

## South Austin Community Garden Gardening Guidelines

**Participation & Community Hours:** Community gardens are all about having a community of gardeners, so gardeners' active participation in the garden is required. Gardeners who fail to maintain their plants, plots and adjacent pathways will be notified and may forfeit their plots. Gardeners who have special circumstances or are away from the garden for extended periods due to vacations etc. are encouraged to reach out to other gardeners for assistance using the garden Yahoo Group or other means. In most cases, other gardeners can help out or will work to come up with a solution.

One community hour per full plot or half plot is required each month to stay in good standing. Community hours are defined as the time gardeners spend to maintain and develop common areas for the benefit of the entire community garden. Time spent maintaining a garden's own plot and adjacent pathways are not considered community hours. Examples of community hours include mowing and weeding the common areas, compost pile building, maintaining community garden equipment and time served as community garden coordinators. Assisting other gardeners with their community hours is allowed and can be privately negotiated between gardeners.

Community hours must be submitted online at: <https://www.trackitforward.com/site/sacg>

Each month, a report on community hours for each gardener will be created. Gardeners who fall 2 hours behind on a full or a half plot in their community hours will be notified and have the following options:

- 1 To make up their hours within a month, OR
- 2 To pay a delinquent fee of \$15/hour. Community hours payments are limited to 50% of the total of hours due. For instance, if a gardener is 4 hours behind, only 2 hours can be paid. OR,
- 3 To select a combination of the first 2 options.

Otherwise, a notice will be sent to the Gardener and the plot may be forfeited and re- assigned.

On December 15th, if the garden is overgrown/not maintained and the volunteer hours are delinquent, the plot will be forfeited.

On December 15th, if the plot is well maintained but the gardener is behind with community hours, all hours must be paid in full by January 15th of the next year in order to be able to keep the plot.

The community garden holds a monthly business meeting at the Denizen 04 Condo's clubhouse on the third Thursday on each month. Visitors are welcome. Gardeners are encouraged to attend because every gardener's input adds to the success of the garden community. Additionally, many community garden issues are discussed and voted on at the monthly meetings.

Group community garden workdays are usually held the Saturday morning following the monthly meetings. Visitors are welcome. Gardeners are encouraged to perform their community hours at the workdays; however, those who cannot attend can check for a list of tasks posted in the garden shed or on the Group.io site. Gardeners are required to record their monthly community hours on a monthly basis using the Track it Forward online system.

Gardeners are encouraged to join the garden's Group.io group at <https://sacg.groups.io/g/main> as it is the primary method of communication for gardeners.

**Gardening Methods:** The SACG is an organic garden. No synthetic/chemical herbicides, pesticides, fungicides or synthetic fertilizers are permitted on the site. Treated wood products are not allowed.

**Plot Maintenance:** The regular maintenance of a gardener's own plot is required. Time spent maintaining one's own plot is not considered community hours; however, time spent cleaning plots that are being reassigned is considered to be community hours. Diseased, pest-infested and dead plants should be promptly removed. Ongoing control is required of pest grasses and weeds that can spread into neighboring plots through seed dispersal. Trees and large shrubs/perennial plants are not allowed. Trellises or other tall structures that block sunlight to neighboring plots are not allowed.

**Pathway Maintenance:** Pathways between plots must be kept clear. Personal gardening supplies, tools and equipment should be stored in a gardener's plot or in the SACG shed, not in the garden pathways. Vegetation from plots should not hang into pathways. Gardeners are required to maintain the pathways immediately adjacent to and around their plots, including weeding and mulching. Time spent on adjacent pathway maintenance is not considered community hours.

**Tools & Equipment:** Gardeners are required to maintain and clean community garden tools and equipment after each use. All tools and equipment should be returned to the garden shed and left in an orderly manner. Gardeners who break tools and equipment through negligence are responsible for their replacement. Gardeners' personal tools and equipment may be stored in the shed and should be labeled to avoid confusion. Please remember to check and lock the tool shed before leaving the garden.

**Watering/Hoses:** Water is the community garden's largest expense and an important resource that gardeners are requested to use reasonably. Each gardener is responsible for checking and turning off garden hoses before leaving the garden. Instructions on using the community garden's water irrigation system are posted under the files tab on the Group.io site as well as posted by the control box in the garden.

When using the community garden hoses, please take care not to damage other gardens and when finished, untangle and neatly coil hoses next to the water faucets. If gardeners use a drip hose and wish to leave but keep the water on, they should leave a note at the hose faucet indicating the gardener's name, plot number and the date and hour the gardener plans to return to turn off the hose. All drip hoses should be in good repair in order to conserve water and function properly. Overnight watering is not permitted. If a gardener fails to comply with the watering rules, the gardener will be notified and may forfeit their plot.

**Pets/Children/Guests:** Pets, children and guests are welcome. Pets and children should be under adult/gardener supervision at all times while in the garden and kept out of garden plots. Please clean up after your pets. Each gardener is responsible for their pets/children/guests.

**Compost:** There are three compost bins at the garden for general use as well as a separate compost bin for weeds only. Compost guidelines are posted next to the three general use compost bins. All gardeners are expected to help maintain the compost piles. Garden compost is for all gardeners to use when it is available. Please be reasonable in the amount of compost taken for personal use.

**Trash:** The community garden does not have trash service. Gardeners and their visitors who pack in trash should pack it out, just like good campers. Please do not put trash in the compost bins/piles.

**Garden Gates & Locks:** Each gardener is responsible for checking and locking the garden gates when entering and before leaving the garden. Please spin the locks after unlocking them (best practice) and be sure to spin the locks before leaving the garden so the combination is not left showing on the locks. Please do not share the garden gate lock combination codes with non-gardeners. Denizen condo office staffers have been provided the garden gate lock combination to allow them to conduct garden area maintenance for the foreseeable future.

Each gardener is responsible for checking and locking the garden tool shed before leaving the garden. The garden tool shed lock combination is different than the gate lock combination and is for gardeners' use only. Please do not share it with non-gardeners.

**Garden Operating System:** The community garden primarily operates on the honor system and the Golden Rule: to treat other as you'd like others to treat you. A handful of garden coordinators, who volunteer their time and energy, help to keep the community garden running smoothly. Gardeners interested in the rewarding volunteer opportunities can read about these coordinator positions under the files tab on the Group.io site.

*Updated November 2019*



# Plot Rental Agreement

## South Austin Community Gardens (SACG)

Gardener Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Assigned Plot No. \_\_\_\_\_

I/WE AGREE TO THESE TERMS AND CONDITIONS AS GARDENER(S)  
AT SOUTH AUSTIN COMMUNITY GARDENS:

*To secure a plot, gardeners should pay all SACG fees and, to show good intentions, should begin some work in their plot during the first 30 days after being assigned a plot.*

**Fees:** One-time non-refundable "buy in" fee of \$26 plus \$ \_\_\_\_ non-refundable plot rental fees for six (6) months paid upon application. If a plot holder falls three (3) months delinquent in paying their plot fees, they will be given notice by the treasurer to bring their fees up to date or forfeit their plot.

