

Houston Gardens Community Garden Guidelines

Basic Guidelines:

1. Submitting payment for the _____ gardening season totaling \$ **35.00** for each plot. This plot fee covers a range of services including water, compost, and general garden maintenance.
2. If for any reason you find you cannot care for your garden; you are required to notify the garden coordinator and make arrangements with other gardeners to water and maintain your plot during your absence. If a garden appears neglected/abandoned (unwatered and/or overrun with weeds), **you will be given ten (10) days notice to maintain your plot.** After this time your plot will be re-assigned.
3. Houston Gardens requires water restrictions and conservation measures be followed. **A gardener MUST remain on the premises while his/her garden is being watered.** The garden cannot allow excess water to drain onto the street or adjacent property.
4. It is Houston Gardens policy to prohibit the use of non-organic pesticides, herbicides and fertilizers at the gardens.
5. The maintenance of common areas and furnishings, fencing, trees, trash receptacles, compost bins, street and alley right-of-way, and water lines are the shared responsibility of all gardeners.
6. **Gardeners must have their plot planted by the end of May,** or the plot will be forfeited and reassigned.
7. Each gardener is responsible for clearing his/her plot before the close of the season. **All dead plants, weeds, trash, tools, sticks and cages are to be removed or stored by October 31 each year.** All gardeners must tend to their plots in compliance with these standards.
8. If a garden area is not cleaned up by the end of October **a fee of \$50 will be charged for clean-up.**
9. Each gardener is responsible for conducting himself or herself in a civil manner that is mutually beneficial to all participants and to the garden as a whole. Unacceptable conduct generally includes, but is not limited to, vegetable theft, tool theft, profanity, offensive behavior, harmful verbal

or written communications between or about fellow gardeners, or other incivilities associated with personal interactions as they relate to the community garden. Houston Gardens reserves the right to revoke your plot, at any time, due to any unacceptable conduct.

10. If a gardener gives up their plot or the plot is revoked, the plot returns to the garden and will be assigned to someone on the waiting list by the garden coordinator.

Participant Requirements:

1. Garden plot: Each plot must be kept clear of weeds, spent plants, debris and trash. Each fall, turn compost and organic material into the soil and cover it with a layer of mulch to regulate soil temperature and retain moisture throughout the winter. This makes a garden plot look cared for to the passer-by. It's important to recognize all gardeners have a significant role and responsibility regarding the sustainability of the community garden. Any perennials in your plot must appear well kept. In addition, you are responsible to maintain the area immediately adjacent to your plot including paths, compost bins, trash collection areas, fences and the community garden's other common spaces.

2. Vertical structures: Vertical structures used for growing must appear in good condition and contribute to the community garden's overall visual continuity. All growing structures must be disassembled and removed during the off-season.

3. "Off-season" storage: The following items are not authorized to be left standing during the offseason and must be disassembled and stored in the garden shed or removed from the site when not in use:

- chairs and individual benches
- wire cages, fencing
- plastic plant pots, tools
- piles of brick and stone
- water bottles, milk bottles
- sticks, steel "T" posts
- wheel barrows, wagons

- bags of compost or leaves
- buckets, plastic containers
- pipe, hoses and nozzles
- non-permanent garden art

Please recall that the main water line runs east to west in between the beds. Do not put anything in the ground in those locations.

4. Compost bins: Individual compost bins are discouraged; they typically distract from the visual continuity of the community garden. We do, however, encourage using and maintaining a community compost area. All material used in compost area must be chopped in one to two-inch pieces before being added. Please do not add diseased plant material, weeds, or woody material. Plastic bags of spent plants, grass clippings and leaves are not allowed to be stored in your community garden at any time. To the “passers-by” they appear as bags of trash. Unopened bags of topsoil, compost or manure are also not to be stored in your community garden. Chop and spread these materials in your plot immediately, allowing for decomposition and integration with your existing soil.

5. The community garden is a community responsibility. Everyone must take responsibility for maintaining the common areas of the community garden, such as:

- compost bins and tool shed
- pathways and courtyards
- trash containment areas
- street fronts and sidewalks

Things not to plant:

- Plants that contain THC
- Plants that are tall enough to shade your neighbors plot

COVID-19

- Masks are recommended but not required if there is ample distancing

- No more than 10 people gardening at one time
- Maintain 6-foot social distancing
- Sanitize tools, locks, knobs, etc. after use
 - Must have a concentration of at least 70% alcohol
 - Or wipes and sprays that kill at least 99.9% of germs (e.g. Lysol)
 - Vinegar and antibacterial sprays do not work
- Use proper hygiene etiquette
- Do not come in if feeling sick or feverish

Signature:

Date:
