



# ***Community Garden Guidelines***

## **2023 Growing season**

**We are very much a community garden – we will gather occasionally, share tips (and coffee and donuts), trade plants, help each other out. If you are on vacation, let someone know and we can water your plot.**

**That said, your plot is your responsibility and must be maintained. Please consider if your schedule can accommodate watering, weeding, and harvesting – as well as year-end clean-up.**

### **Water & Tools**



Our water supply is via a hydrant adapter, aka The Beast. We will provide a lesson at the start of the season, probably in May. Water supply is padlocked and gardeners will be provided the combination at the start of each season. Hose provided, and watering cans are available in the shed.

Shed is also padlocked, with combination provided to gardeners each season. Inside there are a limited number of tools, gloves, watering cans, wheelbarrow, yard waste bags, etc. We do accept donations of supplies!

Please do not share the padlock combination with non-renters. Please do not store personal or valuable items in the shed

### **Fencing & Security**

The garden is not fenced. The village does have security cameras in the downtown area, however, footage is not generally reviewed unless an incident is reported. If you experience any theft or vandalism in the garden, please report it.

Expect some predation from rabbits and other animals – and, unfortunately, humans. 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.

We do ask that all gardeners help maintain the open areas of the garden, especially around your bed. Weeds pull easily from the gravel, yard waste bags are in the shed.

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 row cover/weed control fabric 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.
- Small trellises, cages and other support systems (must be removed by Nov 1)
- Hummingbird feeders, bug hotels, fun signs, other garden decor

### **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 for garden debris.