**Time commitment:** I/We agree to contribute *one (1) hour of community volunteer time per month per plot or half plot* for the maintenance and development of the common areas and to record the hours worked in the volunteer log. Any gardener who *falls six (6) hours behind in volunteer hours* has the option of promptly making up the hours, paying delinquent fees, or a combination of these as described in the Gardening Guidelines (see SACG website). Otherwise, notice will be given to the gardener and the plot will be forfeited and reassigned.

**Agreement and Guidelines:** I/We have read the SACG Agreement and the Gardening Guidelines and agree to abide by them. I/We agree to follow any safety guidelines. I/We understand that disregard of the terms of this Agreement and the Gardening Guidelines is grounds for loss of gardening privileges at SACG and forfeiture of plot rental fees.

Current address /zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone/home \_\_\_\_\_ /work \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Names of people gardening with me/us:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

The South Austin Community Garden (SACG) and Sustainable Food Center (SFC) are not responsible for personal injury or property damage incurred by any plot renter or visitor, or for theft, loss, or destruction of any property owned by any gardener.

Signature(s): \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_



# New Day Community Garden Handbook



Thank you for your interest in joining NDCG. When you are ready to begin,  
MAIL the completed forms at bottom of this handbook (pages 8,9,10)  
AND a check for the initial plot fee + \$20 Membership fee to:

Linda Booker, NDCG  
3801 Berkman Dr. # 351  
Austin, TX 78723

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# New Day Community Garden Handbook

## I. PLOTS (Rentals, Communication, Service Hours, Rules, Maintenance and Forfeiture)

### A. RENTALS

**Yearly Plot Fee:** There are three plot sizes available for rent at NDCG. The location of each plot is specified in the plot rental contract and on the site map. Fees are non-refundable and will not be pro-rated.

1. Small Raised Plots (2.5' X 2.5') ..... **\$15.00**
2. Half Plots (5' x 10') ..... **\$30.00**
3. Full Plots: (10' x 10') ..... **\$60.00**

**Membership Fee: \$20.00:** This is a one-time non-refundable charge per family or household.

New gardeners must complete the following within three weeks of rental or forfeit their plots without refund of rental fee:

1. Plot cleared of all plant material other than healthy herbs, perennials or vegetables.
2. At least one-half of the plot must be newly planted and the other half mulched or cover cropped.

The first name to appear on the Gardener's Contract signed at the time of rental is considered the "Primary Gardener". All gardeners on the contract are collectively and severally bound by the contract. Gardeners on multiple gardener contracts agree that the first name on the contract is the designated contact for all business correspondence from the garden. Any new gardener, including a "temporary" helper, must be added to the contract and have a signed Indemnity Form on file before being allowed to garden the plot.

### B. COMMUNICATION

NDCG uses e-mails and Facebook for ease of communication. Upon receiving email address information from a gardener, a Membership Coordinator will provide access to the secured garden webpages and join them to the e-mail list serve as a member so they will be kept up-to-date on all garden activities and announcements. It is also suggested to "friend" the NDCG FACEBOOK page to stay connected to other communications.

### C. Food Bank Contributions

The Garden is required to donate at least 10% of the Garden's harvest to a local food pantry. On behalf of the whole garden, 100% of the Garden Community Plot's harvest is dedicated to provide this Food Bank Contribution requirement. In support of this requirement, each gardener is required to work service hours each month, some of these hours can be used in caring directly for the Garden Community Plot. A community garden takes a lot of work to run well, and everyone is expected to participate.

### D. Gardener Orientation

Each gardener is required to attend a mandatory orientation held with a Garden Manager.

Rules and regulations will be covered and gardening handouts will be available. Many of your questions will be answered at this one hour meeting.

### E. SERVICE HOURS

Community Gardeners may be required to contribute hours of volunteer service. This is in addition to maintenance of your plot and pathway borders.

Organized Project Work Days will be scheduled and posted on the NDCG Google Calendar and through Facebook. On these Work Days, projects are scheduled for garden clean-up as well as projects that require instruction. Work Days also allow us to work as a gardening community on projects that require numerous people.

Opportunities for Service hours include, but are not limited to:

1. Planting, weeding and harvesting the Pantry Plots
2. Maintaining Common Areas (see Section II below)
3. Delivering donated produce to local food banks
4. Manning a New Day CG booth or table at a local community event.

### F. GARDEN SITE RULES

1. No trees, shrubs, bamboo, cacti, castor beans (or other poisonous plants) or illegal plants may be planted.



2. Water-wise practices (mulch, etc) must be used in all garden plots.
3. Watering will be done by hand with a hose, watering can or bucket.
4. At least 80% of each garden plot must be fruits, vegetables and herbs.
5. All plants must be contained within the garden plot.
6. Common garden will be maintained by all ND gardeners and produce will be given to food pantry or offered to the community.
7. Due to liability and safety issues, gas powered garden tools and roto-tillers of any kind are not allowed at New NDCG. All mowing and weed-eating at the site will be performed by Garden Management, the Mowing Committee or the Spiritual Assembly of Bahá'ís of Austin.
8. Diseased and pest-ridden plants must be removed from the site or placed in the trash bin to prevent spreading.
9. Only organic, non-diseased and non-pest-ridden plants may be placed in the composting bins. Always cover new additions of wet or green materials with dried leaves and/or soil to discourage flies and smells and to retain heat and moisture.
10. Smoking and chewing tobacco is prohibited. Tobacco carries the mosaic virus which is deadly to some plants.
11. No permanent structures are allowed in garden plots. Temporary structures should not shade a neighbor's plot without the approval of that neighbor.
12. For safety reasons, all posts must have an appropriate cap (tennis ball, a PVC hoop or trellis, etc).
13. Only organic nutrients and pest controls are used in the garden. An "Approved Products" list is available to gardeners, and attached to this document. When in doubt about a product or method, check with the Garden Manager PRIOR to using it at NDCG using synthetic weed killers, fertilizers and/or pesticides will be required to remove the banned substance, including contaminated soil, if needed. Failure to comply within 7 days will result in forfeiture of the garden plot without a refund.
14. Edging materials may be used, provided they are limited to cedar, untreated pine, stone or masonry. The use of chemically treated wood (i.e. wolmanized wood) is not allowed. These products contain arsenic, hexavalent chromium and other toxic substances, which may leach into the soil.
15. NDCG tools should be used only for the purpose for which they were intended, and should be returned clean to their proper place in the tool shed. Tools may not be taken off site. Report any damaged or broken tools to the Garden Manager.
16. Pets are not allowed inside the garden site.
17. There are no restroom facilities provided at NDCG.
18. Children are encouraged to participate, but must be supervised at all times.
19. A trash bin will be provided at the garden. Each gardener is responsible for disposal of trash.
20. Do not place any trash in common areas or roadways. No trash from off the property may be placed in the trash bin, especially food trash – it attracts vermin. Do not use the dumpster belonging to the Spiritual Assembly of Bahá'ís of Austin
21. In order to maintain a non-profit status, no gardener may:
  - Use a sign or name with reference to NDCG in conjunction with for-profit sale of produce or flowers in any venue.
  - Use any materials or property, other than those agreed to in the rental contract, donated to or purchased with funds from NDCG in conjunction with for-profit sale of produce or flowers.
22. Stealing of any kind is not allowed and will result in immediate loss of gardening privileges and forfeiture of his/her garden plot.
23. When leaving, gardeners will make sure all tools, trash, empty plant pots, etc. are either returned to their storage area or removed from the garden site.
24. Gardeners will make sure all water is turned off before leaving the garden.
25. Radios, CD players and other audio devices are not allowed unless used with earphones.
26. New Day Community Garden is only open during daylight hours.
27. This is a community garden. Other gardeners are our neighbors. There should be no harassment, threats, verbal abuse or acts of violence by any person against any other person. Such acts should be reported to the Garden manager(s). If necessary, proper authorities will be called. Any person committing such acts may be asked to forfeit his/her gardening plot(s).

