

COMMUNITY GARDEN GUIDELINES 2020

The Community Garden consists of common areas and individual plots. **Each gardener is responsible for maintaining and weeding the area around his or her individual plot following the weeding protocols outlined in 3.1 and in Point 4 (Compost) below.**

A minimum time donation towards Community Garden projects and maintenance **of 8 hours annually for each bed is required.** Such work may include ongoing tasks such as compost maintenance, bed construction, general clean up, care of specific plants or areas of the garden, serving on sub-committees, and/or participating in general work-parties. Note: each gardener is assigned a responsibility.

Membership and Payments

- 1.1. An annual user fee of \$20.00 shall be paid per each 4' x 12' bed. Payment for beds is due by January 31 to maintain/gain rights to garden that bed. Membership form for current year must accompany payment. (Note: membership is contingent on members agreeing to the guidelines which is why we need the form.) Please make your cheque payable to the Mayne Island Community Garden. It may be left in the free mail box at Gulf Port Realty. Payment may also be made by Interac E-Transfer. Membership application and info may be found at <https://maynegarden.weebly.com/membership.html>
- 1.2. Each gardener is encouraged to have a Mayne Island Community Centre Society membership: \$5 Individual/\$10 Family for the calendar year (Jan 1 to Dec 31). You may pay this directly to the Community Centre.
- 1.3. In accordance with past practice, if by March 1 there are unassigned plots, a gardener may request additional bed for that year only on payment of a further \$20. The Steering committee will keep a waiting list of such requests, and plots will be allocated according to date of request.

Gardeners intending to continue with their plots must inform the Treasurer/Steering Committee no later than January 15 of each year.

Water Use

We have a limited water supply—all members must adhere to the posted Fair Usage Guidelines. *Please use only the water you need and remember to turn the taps off when watering is complete. Please note: Water is Non-potable.*

- 2.1. The Fair Usage Guidelines, measured as water cans/week, will be posted at the garden and will be updated throughout the normal growing season with a projected end date of Sept 30th. This amount is for your main plot and side plot. If your plots needs more than the allotted amount of water please bring it from home.
- 2.2. All watering shall be done by hand using the supplied water cans available in the cob house. No hoses, soaker hoses, or automatic watering systems are to be used for watering as these have been problematic in the past.
- 2.3. Water only your specific area. If you are unable to water your plot and wish to have it watered by another gardener, you must designate who this person shall be.
- 2.4. The water tanks that are located behind the cob shed are to be kept in reserve. Please do not use water from these tanks.
- 2.5. Please be on the lookout for leaks—if you see something of concern please contact the user of the plot and or a committee member. In the case of a catastrophic leak, you can turn the garden water off at the wooden box (north of the large green water tanks). Lift the lid and turn the handle marked “to garden” 90 degrees. This will shut off the water to the garden completely. PLEASE CONTACT A WATER VOLUNTEER.

Using the Garden

Weeding of Paths and Areas Around Individual Beds

- 3.1 All gardeners must keep their assigned garden beds & immediate surrounding areas tidy. As far as possible, weeds should be removed without disturbing the plastic ground cover and mulch. Please try to hand weed or use individual weed pulling tools rather than heavy tools that disturb the soil.

Care of Individual Beds

- 3.2 The Community Garden is an organic space: non-organic pesticide/herbicide sprays may not be used. Fertilizers, if used, need to be organic formulas such as fish fertilizer, compost teas, etc. Pressure treated materials should not be used in the beds.
- 3.3 Each garden plot is also assigned a side bed of the same number. Please make sure you garden only the side bed that corresponds with your regular bed.
- 3.4 Structures should be contained inside your bed area. Be considerate of your neighbouring gardener. Every gardener is responsible to make sure, within reason, that his or her garden plants do not impede sunshine to a neighbour's bed. Tall plants could go to the area against the fence or be planted so they shade your bed but not your neighbour's.
- 3.5 Do not allow aggressive plants to go to seed in your bed, eg: Dill, Fennel. Poisonous Plants like deadly nightshade are not allowed in the garden.

Pets

- 3.6 Dogs are not permitted in the fenced garden area. Please remember not everyone is comfortable around dogs.

Coming and Going

- 3.7 Gates must be closed, locked and secured with the bungee cords when you leave. Garden Members will receive the lock combination via email for the current year and at times when the combination changes. The garden is being locked for reasons of theft prevention and safety. Garden Members must not share the code to the combination locks.
- 3.8 Please park your car in the main parking lot and walk to the garden unless you are driving in to unload.

Compost

- 4.1 The compost system is for composting **only** the common plots. All gardeners can add to the compost.
Reminder: Add any new material to the appropriate loading bins, not the working or maturing bins. The purpose for each bin is indicated by signage from the Soil Fertility Committee.

The following material can be added to the compost

- green or brown plant matter, soil, manure (but not from pets or people)
- a small amount of wood ash and sea weed
- nettle and comfrey are great compost starters
- please break large plants up by tearing the leaves off or cutting them up
- finished compost is primarily for the use in the common beds
- surplus compost may be made available from time to time, please check the bulletin board.

What does not go in the compost:

- weeds that are in seed, so for example dandelions in flower are fine but not once they are in seed
- grass is ok but the roots are not
- plants with a disease such as rust, blight, etc.
Place all of the above in the black compost bin marked for “nasty weeds” and close the lid.
- wood or stems that cannot be broken off by hand—place these in the wire mesh enclosure adjacent to the bins
- tomato plants and discarded tomatoes are to be put into a separate bin to the left side of the gate by the compost containers—they are prone to blight
- processed foods go in the green cone

When weeding, use two containers one for compost and the other for “nasty weeds”

Communal Tools and Activities

Greenhouse and Tools

- 4.1 Any member is welcome to make use of the greenhouse for starting plants. Gardeners should limit themselves to one flat.
- 4.2 Garden members are welcome to use the Communal Tools, which are identified by bright yellow. Please return to their designated storage area. Do not remove from the community garden area.

Produce

- 4.3 Harvest times for communal produce will be announced as fruit ripens.

Bulletin Board

- 4.4 The bulletin board is provided with areas for water notices, these guidelines, and garden communications.

Issues and Resolutions

- 5.1 If any gardener has an issue with any other gardener they should directly contact the person concerned. If reasonable accommodations cannot be achieved, unresolved issues can be referred to a Steering Committee member.
- 5.2 If a gardener takes proactive action on any other gardener’s plot, (water problem, plants or structures blown-over, etc.) they should post their action on the communications board as well as contact the affected plot holder.
- 5.3 To avoid confusion, please DO NOT undertake any task in the garden other than those assigned to you without prior arrangement with the person to whom the task has been assigned. If, for any reason, you are unable to fulfill your assigned task, please contact a member of the steering committee.
- 5.4 If you incur an expense that you feel should be paid by the Community Garden, please understand that you will not be reimbursed for that expense unless it has been pre-approved in writing (i.e. email response) by the Garden Treasurer and Steering Committee.

Community Garden Contacts:

**WATER Committee Members*

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