



Community Garden Guidelines

2021 Growing season

Water & Tools

Water is a precious resource - please treat it as such. Water supply currently will consist of a TBA schedule when the metered hydrant will be open and water available. Gardeners will have to bring their own watering cans and containers.

Gardeners will have to bring their own tools. Currently, we have no shed for storage or community tools and watering cans, so please pack out what you pack in.

Fencing & Security

The fencing provided sees winter duty for our community ice rink. Please do not climb under or over it. Use the gate and make sure the gate is closed securely when you leave.

The fencing will provide some limited animal control, but expect some predation from rabbits and other animals. A location in the middle of town is no guarantee your lettuces will not get nibbled! This location also means your garden is accessible to the public. We cannot guarantee that your space and your produce will not be vandalized – it's a quiet community but incidents do occur. Village personnel and police will keep an eye out, but cannot provide 24/7 security. This is not the place for your heirloom garden gnomes or other valuables! Please report any incidents of stolen or damaged items or produce to the Pinckney Police.

Weed Control

Herbicides of any kind are prohibited, as they are hazardous to human health, may kill or damage desirable crops, drift into neighboring gardens, or persist in the soil. Hoeing, mulching, and hand weeding are recommended.

Mulch should preferably be of an organic nature; newspaper or black plastic are acceptable mulches but they must be secured so that they do not blow away and must be removed at the end of the season. Covering paper and plastic with an organic layer is also very encouraged. Hay, straw, and leaves, could all be used.

Insect Control

Synthetic insecticides are prohibited. Preferred control methods are crop rotation, hand picking of insect pests, introduction of predator species, companion planting, soil solarization, and biological controls, e.g. *Bacillus thuringiensis*, a bacterium that controls cabbage worms. As a

last resort, natural botanicals, i.e. rotenone and pyrethrum (that break down quickly and do not leave harmful residues in the soil) may be used.

Disease Control

Most problems can be controlled if you maintain healthy soil, choose disease-resistant varieties, and remove diseased plants from the garden. Limited use of organic and non-toxic fungicides (copper sulfate, etc) are permitted. Please use caution in application, as your garden neighbors may not appreciate any overspray.

Fertilizers and Soil Amendments

Please use natural and organic products whenever possible. Products of plant or animal origin i.e. compost, leaf mold, livestock manure, blood and bone meal, cover crops, fish emulsion, kelp meal, liquid seaweed, and commercial organic fertilizers are acceptable. Natural mineral fertilizers, i.e. greensand, granite dust, and ground limestone are also acceptable. Gardeners are strongly urged to add as much organic material (i.e. compost, leaf mold, and manure) as possible to their plots to maintain soil fertility.

Non-Acceptable Plants

Since our garden spaces are raised beds and contained, we will permit some planting of common invasive herbs such as mint and oregano, unless it becomes a problem. Please keep in mind that the garden is publicly accessible, and some common plants can be toxic in various stages and forms. We do not permit:

- Trees, bushes, or other woody perennials
- Illegal or dangerous plants

Yes! You may use...

- Non-certified organic, and non-organic, plants and seeds
- Manure and compost
- Straw, hay, marsh grass, coco hulls, leaves, and wood chips (be sure there's no trash in them)
- Black plastic or carpeting IF you remove them from the garden by Nov. 1
- Lime, greensand, bone meal, etc.
- If absolutely necessary, natural or organic-certified pesticides and fungicides such as Bt, insecticidal soap, rotenone, pyrethrum, diatomaceous earth, etc.
- Mouse traps
- Row cover fabric, plastic film "low tunnels"
- Small trellises, cages and other support systems (must be removed by Nov 1)
- Hummingbird feeders, bug hotels, fun signs

No! You may not use...

- Herbicides of any kind
- Synthetic pest control

Use of prohibited substances is a **serious breach of garden regulations** and may result in expulsion from the garden.

End of Season Community Garden Closing Information

In order for your deposit to be returned:

* Remove all fencing, cages, stakes, string, plastics and all other non-organic material from your garden and take them home with you.

* Pull out all plants that have tough stalks or long vines, such as sunflowers, corn, pumpkin, etc. We will provide yard waste bags and/or a compost pile for your undiseased garden debris.