## G. MAINTENANCE

Plot maintenance is defined as:

1. Regular attention to encroaching Bermuda grass and other weeds and grasses within your plot and 2" of bordering pathways.
2. Regular harvesting and removal of dead/dying plants and rotting vegetables. If you are letting a plant go to seed in order to collect the seeds, please indicate by placing a bag over the fruit or plant. This will keep those seeds from spreading and will notify the Garden Manager you are collecting seeds.

It is the responsibility of the gardener to notify the Garden Manager if no longer able to tend their plot; will be absent for a long period of time; or have asked a friend to tend their garden plot. See Page 5 "Rentals" for more information regarding temporary garden helpers.

All plots will be inspected on a regular basis. If a problem is noted with your garden plot area:

- You will be contacted immediately by the Garden Manager or New Day staff member (via the method marked as the best way for reaching you on your garden contract). You will have 36 hours to return his/her call/email.
- At the time of the responding call/email, if needed, a solution will be agreed upon and a deadline will be given to correct the issue at hand.
- When the problem is resolved, the gardener will contact the Garden Manager to inform him/her of the completion of said solution. The Garden Manager will then inspect the plot and follow up with the gardener as he/she sees need.
- If the problem is not resolved in a satisfactory manner, a face to face meeting at the garden will be scheduled. The gardener must meet with the Garden Manager or NDCG staff member to clarify and resolve the problem on site immediately.
- Problems that result in a direct safety/well-being hazard will be dealt with immediately by the Garden Manager and/or NDCG staff. The gardener will be contacted and the consequences of said action will be communicated at the time of contact.
- Any failure to meet any deadline/meeting or resolve issues in a way that is satisfactory to meet NDCG guidelines will result in the forfeiture of one's gardening plot and privileges. In the event that a plot is considered forfeited, NDCG staff will notify the gardener of the forfeited status of his/her plot. The gardener will have 36 hours to come and claim his/her plants and belongings from said plot. At the end of that 36 hour time period, all plants and belongings will be considered abandoned and will become the property of NDCG to do with as they see fit.

It is the responsibility of the gardener to contact the Garden Manager immediately if there is a problem or if clarification is needed with the stated problem, the proposed solution, or if there is a difficulty in meeting the scheduled deadlines. The Garden Manager and NDCG staff are not obligated to contact the gardener beyond the lengths stated above. All problems must be completely resolved no later than one week from the first point of contact.

## H. FORFEITURE

### Giving Up/Forfeiting Your Plot

You've given community gardening your best shot, but are discovering that it just isn't your cup of tea. You have a family emergency arise and will not be able to keep up with your garden plot. You cannot fulfill your contractual obligations for volunteer work and harvest donations. You are finding that you just don't have the time to tend your plot properly with all of the other obligations in your life. You like the gardening part, but are just not into the philosophies, requirements, and processes of the garden

### Now what?

First, let's start by saying that you are not alone and that we understand. Chances are that community gardening is a lot different from other types of gardening that you may have experienced in the past. Sometimes, no matter how great one's intentions are at the start of a season, it just doesn't work out.

**The first** and most important thing that you need to do is contact the Garden Manager as soon as you come to the realization that you are finished gardening and/or will be unable to meet your obligations. He or she will be able to talk you through the process and help you make decisions with regards to your plot arrangements and the remainder of your harvest/plants.

**Secondly**, follow through. If you and the Garden Manager have decided that you will need to clean out your plot, then it is important that you complete that as soon as possible (or within a one week window). Then reconnect with the Garden Manager for inspection and final paperwork. Gardeners who abandon their plots without talking with the Garden Manager and/or cleaning them out will be fined and will not be able to return to the garden without paying all outstanding fines and fulfilling all required contractual obligations.

Please remember that we cannot refund any monies that have been paid for memberships or plot rentals.

By following these two simple steps, you will have made this process as positive and expedient as you can. Thank you for your cooperation. You will remain in good standing with NDCD and if you ever decide to give this experience another shot, we will welcome you back. Please remember that you can still come and participate in any and all volunteer workdays, community events and classes.

## II. COMMON AREAS

Common areas include the main pathways dividing the plots, the perimeter beds, lawn, and children's play area.

## III. PARKING

Park only in the parking areas which are designated for the Baha'I Center of Austin.

## IV. SAFETY AND SECURITY

1. Do not give the gate and/or tool shed lock combination to another person.
2. The gate must be kept closed at all times.
3. If you are the last gardener around, lock the tool shed and gate when leaving.

4. If you garden after dark or predawn, the gate should be locked, and you could be questioned by the police at these times.
5. The tool shed and gate are to remain locked from sundown to sunrise.
6. Do not leave the combination locks hanging open or with the combination exposed.
7. Call 911 immediately if you feel your safety and security is at risk while at the garden.

NEITHER THE SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY OF BAHAI'S OF AUSTIN, THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE SUSTAINABLE FOOD CENTER, NOR THE OFFICERS OR COORDINATORS OF NEW DAY COMMUNITY GARDEN ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR ANY INJURY OR PROPERTY DAMAGE INCURRED BY A PERSON OR FOR THE THEFT, LOSS, DAMAGE OR DESTRUCTION OF PERSONAL PROPERTY. NOR ARE THEY RESPONSIBLE FOR THE SUCCESS, OR LACK THEREOF, OF THE GARDENERS.

#### **V. NEW DAY COMMUNITY GARDEN MANAGEMENT**

A Garden Management Committee will be appointed by the planning committee and will chose a Garden Manager. Gardeners who wish to serve on the Garden Management Committee should contact NDCG.

