

Summit Achieve Community Garden Operating Rules

www.SummitAchieveGarden.com | **DUE BY FEB 24, 2017**

Primary Gardeners must be at least 21 years old and live in Summit; household members must be at least 13 years old to work in the Garden unsupervised. All people over age 17 who will have access to the garden must sign the plot Application Form.

All children must be closely supervised and are not allowed to engage in roughhousing or other behavior that would disturb Gardeners.

Time Commitments:

- 1. All Gardeners are required to attend one Organizational Meeting, scheduled for Thurs. March 30 at 7:30pm at Summit YMCA Branch, and Sat. April 1 at 9:30am at the Community Garden.**
- Gardeners must plan to attend at least **1** work day for general garden maintenance; gardeners who cannot meet this requirement must notify the Garden Committee to make alternative arrangements.
- Gardeners must commit to a minimum of **4** hours of volunteer time to assist with the maintenance of common areas (e.g., mowing lawn, weeding common areas, maintaining compost, spreading wood chips).

Plot Maintenance:

- 1. The Garden operates as an organic garden.** The use of non-organic products is prohibited (e.g., Miracle Grow, Preen).
- Your assigned plot must be planted by May 31st, or it will be forfeited.
- Gardeners must tend their plot at least weekly to harvest ripe crops, stake and tie up plants that are growing out of the bed, and remove weeds and fallen crops in and around the bed.
- Gardeners who are unable to tend their plot due to illness or vacation must notify the Garden Committee to make other arrangements.
- Gardeners are responsible for weeding the paths and areas around their plot.
- Plots that appear abandoned or unkempt in the opinion of the Committee are subject to corrective action/reassignment within two weeks notice from the Committee.
- Plants that are invasive in nature are not allowed. (See SACG Checklist of Prohibited Plants).
- Wood chips may not be used as mulch in the Garden Plots, although mulching with hay or straw is encouraged.
- Temporary plant supports that are no higher than 5 feet are permitted, e.g., tomato cages and trellises. All other structures must be approved by the Garden Committee.
- Garden plots must be completely cleared out and raked at the end of the garden season. All plant debris, weeds, plastic plant tags, and other objects must be removed from the plot and garden.
- A Gardener must immediately notify SACG in writing if unable to maintain a plot. No application fee will be refunded.

Grievances: Gardeners should try to resolve any grievances with fellow Gardeners. If a Gardener is unable to resolve a grievance with a fellow Gardener, he/she may ask the Garden Committee for a resolution.

Failure to comply with the Operating Rules may result in forfeiture of the plot, garden fee, and the security deposit. Gardeners who fail to comply with the Operating Rules may not be eligible for a plot in future garden seasons.

General Operation:

Garden Hours: Monday - Friday, 8:00 am to 9:00 pm, or dusk, whichever is earlier; Saturday - Sunday, 9:00 am to 9:00 pm, or dusk, whichever is earlier.

Before You Leave The Garden:

- Water spigots must be turned off.
- Hoses should be returned to the spigot post and coiled.
- The last gardener to leave must lock the gate; the gate must be locked when the garden is unattended.
- Tools and equipment of the SACG may not be removed from the garden area, and must be cleaned and properly stored in the shed after use. Items stored in the shed are for common use.

Plant Diseases And Pests:

- Gardeners must monitor and immediately treat plant diseases and pests. (See binder in shed for fact sheets on identification and treatment). Gardeners must also report diseases and pests to a Garden Committee member or by email sacg@thesay.org.
- In some cases, the Committee will provide specific instructions on treatment and may remove plants for pest and disease control.
- Infected plants may not be composted and must be disposed of off-site.

Composting:

Composting discarded plants is encouraged to recycle nutrients. Follow these instructions:

- Do not compost diseased plants, tomato fruits, weeds with seeds, straw or hay.
- Shred discarded plants into 3 inch pieces.
- All non-compostable waste must be taken offsite.
- 4. THERE IS NO WASTE DISPOSAL SERVICE AT THE GARDEN.**

Good Garden Etiquette:

All Gardeners must maintain good conduct and civil behavior at all times. **Please refrain from:**

- Entering, watering, and taking items from another Gardener's plot, unless given explicit permission to do so.
- Verbally or physically abusive behavior.
- The use of amplified devices and noise.
- Smoking
- Bringing Pets to the Garden.
- Growing or using illegal substances (this will result in immediate expulsion and revocation of the garden plot).