

COGS PLOTHOLDERS RULES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

(2020 - Fir St. Garden)

GARDEN USE & MAINTENANCE

- Maintain your plot during the garden season by soil building (the addition of compost), planting, watering, harvesting and weeding.
- Plot holders will be contacted by phone when plots are untended (overgrown, weedy, not harvested, not watered) for more than two weeks. If you are contacted about an untended plot and fail to correct the problem or are contacted two times in one season, your plot may be given away.
- Do not expand the boundaries of your plot beyond its designated area.
- Do not let plants grow outside your plot. Keep them off paths and out of neighboring plots.
- When plants are left very long after their flowering stage, they will go to seed and become weed problems. They need to be removed or pruned back before that happens.
- Comfrey, gourds, Jerusalem artichokes, rhubarb, horseradish, blackberries, and raspberries are not permitted. Mint is only allowed if it is in a container.
- Use common courtesy. Plan your garden so it can be planted, weeded and watered from inside your own plot. Do not walk in your neighbors' gardens without their permission.
- Secure the tool shed and help maintain tools. Always clean tools before returning them to the shed. Make sure to mark your private tools but know that COGS cannot be responsible for personal items left in the shed. The last person out of the garden should check to make sure the tool shed is locked and the water is turned off.
- No gravel, no woodchips, no sawdust, no hay are allowed in plots or raised beds.

WATER RESPONSIBLY

- When finished using hoses, roll them up into a figure 8 at the hydrant area. When moving hoses, make sure you do not damage others' plants or drag them through others' plots.
- Restrict watering to your own plot.
- Always shut the water off before you leave the garden.
- Do not use sprinklers or spray your plants from the top. Watering leaves can cause mold. Watering the soil near the roots gets the water where it belongs.
- Water deeply as it is better to give plants a good soaking once or twice a week than to give three to four light surface waterings. If the weather is warm or windy and your plants are young, check your plot; it may be necessary to water more frequently than usual. Applying adequate mulch will save you hours of watering over the season. Water the soil **under** the plant. Watering the leaves can promote fungal disease, particularly powdery mildew.
- Watch for any leaks in the hose or connections. Be sure the hose is tightly screwed on to the hose bib so no water is spraying out at the connection.
- **Water problems?:** Contact Bob Caldwell, 360-681-0169; or Pat Fox, 1-360-271-6926.

SOIL AMENDMENTS

- Purchase garden soil and amendments and plant starts at the following businesses that support the gardens: Lazy J (compost), the Co-op and Sunny Farms (Stuzman's Chicken Manure, Oly Mountain Compost, and Gardner and Bloome Compost). By purchasing from these local businesses, you are insuring that biosolids (processed municipal sewer waste) are not brought into the garden and are using the best available organic materials.

NO CHEMICAL INSECTICIDES, PESTICIDES OR HERBICIDES

- The use of insecticides and herbicides made from synthetic chemical materials is strictly prohibited. Organic sprays (OMRI approved) are allowed only when used according to label directions. If you use non-organic chemicals, you will lose your plot.

ORIENTATION AND CLASS

- New plot-holders must attend the orientation/full-day class session.

COMMUNITY HOURS

- Each plot-holder must contribute a certain number of hours to help maintain the general maintenance of the garden. There will also be a couple of community work sessions which everyone will be expected to attend.

END OF SEASON RESPONSIBILITIES

- You are responsible for removing all plant material and covering your plot with mulch by October 31.

MISCELLANEOUS

- Smoking, pets, and amplified sound are prohibited.
- Closely supervise children and help them learn respect for gardening and boundaries.
- Put all your trash in the can in the shed or take it home for disposal.
- Verbal or physical abuse will not be tolerated. Resolve differences in a neighborly way. If there is a problem with a fellow gardener, stay polite and listen carefully – usually a solution can be easily reached. If you are unable to reach a satisfactory solution, contact Jaimi Primrose at 360-808-3877.
- If something prevents you from maintaining your plot for an extended period of time, it is your responsibility to find someone to water, harvest, and weed. Be sure this person is familiar with your plot boundaries and the garden rules.

10/14/19

PLOTHOLDER'S AGREEMENT

Fir St. Garden 2020

By signing below, I agree to act according to the Rules and Responsibilities stated herein.

Please note: Failure to abide by the foregoing COGS Rules and Responsibilities may result in the termination of the right to use your designated plot. If usage is revoked, you shall not receive a refund and there shall be a loss of your automatic right to rent a plot the following year.

Plotholder(s) Signature(s)	Date
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Print - Last name, First name