#### **VI. GENERAL RULES AND INFORMATION**

NDCG is a small entity under a non-profit organization supported by donations and fees from workshops, fundraisers and garden plot fees. We are a 100% volunteer organization and not subsidized by local governments. The purpose of our community gardening program is to provide access to land and education, and to promote community building. The care and maintenance of the garden is the collective responsibility of the community gardeners.

##### **Children in the Garden**

We encourage family members of all ages to participate and enjoy New Day CG. However, out of the need for safety and respect for all, we ask that you follow these important rules:

1. Parents are responsible for the constant supervision of their child/children at all times.
2. Respect wildlife of all varieties. Remember that the garden and the surrounding areas are a home for many different species and that we are guests in their home. The garden is a wonderful place to learn about nature and we encourage a wide variety of wildlife to share the garden with us. Please take time to share this with your children.
3. Children's feet need to remain on the ground while in the garden and surrounding areas. There is to be no climbing on the fence, water tank, seating, or other structures.
4. Children under the age of 12 are not allowed in the tool shed.
5. Full size tools are for adult use only. Once the shed is in place.
6. Children should not be in another gardener's area without the permission/presence of that gardener.

# NDCG Compost Guidelines

## Basic Compost Pile Guidelines

- **LAYER IT** – (when adding to, or starting the “Feed Me” pile)  
Alternate layers of fresh green stuff with dry stuff (bagged leaves) and layer in a sprinkling of compost from the “Still Cooking” pile to start the new pile cooking. (Always cover new additions of wet or green materials with leaves and/or dirt to discourage flies and smells, and retain heat and moisture.)
- **LEVEL IT** – As you build it, take each layer flat. This allows water to soak in and speeds up the composting. Water each layer well as you build it. Dry leaves absorb a huge amount of moisture and will just sit there for months if they aren’t thoroughly soaked.
- **KEEP IT WET** (all piles) – Pour a watering can full of water on the pile when you come to do your gardening if it hasn’t rained recently. A compost pile can rot in as little as a month or as long as a year.
- **STIR IT UP** (all piles) – Drive a pitchfork repeatedly into the pile and pry up a little. Compost needs to breathe to keep cooking. A long stake or pole works too; just stick it into the pile as deeply as possible over and over.
- **TURN IT** – The Compost Committee will turn the compost at least three times during the cooking process. This breaks up the clumps, evens out the moisture and speeds up the process. Always turn the pile into the bin to the right. Keep it level; turn it so that the new pile is created one layer at a time, and water between each layer.

## Labeling System (signs in the bins)

- **“Add”** – You can add to this one any time, just keep it level and cover up the green stuff; keep it moist.
- **“Cook”** – This pile has been turned at least once. **NO MORE NEW STUFF**. Keep it wet and stir it now and then; it is still cooking and should be hot in the middle.
- **“Finished”** – This pile has been turned and stirred and has finished cooking. It’s ready to sift and be used for Common Area plantings, such as the Pollinator Garden, fruit trees, etc. Unfortunately, we won’t be able to generate enough compost for every gardener, so it will be designated for common areas.

If you would like to join the Compost Committee, please see the Garden Manager.

## NEVER COMPOST:

- **Bread products:** This includes cakes, pasta and most baked goods. Put any of these items in your compost pile, and you’ve rolled out the welcome mat for unwanted pests.
- **Cooking oil:** Smells like food to animal and insect visitors. It can also upset the compost’s moisture balance.
- **Diseased plants:** Trash them, instead. You don’t want to transfer fungal or bacterial problems to whatever ends up growing in your finished compost.
- **Heavily coated or printed paper:** This is a long list, including magazines, catalogs, printed cards and most printed or metallic wrapping paper. Foils don’t break down, and you don’t need a bunch of exotic printing chemicals in your compost.
- **Horse and cow manure :** High risk of manure being contaminated with herbicide from the hay the animals are fed
- **Meat products:** This includes bones, blood, fish and animal fats. Another pest magnet.
- **Milk products:** Refrain from composting milk, cheese, yogurt and cream. While they’ll certainly degrade, they are attractive to pests.
- **Pet waste:** This is a health risk. This includes kitty litter.
- **Plastic bags:** You can carry your kitchen scraps to the compost pile in a plastic bag. Just be sure to take the bag with you when you leave.
- **Rice:** Cooked rice is unusually fertile breeding ground for the kinds of bacteria you don’t want in your pile. Raw rice attracts varmints.
- **Sawdust:** So tempting. But unless you know the wood it came from was untreated, stay away.
- **Stubborn garden plants:** Bermuda grass and nut grass are examples of plants or weeds which will probably regard your compost heap as a great place to grow, rather than decompose.
- **Walnuts:** These contain juglone, a natural aromatic compound toxic to some plants.

# New Day Approved Products List

## What is organic?

New Day Community Garden (NDCG) is an organic garden. Organic fertilizers, pesticides, fungicides and herbicides are generally safer for the environment in their use and require less toxic methods to produce (no petroleum products). The National Organic Program, as administered by the United States Department of Agriculture, creates a list of allowed and prohibited substances. From this list organic certifications are determined. A second body, called the Organic Materials Review Institute, is a non-profit that helps producers review products intended for organic production and use.

For the purposes of NDCG any product carrying the following labels are automatically approved for use in the garden:

- USDA Organic label: Many products in the gardening world may have the words “Natural” or “Organic” in their name. Without one or both of the above symbols on the package, it is simply a marketing gimmick. Some products, though not listed as organic or not approved by the OMRI, may still be used. The approval is based on the products having an insignificant amount of non-organic material as a result of processing or formulation. They are:
  - Medina products
  - Neptune Fish Fertilizer
  - Lady Bug brand products
  - Bonemeal
  - Horticultural Molasses
  - Compost Tea
  - SuperThrive
  - Pest and disease control products (listing is either active ingredient or brand name)
  - Neem (Neem should be listed as the ONLY active ingredient.)
  - Bt (bacillus thuringiensis)
  - Spinosad
  - Diatomaceous Earth (DE) (DE should be listed as the ONLY active ingredient)
  - Insecticidal Soap
  - Serenade (bacillus subtilus)
  - Organicide
  - Oil-based (Thyme, Wintergreen, Sesame, Clove) sprays
  - Garlic-based sprays
  - Pepper (capsaicin) sprays
  - Bonide Garden Dust

The following products are NOT allowed at any time within New Day Community Garden:

- Dillo Dirt
- Milorganite
- City of Austin free compost

This list is not complete, and will be reviewed and updated as necessary. This list is considered the only approved and official list of authorized products for use in the garden. If you wish to use a product that is not listed as approved, you must contact the Garden Manager prior to use. The goal of UPCG is to create a safe environment for the garden, gardeners and the community, not to limit the materials used.

You may find more information on organics at:

<http://www.ams.usda.gov/AMSV1.o/nop> (National Organic Program)

<http://www.omri.org/home> (Organic Materials Review Institute)

Please remember, many of these pest control products are NOT selective. You should use them with great care, making sure that you are applying them only to YOUR plants, and only on plants you wish to control pests. For example, Bt does not distinguish between bad caterpillars and caterpillars that become Monarch butterflies. Unless you have the permission of the other gardener, it is NEVER acceptable to apply any product to another gardener's plot.

