its shading affect on other plots.
- Do not walk in others' gardens; use the paths.
- Do not harvest other gardener's crops unless given permission.
- Radios are not allowed, since people have different tastes in music and some gardeners may prefer peace and quiet. If music makes your gardening more enjoyable, use headphones.
- Please help to pick up and dispose of litter and place it in the trash can.

### **Keep your garden looking nice and fully utilized:**

- Your garden should be mostly planted by May 29th, unless there has been extremely wet and cool weather. If nothing has been planted by that date (barring unusual weather), you will be contacted and may be asked to forfeit your gardening fee and plot.
- Keep weeds removed from your plot, the perimeter of your plot and the surrounding paths.
- **Keep in regular contact with the community garden coordinator. If you will not be able to tend your garden for 10 days due to illness or travel**, it is your responsibility to 1.) notify the community garden coordinator of your absence and 2.) find someone to water, weed, and harvest it, as needed. Make sure the person knows precisely which plot is yours.
- If a plot appears untended (overgrown weeds, unharvested), you will be contacted. If your plot is not cleaned up within two weeks, it will be reassigned, and you will forfeit the gardening fee and deposit. This will help us keep weed seeds to a minimum and the gardens looking cared for.

### **Closely supervise your children:**

Community gardening is a wonderful opportunity for children to learn about the joys of gardening and to be part of a special group of people. Please share these rules with your children. Model respectful behavior toward other gardeners and their plots.

### **Be considerate and conservation-minded when watering:**

- When watering, be careful not to drag hoses through others' plots. Try not to over-spray onto others' plots, since they may be planning to plant or work their soil.
- If others are waiting to water, limit your time to 15 minutes.

- After watering, please return the hoses and watering devices to their storage location.
- Please help keep the lids on the valve boxes in place.
- Remember that water is a precious and limited resource.

**Use of tools:**

Please be careful with the use of the community garden tools. After using them, return them in clean condition to their storage location.

**About dogs:**

No dogs are allowed in the community gardens, including dogs on leashes.

**Perennials and Garlic**

Perennials are best located around the perimeters of gardeners' plots when planted. If you are a first or second year gardener and intend to garden the following year, you may plant garlic in the fall. If you plant before tilling, carefully flag the area. Prior to the end of season, please remember to flag perennials and the area where garlic was planted clearly so that the tiller can avoid them. We'll do the best we can, but there are no guarantees with a cumbersome tiller. Please note, if you are not one of the first 33 gardeners to register in January, you will need to relinquish all plantings to the gardener the plot is reassigned to.

**"Organic" methods only for pest control:**

For our gardeners' safety and health, and for environmental reasons, only "organic" methods of insect, disease and weed control are permitted. As an additional reason, it has been our experience that more dangerous pesticides are simply not necessary to grow healthy, attractive and bountiful gardens in Fort Collins. Since "organic" means different things to different people, we have provided more detail and suggestions in the document, entitled *Pest Control*.

**No smoking in the garden:**

Smoking in the garden is prohibited.

**Mulch**

If you would like to use mulch in your plot, you will need to pre-purchase bales through the Gardens on Spring Creek. Unless approved by the community garden coordinator, all other mulches will be prohibited. This will help keep the soil healthy and avoid any possibility of using contaminated mulch. Please note the option to pre-purchase mulch on the community garden agreement form.

**Don't let unwanted produce go to waste:**

It is quite possible that you will have more produce than you are able to, or interested in using yourself. Before tossing it into the compost pile, offer it to other gardeners, your friends or your neighbors. Consider donating excess produce to the food through our Plant-a-Row-for-the-Hungry Program. The garden coordinator will organize harvests dates and arrange transportation of excess produce to the food bank.

**Items of security:**

If you suspect that an unauthorized person is harvesting a garden, diplomatically question the person and/or contact the garden coordinator.

**Problems with other gardeners:**

Very occasionally you may have difficulty dealing with another gardener. Please remain polite and listen carefully. Usually solutions can be reached easily. If more serious difficulties arise, please contact the

garden coordinator to assist with negotiating a solution. Neighborly relations are important to the spirit of community gardening.

### **Three Year Policy**

Gardeners can participate for up to three years. This will allow others the opportunity to garden that might not otherwise have the space. Plots will fill on a first come first-served basis. Garden registration begins in early January.

*Remember that through community gardening, you have the opportunity to have a very positive effect on other gardeners, your neighborhood and your community!*

If you have any questions, please contact community garden coordinator Beth Coop at:  
(970) 416-2281, bcoop@fcgov.com

**2145 S. Centre Avenue Fort Collins, CO 80526**  
**970-416-2486 [www.fcgov.com/horticulture](http://www.fcgov.com/horticulture)**