



2010 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.

Common courtesy:

- Allow adequate space within your designated plot for vining and spreading crops and keep them from encroaching on paths and adjacent plots.
- Do not walk in others' gardens; use the paths.
- Do not harvest other gardener's crops unless given permission.
- Be respectful of your fellow gardeners and visitors to The Gardens.
- Please help to pick up and dispose of litter and place it in the trash can.

Maintenance:

- 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.

Water:

- 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.
- For the safety of everyone, please help keep the lids on the valve boxes in place.
- Remember that water is a precious and limited resource.

Shed: A shed with a combination lock has been provided for storage of your tools.

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

Perennials and Garlic

Perennials should be planted in the four corners of gardeners' plots. 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.

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*.

Smoking: Smoking in the garden is prohibited.

Extra produce:

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. During the growing season, The Gardens is open 7 days a week April through September. You may drop off your excess produce at the Visitor's Center and we will donate it to the Food Bank.

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. When a plot has been deemed vacant, a lottery system will be used to fill each empty plot in 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 the Front Desk Coordinator, Jan Kroeger at: (970) 416-2486 (Mondays only) or jkroeger@fcgov.com (anytime).