# New Day Community Garden Contract

Primary Gardener

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Additional Gardeners \* if more than two, please list on back of Contract

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: I have read and agree to abide by the New Day Community Garden (NDCD) Rules I agree that if I, or additional gardeners listed above, fail to abide by the rules, I forfeit my plot(s), fees, and all remaining produce. I confirm that all participants listed above have a signed indemnity form on file with the Sustainable Food Center.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

NDCG is open to anyone in the Austin area. Garden plots are available in the sizes listed below. All plots are available on a first come, first served basis with preference given to continuing gardeners and people who live in the surrounding neighborhood.

Please select your preferred plot size. All fees are non-refundable:

\_\_\_\_ 2.5 x 2.5 Plot

\_\_\_\_ 4 x 10 Plot

\_\_\_\_ 10 x 10 Plot

Please identify your organic gardening experience: \_\_\_\_ Newbie \_\_\_\_ Active (3+ yrs)

Please list any unique abilities/experiences you may have to assist with garden projects (i.e. carpenter, handyman, teacher, agriculture or permaculture background, past experience, etc.)

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## **TO BE COMPLETED BY THE NEW DAY COMMUNITY GARDEN**

PLOT NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_

RENTAL RATE \_\_\_\_\_

\$20 MEMBERSHIP FEE \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL DUE \_\_\_\_\_

# Adult Indemnity Form

Participant: (Name and Address)

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Date: \_\_\_\_\_

I, the above named PARTICIPANT, am eighteen (18) years of age or older and have voluntarily applied to participate in the New Day Community Garden. I acknowledge that the nature of working in a community garden may expose me to hazards or risks that may result in my illness, personal injury or death and I understand and appreciate the nature of such hazards and risks. In consideration of my participation in the New Day Community Garden, I hereby accept all risk to my health and of my injury or death that may result from such participation and I hereby release the Sustainable Food Center, the Spiritual Assembly of Bahá'ís of Austin, their governing boards, officers, employees and representatives, and any members of NDCG from any liability to me, my personal representatives, estate, heirs, next of kin, and assigns for any and all claims and causes of action for loss of or damage to my property and for any and all illness or injury to my person, including my death, that may result from or occur during my participation in the New Day Community Garden, whether caused by negligence of Sustainable Food Center and/or the Spiritual Assembly of Bahá'ís of Austin, their governing boards, officers, employees, or representatives, and/or NDCG members or representatives, or members.

I further agree to indemnify and hold harmless Sustainable Food Center, the Spiritual Assembly of Bahá'ís of Austin and their governing boards, officers, employees, and representatives, and any members of NDCG from liability for the injury or death of any person(s) and damage to property that may result from my negligent or intentional act or omission while participating in the described New Day Community Garden. I further acknowledge that it is my responsibility to make sure any guests I bring have signed this waiver before I bring them, and that by bringing a guest who has not signed this waiver I am assuming liability for any of their potential claims or injuries and agreeing to indemnify the Spiritual Assembly of Bahá'ís of Austin, Sustainable Food Center, and any members of NDCG against all such claims and liabilities.

I also understand that:

- a. There are no restroom facilities provided by Sustainable Food Center or the Spiritual Assembly of Bahá'ís of Austin;
- b. Pets are not allowed in the gardens; and
- c. Unsupervised children are not allowed in the gardens.

I agree to remove all my tools, implements, plant pots, garden products, refuse and garbage when I leave the garden. I may not use the Spiritual Assembly of Bahá'ís of Austin's dumpster or trash cans to dispose of any refuse or garbage.

I HAVE CAREFULLY READ THIS AGREEMENT AND UNDERSTAND IT TO BE A RELEASE OF ALL CLAIMS AND CAUSES OF ACTION FOR MY INJURY OR DEATH OR DAMAGE TO MY PROPERTY THAT OCCURS WHILE PARTICIPATING IN THE DESCRIBED NEW DAY COMMUNITY GARDEN AND IT OBLIGATES ME TO INDEMNIFY THE PARTIES NAMED FOR ANY LIABILITY FOR INJURY OR DEATH OF ANY PERSON AND DAMAGE TO PROPERTY CAUSED BY MY NEGLIGENT OR INTENTIONAL ACT OR OMISSION.

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Signature of Participant

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Witness

# Minor Indemnity Form

Participant: (Name and Address)

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Date: \_\_\_\_\_

I am the Parent/Guardian of the above-named Participant who is under eighteen (18) years of age and am fully competent to sign this Agreement. I give permission for Participant to participate in the New Day Community Garden and use its associated facilities and equipment. I acknowledge that the nature of the New Day Community Garden may expose Participant to hazards or risks that may result in Participant's illness, personal injury or death and I understand and appreciate the nature of such hazards and risks. In consideration of Participant being permitted to participate in the New Day Community Garden, I hereby accept all risk to Participant's health and of his/her injury or death that may result from such participation and I hereby release the above named Sustainable Food Center, the Spiritual Assembly of Bahá'ís of Austin, their governing boards, officers, employees and representatives, and any members of NDCG from any and all liability to Participant, Participant's personal representatives, estate, heirs, next of kin, and assigns for any and all claims and causes of action for loss of or damage to Participant's property and for any and all illness or injury to Participant's person, including his/her death, that may result from or occur during Participant's participation in the New Day Community Garden, whether caused by negligence of Sustainable Food Center or the Spiritual Assembly of Bahá'ís of Austin, or members of NDCG, their governing boards, officers, employees, or representatives, or otherwise. I further agree to indemnify and hold harmless the Institutions and their governing boards, officers, employees, and representatives from liability for the injury or death of any person(s) and damage to property that may result from Participant's negligent or intentional act or omission while participating in the New Day Community Garden.

I further acknowledge that it is my responsibility to make sure any guests the above-named Participant may bring to New Day Community Garden have signed this waiver before being brought to New Day Community Garden, and that by the above-named Participant bringing a guest who has not signed this waiver I am assuming liability for any of their potential claims or injuries and agreeing to indemnify the Spiritual Assembly of Bahá'ís of Austin, Sustainable Food Center, and any members of NDCG against all such claims and liabilities.

I also understand that:

- a. there are no restroom facilities provided by Sustainable Food Center or the Spiritual Assembly of Bahá'ís of Austin;
- b. pets are not allowed in the gardens; and
- c. unsupervised children are not allowed in the gardens.

I agree to remove all my tools, implements, plant pots, garden products, refuse and garbage when I leave the garden. I may not use the Spiritual Assembly of Bahá'ís of Austin's dumpster or trash cans to dispose of any refuse or garbage.

