

## 2020 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. If you believe these policies are not being followed, please talk with the community gardens administrator to assist in finding a positive resolution.

### **Common courtesy: Community gardens are in public spaces. Please maintain the garden area to a high standard of aesthetics and care.**

- 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' garden plots. Use the paths.
- Do not harvest, weed or water other gardener's crops unless given permission.
- Be respectful of your fellow gardeners, garden neighbors and visitors to the site.
- Please pick up and dispose of litter in a trash can.

### **Maintenance:**

- Your garden should be mostly planted by May 31<sup>st</sup>, 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.
- Remove weeds from your plot, the perimeter of your plot, the surrounding paths and the common areas.
- **Maintain regular contact with the community gardens administrator. If you are not able to tend your garden for 10+ days due to illness or travel**, it is your responsibility to:
  - Notify the community gardens administrator of your absence
  - Find someone to water, weed, and harvest it, as needed. Make sure that person knows which plot is yours.
- If your plot appears untended (overgrown weeds, unharvested), you will be contacted. If your plot is not cleaned up within two weeks of receiving a message, 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 cared for.
- No organic debris is allowed in trash bins. Remove all non-organic debris (tags, pots, plastic) before adding to the compost bin.
- All dead annual plant material and all season extensions materials must be removed from the garden plot by November 15.
- If season extension materials such as row covers, tarps, walls of water are used, they must be adequately secured to prevent blowing in windy conditions.
  - It is preferred that all coverings are neutral, solid colors.
  - They may not exceed the height of the garden fence.
  - Please remove and store frost protection materials from the garden as soon as the threat of frost has passed.

### **Water: Water used in the Community Garden may be RAW WATER – do not drink!**

- When watering, be careful not to drag hoses through others' plots. Try not to over-spray onto others' plots, as 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. If your garden has in-ground valve boxes, for the safety of everyone, please keep the lids on the valve boxes in place.
- Remember that water is a precious and limited resource.

**Prohibited Plants:** Due to the aggressive nature of these plants, they may not be planted in the community gardens: mint, raspberries, horseradish and Jerusalem artichokes. Growing cannabis is prohibited.

**Structures:** Seasonal and temporary gardening structures such as trellises and cages are allowed if they do not encroach upon paths, community spaces, or neighboring plots. Be considerate of your neighbors and orient your structures and plantings to avoid casting shade on other plots. All structures must be removed for the season by November 15.

**Shed:** A shed with a combination lock has been provided for storage of your tools. Do not store anything in the shed that will attract pests (bird seed, straw, etc.)

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

**Pest control:** Organic practices will be used to control insects, diseases, and weeds in City of Fort Collins Community Gardens. Due to different definitions of "organic", the following guidelines have been created.

No bird feeders are allowed in the community gardens.

Insects and diseases prefer to attack stressed plants. The first line of defense with organic gardening is to keep plants as healthy as possible by amending the soil with compost and selecting disease and insect free seedlings for planting and watering properly.

The second line of defense is to rely on sustainable gardening practices:

- Insect pests
  - regularly inspect all garden plants, and look for pests
  - hand-pick and remove insects, eggs and larvae of pests
  - wash insects off of plants by spraying with a hose
  - use sticky traps
  - practice crop rotation to help minimize disease and pest issues
- Diseases
  - plant disease-resistant varieties
  - remove weeds and damaged or diseased plants from garden area
  - avoid overhead watering to reduce incidence of mildew and fungus
- Weeds
  - hand-pull
  - apply mulch
  - dense plantings

Minor occurrences of insects are tolerated if they are not causing damage. However, if treatment is necessary, use products which contain an OMRI® approved seal. These products are listed at [www.omri.org/omri-lists](http://www.omri.org/omri-lists). Follow all instructions on product label.

**Smoking: Smoking is prohibited on all City owned or operated facilities and grounds.**

**Extra produce:**

If you have grown more produce than you are able to use, please consider donating the produce to the Plant it Forward program. Learn more at [www.plantitforwardnoco.org](http://www.plantitforwardnoco.org). During the growing season, donations may be brought to the Gardens on Spring Creek on weekends or to the Food Bank for Larimer County during the weekdays. Please go to [www.fcgov.com/gardens](http://www.fcgov.com/gardens) for hours and details.

***Through community gardening, you have the opportunity to have a positive effect on other gardeners, your neighborhood and your community!***

If you have any questions, please contact the Community Gardens Administrator:  
Vicki Cotton at (970) 416-2486; [vcotton@fcgov.com](mailto:vcotton@fcgov.com)