I HAVE CAREFULLY READ THIS AGREEMENT AND UNDERSTAND IT TO BE A RELEASE OF ALL CLAIMS AND CAUSES OF ACTION FOR MY INJURY OR DEATH OR DAMAGE TO MY PROPERTY THAT OCCURS WHILE PARTICIPATING IN THE DESCRIBED NEW DAY COMMUNITY GARDEN AND IT OBLIGATES ME TO INDEMNIFY THE PARTIES NAMED FOR ANY LIABILITY FOR INJURY OR DEATH OF ANY PERSON AND DAMAGE TO PROPERTY CAUSED BY MY NEGLIGENT OR INTENTIONAL ACT OR OMISSION.

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Signature of Participant

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Witness



## **Patterson Park Community Garden Member Agreement**

### **A. Plot Assignment and Dues**

1. Plot assignment is made by the Site Coordinator in accordance with the site by-laws of Patterson Park Community Garden (PPCG) and the current waiting list. PPCG does not discriminate on the basis of race, creed, color, national or ethnic origin, religion, socio-economic status, marital status, age, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, or disability in its membership and the administration of its programs.
2. Plot assignment is for a calendar year, with dues payable at time of assignment and annually thereafter. Timely payment of dues automatically extends the plot assignment for the next calendar year. Plots assigned during the year do not receive prorated membership dues.
3. Plot dues are used for the payment of garden utilities. In addition, remaining fees are used at the discretion of the Leadership Committee for general garden maintenance needs, work day supplies, and minor tool purchases and repairs.
4. A gardener may be assigned only one plot at a time. If a gardener has a small plot and wishes to work a larger plot, the Site Coordinator may switch them to the larger plot when one becomes available; however, the gardener must relinquish the smaller plot.
5. Assigned plots cannot be transferred to another party. The plot must be returned to the Site Coordinator to be assigned to the next person on the waiting list. Dues will not be refunded.
6. An assigned plot may have gardening partners; however, each plot shall be assigned to one gardener (hereafter: "Plot Member") who shall sign and be responsible to uphold the member agreement. Other gardening partners (hereafter: "Supporting Member") of a given plot must be named at the time of the signing of the member agreement by the Plot Member. A Plot Member may reassign their plot to a Supporting Member, named on the original member agreement, who will then become the Plot Member.
7. PPCG is committed to affordable community gardening and seeks to mitigate financial hardship as a barrier to participation. A limited number of plots will be made available to those households making no more than 80% of the Austin-area Median Family Income (MFI) for a given household size. The annual fee for these plots are waived, but each of these plots will be assessed the one-time Tool/Maintenance paid by other Plot Members.
8. PPCG may provide dues-free plots to adjacent facilities or schools for use in educational programs. PPCG may assign a limited number of plots for community purposes.

### **B. Gardener Requirements and Responsibilities**

1. Gardeners must initiate work on their plot within two weeks of signing a member agreement. Extenuating circumstances should be communicated to the Site Coordinator for resolution. This requirement is waived during the initial build-out period of the garden.
2. Gardeners shall participate in community garden workdays as specified herein or in subsequent member communications. Eight hours of community work hours must be performed each year by each Plot Member (and/or their Supporting Members) to remain in good standing. Members must participate in no less than 2 in-person community workdays per year and sign up for compost duties at least once during the year. Any work hours completed outside a scheduled workday must be communicated to the site coordinator and/or compost coordinator. Extenuating circumstances may be considered by the leadership committee.

3. Regular plot maintenance is required. Diseased or pest-infested plants should be removed. Pest grasses and weeds, which can spread into neighboring gardens through seed dispersal or root growth, must be controlled.
4. A garden will be considered out of compliance if there is evidence of inadequate plot maintenance, including regular and timely harvesting of produce. If a gardener is unable to maintain their plot for a period of time due to extenuating circumstances, the gardener should make arrangements with the Site Coordinator for care and maintenance.
5. At the termination of their gardening contract, gardeners shall remove all vegetation, tools, structures and debris from their plot. Anything left 30 days after termination shall be the property of the community garden.

### **C. Garden Standards**

1. To build and maintain healthy soil structure, gardeners will use compost, organic fertilizers, mulch, and a rotation of plant varieties.
2. Water restrictions and water conservation guidelines promoted by the City of Austin and further defined by PPCG must be followed. Gardeners must remain on the property while watering.
3. Gardeners may store items on their plots, not in common areas, such as the tool shed, pergola, or pathways. Storage containers must be rodent-proof. Only items pertaining to the maintenance of a garden plot may be stored on premises; no unrelated personal items may be stored.
4. Gardeners must remove their garbage from the site, and recycle and reuse as much as possible.
5. Pathways between the plots must be at least three feet wide and level. Pathways must be kept clear, with hoses coiled neatly to the side after use.
6. Common areas and amenities are the shared responsibility of all gardeners and will be maintained through participation in community garden work days and assignments. 7. A wildlife habitat area will be provided on site, and include food, a maintained bird bath, cover and places to raise young. Only native plants will be counted as food sources; seed or nectar feeders will not be used.

### **D. Garden Restrictions**

1. No trenches are allowed at the outside border of garden plots; gardeners may not extend their plot dimensions.
2. Vegetation or fencing from plots cannot hang onto the pathways.
3. Gardeners may not drive onto the site except with prior approval of the Site Coordinator. 4. Trees are not allowed in assigned garden plots. Taller plants (4-6 feet) and/or structures may not shade adjacent plots without prior permission from adjacent plot owners. 5. No unattended watering at any time. Watering systems that operate independently from the above ground faucets are not permitted.
6. The use of chemically treated wood (e.g. wolmanized wood) is not allowed. 7. No synthetic chemical treatments with herbicides, pesticides, or fungicides, and no synthetic fertilizers are allowed. Organic herbicides, pesticides, fungicides, and fertilizers are permitted unless specifically excluded by the garden executive committee.

### **E. Community Guidelines**

1. To share the garden with the neighborhood, PPCG will be unlocked during times that plot members are tending gardens. Members share the responsibility of unlocking the gates and relocking the gates if the last to leave; the garden will be locked if unattended.
2. Members share responsibility of keeping the tool shed locked and secure while not in use. 3. Garden curfew is between 10 pm and 5 am.
4. No alcohol, glass containers, illegal substances or fuel storage are allowed in the garden area.
5. Smoking is not allowed in the garden.
6. Pets are allowed in the garden but must be on a leash. Pet waste must be removed promptly. 7. Sale of produce or flowers, or the use of the PPCG name, is only with permission of the Site Coordinator and only for the benefit of PPCG.
8. There should be no harassment, threats, verbal abuse or acts of violence by any person against any other person. Incidences of unacceptable behavior should be reported to the Site Coordinator and may result in membership revocation.
9. Gardeners must sign this member agreement and a liability waiver.
10. Gardeners may not hold PPCG, COA, PARD, SUACG, Austin Parks Foundation or Friends of Patterson Park responsible for personal injury or property damage incurred by any plot member, or for theft, loss or destruction of any property owned by any plot member.
11. Failure to comply with this agreement, the site rules, and/or authorized PPCG signage and guidelines is grounds for membership revocation.

PPCG Plot Member Name:

\_\_\_\_\_ PPCG Plot Member

Signature:

\_\_\_\_\_

Additional Supporting Member Names:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Member Agreement, 12/9/21







## Community Garden Rules and Regulations 2022-2023

**All gardeners should attend an annual garden workday when offered.**

- Upon request, Gardeners may be given a master list of all gardener names, e-mails, and garden bed #'s for exchanging plants, seeds, educational information, etc.
- The month of September will be used for garden maintenance and to prepare for the **upcoming season from October 2022 – May 2023**.
- Gardeners must begin actively gardening plot within 21 days of assignment. Exceptions may be made at the discretion of the garden manager and/or Recreation Supervisor. Garden Plots **cannot be left to fallow** or be unused for **three weeks** or longer. You will be contacted if your bed looks as if it is unattended and you will be given one week to tend to your bed. If you do not get your bed cleaned within your week notice you will forfeit your plot and it will go to the next gardener on the waitlist.
- Ripe produce must be picked **regularly**. Rotting fruit on the vine or in the dirt attracts insects, bugs, and rats that are destructive to your garden bed and to those around you.
- Garden Plots **must** be kept free of weeds, pests, and disease.
- All plants must be kept within the limits of your plot.
- Plants cannot exceed 8 feet tall.
- **No** varieties of **trees** or **palms** can grow in the garden.
- **All** gardeners will keep **walking paths** and surrounding areas clean, neat, and **weed free**. Trash shall be placed in the designated areas. Anything you bring from home you must take back with you.
- **Weeds** shall be disposed of in the **garbage bins** on either side of the garden.
- No outside or household trash will be allowed to be left at the community garden or recreation center.
- Guests (including children) may enter the garden only if they are accompanied by a registered plot gardener. Children must be supervised always and registered gardeners are responsible for the behavior of their guests.
- I agree to dedicate 5 hours of volunteer time to the overall maintenance of the garden.
- It is strictly **prohibited** to take food or plants from other garden plots. Doing so will result in immediate removal from the garden and no refund will be given.
- Respect all gardeners and their guests. Abusive, profane, or discriminatory language or actions will not be tolerated.
- "Renting out" or "leasing" any part of you plot is prohibited. Anyone helping with your plot must sign the Gardener's Agreement.
- **Unattended** watering is not allowed. All spigots must be turned off when you leave the garden.
- When exiting the garden, **you must lock** the gate with the combination lock.
- **You** must keep the staff at your facility aware of any changes to your contact information. This includes your **address, phone number** and **e-mail**.



## Community Garden Rules and Regulations 2022-2023

- I will work to keep the garden a happy, secure and enjoyable place where all participants can garden and socialize peacefully in a neighborly manner.
- **All Gardeners must clear their garden beds by June 1<sup>st</sup>.**
- **All Gardeners who wish to keep growing during the summer must have this approved by staff prior to June 1<sup>st</sup>.**
- **Solarization for those who have not requested summer extension cannot be removed until September 1<sup>st</sup>.**

### How do I solarize my bed and why do I need to do it?

The process of solarization uses the heat of the sun's rays to literally cook plants, weeds, weed seeds, nematodes, insects, soil pathogens (the fungi, bacteria, etc. that cause disease in plants) in the uppermost layers of the soil. It also makes nutrients available for to plants grown later in the solarized soil.

### The process of solarizing my garden bed...

1. Pull all remaining plants and weeds from your garden bed.
2. Saturate the soil one or two feet with water.
3. Cover the soil with 2 to 4-millimeter CLEAR plastic sheeting with a UV inhibitor. Spread the plastic so it is in a direct contact with the soil surface and leave as little air space as possible.
4. Plastic must be heavy enough to withstand Florida's summer storms.

**\*Charlotte County Community Services reserves the right to terminate you plot agreement at any time.**

### Release for Participation

I understand and expressly agree that my use of Charlotte County recreational facilities, including, but not limited to pools, gyms, and fitness centers as well as participation in exercise and recreational programs involves the risk of injury to me whether caused by me or not. I understand that these risks are inherent in physical activity and my use of the facilities, and can range from minor injuries to major injuries, including death. In consideration of my participation in the activities and my use of exercise equipment, I understand and voluntarily accept full responsibility for the risk of injury or loss arising out of or related to my use of the recreational and exercise equipment or other recreational and exercise programs at Charlotte County facilities. I further agree that Charlotte County, a political subdivision of the State of Florida (hereinafter "Charlotte County"), its representatives, successors, or assigns, employees, will not be liable for any injury including, without limitation, personal, bodily, or mental injury, disability, death, economic loss or any damage to me, my spouse or domestic partner, guests, unborn child, heirs, or relatives resulting from the negligent conduct or omission of Charlotte County, or anyone acting on its behalf, whether related to recreation and exercise or not. Accordingly, to the fullest extent permitted by law, I do hereby forever release, waive and discharge Charlotte County from any and all claims, demands, injuries, damages, actions or causes of action related to my use of the fitness center facility (collectively, "Claims") against Charlotte County or anyone acting on their behalf, and hereby agree to defend, indemnify and hold harmless Charlotte County from and against any such Claims. I further understand and acknowledge that Charlotte County did not manufacture fitness or other equipment or products available in its facilities and therefore Charlotte County will not be held liable for any defective equipment or products.

I understand my release of liability, assumption of risk and agreement to indemnify, defend and hold harmless and I have been given the opportunity to review and ask questions related to my use of the facilities, as well as my participation in any available recreational and exercise programs. I agree to comply with Charlotte County's rules and regulations that may be communicated to me from time to time, whether in writing, electronically, through signage or verbally. Charlotte County may, in its sole discretion, modify any policy or rule at any time and from time to time without advance notice. Charlotte County reserves the right, in its sole discretion, to terminate my use of the facilities or participation in the programs for violation of any policy or rule. By signing below, I acknowledge and agree to all of the terms contained herein.

Children under the age of 13 are not allowed to use the Fitness Center(s). In exchange for Charlotte County allowing my minor child 13 years or older to use the fitness center, I agree to the Release of Liability and Assumption of Risk clauses in this agreement as set forth in the above paragraph, and I agree to defend and indemnify Charlotte County to the fullest extent permitted by the law for any claim brought by my minor child against Charlotte County. I do hereby grant and give Charlotte County the right to use my or my child(s) photograph or image with or without my or my child's name, both singularly and in conjunction with other persons or objects and presentations, advertising, publicity, and promotion relating thereto. I understand and agree that my minor child that is under the age of 18 whose name(s) is/are must be accompanied by a parent or guardian at all times while in the Fitness Center.

Primary Gardener Signature	Date	Phone #	E-mail
Secondary Gardener Signature	Date	Phone #	E-mail





# Sunshine Community Gardens

## Accuweather's forecast for [June](#)

Hi All, we now have a weather station on line at the garden. You can view it [here](#).

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## Disposing of Plant Waste and Composting at Sunshine

### Dumpster

1. No plant material  
Take all Sunshine generated plant materials to compost area
2. No trash from outside Sunshine
3. Take recyclable items home to recycle
4. Take home any trash you can

### Disposing of Sunshine-Generated Plant Materials and Waste

All plant material and waste generated at Sunshine should be disposed of in the Plant Waste Pile in the compost area. This includes khaki weed, diseased plants, and woody stems. No plant material from outside of Sunshine should be put in the pile. Outside vegetable kitchen waste may be deposited in the vegetable kitchen waste pile as explained below.

### Vegetable Kitchen Waste Composting

Do you want to recycle vegetable kitchen waste? You are welcome to bring it to Sunshine and deposit it in the vegetable kitchen waste collection pile and it will be converted into compost.

### Things we can accept

- Vegetable and fruit scraps (PLU stickers should be removed)
- Coffee grounds
- Eggshells

### Things we can't accept

- Animal products - bones, meat, hair, droppings
- Paper - paper sacks, cardboard, sheets of paper
- "Compostable (biodegradable)" utensils, plates, food containers
- "Compostable (biodegradable)" plastic bags

- Cut flowers and florist waste from flower shops
- Bread and processed food
- Coconuts
- Corks
- Branches and cuttings from vines, shrubs, bushes, trees
- Grass clippings

And please, take off the PLU stickers (as a home composter, these really are a nuisance).

Please empty your collection containers (another opportunity, to recycle) for reuse.

You can drop off your vegetable kitchen waste any time the gate is open. Our compost area is in the southeast corner of the garden. Please follow the signs when you drop off. No plant material not generated at Sunshine other than vegetable kitchen waste may be disposed of at Sunshine.

### **Gardener Rules for Using SCG's Compost**

1. When harvesting compost, put any plant material left in the screens in the Plant Waste Pile and any nonplant material such as plastic in the dumpster.
2. Put any rocks you have retrieved from the compost pile into the ruts in the driveways throughout the garden or in the trash buckets which you dump into dumpster. Never put rocks in any grassy areas in the garden. Mowers do not like rocks.
3. Do not create debris piles around the harvest pile.
4. Return all tools and wheelbarrows to the tool shed but leave the trash buckets in the compost area.
5. Please remember that compost is a common resource and share accordingly.

**Thanks Bob for our sharp tools. [Here](#) is a article on it.**

Bob Easter arranged for Austin Blades team to come on site to sharpen tools. Their number if you want to have your kitchen knives, personal garden tools sharpened is 512-930-1188. The owners are Kenneth and Frank Kruse. 7600 N. Lamar. <https://www.austin-blades.com/>

**Thanks Bob for keeping our tools in top notch condition!**

1. Be careful, the tools are sharp.
2. Frank Kruse sharpened 88 tools. Shovels, hoes, hula hoes, warren hoes, axes, hedge shears and a mix of others.
3. A tool is sharpened when it is sharpened on one edge only per Austin Blades.
4. WD-40 was used to keep the sharpened blade from pitting after sharpening by rust. It will wear off once you use the tool.
5. If a shovel or any other of the tools are not clean that is because a gardener has returned it without cleaning. (Bob does not clean tools, he maintains them)





## Tomato Test Garden Data 2020-2021

Questions are also welcome.

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### **Garden Tasks - By Steve Camp (April 16, 2022)**

Howdy! I hope everyone is having a great planting season so far!

Workdays often evolve into social events! SCG is a fantastic place to meet new friends and learn both new and old gardening techniques. There's a wealth of knowledge here and experienced people that love to share it.

#### **New Gardeners**

There are several new gardeners at SCG! Please don't hesitate to introduce yourself and y'all get to know each other a little and share garden knowledge and tips. Let's emphasize the Community in Community Gardens.

#### **Hose Connections**

Please do not connect hoses with aluminum fixtures to our brass faucets. These two metal alloys will chemically bond, effectively welding them to each other. If you have them connected now, be aware that if there are problems with the faucet, your hose may have to be cut in order to get it off.

Additionally, please read handbook and site rules. Any hardware (hoses, sprayers, nozzles, splitters etc.) attached to garden faucets and maintenance of said items are the responsibility of individual gardeners, not garden staff.

#### **Roads and Parking**

1. Speed limit is 3 MPH. (Primarily for safety, but also to keep the dust down.)
2. Sunshine's roads provide access to plots and common areas. Gardeners should not
  - a. Park on roads except to unload a heavy load from vehicle
  - b. drive on roads when wet
  - c. drive around barriers
  - d. drive into another gardener's plot, or
  - e. put plants or other items in the road.
3. Cars may not be left idling while at the garden.
4. Park only in the front parking area or your common area. On weekends there are parking spaces on Sunshine and 49th Street.

Handbook and Site rules specifically state that Parking on garden roads is strictly prohibited. Park in the parking lot or common areas only. When the emergency vehicle enters SCG, they may (I hope not) be coming to assist You. How inconvenient it would be for them to have to wait for folks to move cars.

When you're done with your project, please close the lids.

## Priority Tasks

Maintaining common paths and common areas. If you have plants extending into common paths, trim them. The common paths are designed to allow the biggest wheelbarrows that we own to traverse them unimpeded.

### TSVBI:

1. Weeding paths in TSBVI garden and wood chip areas on west side. (This is normally needed. Try to get out roots. Be sure to smooth out paths after weeding to facilitate TSBVI students moving around garden).
2. **Picking up trash in compost area and along fence lines.**
3. Cleaning the street curb gutters of dirt and debris buildup. (At places in the curb gutter along Sunshine Dr. And 49th St. soil has built up and grass is beginning to grow. Scrape off with shovel and put in wheelbarrow. If debris is gravel it can be put in low places in the parking lot, otherwise, destination is dumpster.

### Regular:

1. Mowing (Please check area around trailer and greenhouses). The mowing season is picking up (if it ever rains, it will pick up exponentially. It's way easier to keep it mowed than try to catch up when it gets overgrown.
2. Maintaining common paths. (Gardeners are required to maintain a 2' strip of common paths adjacent to their plot.)
3. Mowing and cleaning up overgrown/messy places in common areas.

Note: TSBVI hour tasks can also count as regular hours.

Your Zone Coordinator may have more tasks than are listed here. Contact them if you feel that you have run out of things to do.

## Plant Sale Pictures

[Pictures](#) courtesy of Charles Hale

## Gardeners' Picture Page

If you have pictures you want to share on the Sunshine web site Sharon has created a new feature that will allow you to do this.

Navigate to the [upload page](#) to upload your pictures.

Go to the [Gardener's picture page](#) to see the pictures. Click to see a larger view of each picture.

Problems/Comments? Contact Sharon at [scgardenweb@gmail.com](mailto:scgardenweb@gmail.com). Thanks.