

Violating garden policies may result in loss of garden privileges and forfeiture of crops. Plot fee will not be returned. Wasatch Community Gardens (WCG) reserves the right to make changes or exceptions to these policies at any time.

## Reserving and Renewing a Garden Plot

- Plots are filled on a first-come, first-served basis, with priority given to returning gardeners without plot violations in the previous year. Plots are generally limited to one plot per household across all WCG gardens.
- Secondary plots are assigned by lottery starting April 15th if the garden does not have a waitlist. Secondary plots are temporary, for one growing season only.
- New gardeners must attend an on-site garden orientation and plot assignment before beginning to garden.
- A garden plot fee is required. No refunds are issued for plot fees after April 15<sup>th</sup>.
- Gardeners who fulfill policy requirements, including plot maintenance, garden service hours, meeting attendance and community behavior expectations, may reapply for the same plot each year, or for another plot, as available. Renewal forms are sent to eligible gardeners in December. The renewal deadline is December 31<sup>st</sup>.
- Proxy gardening or sub-letting of plots is not permitted.
- Gardeners are expected to ensure that any guests they invite to the garden also abide by Garden Policies.
- Gardeners should notify WCG if their contact information changes.

## Water Use and Drip Irrigation

- The automatic drip irrigation system is generally on from May through October, weather permitting. Gardeners should not alter the system in any way. Gardeners should report problems to the Irrigation Steward first, and then WCG.
- Each gardener is responsible to know how the system works and how to make light repairs on their plot.
- Gardeners must keep drip lines in plots, laid straight, without kinks, and connected to the main water line.
- Natural mulch (straw, leaves, etc.) is recommended in summer to conserve soil moisture, and to reduce weeds.
- Hoses are not allowed, unless specifically permitted by WCG.

## Plot Maintenance

- WCG's goal is to nurture healthy soil and environment. Chemical herbicides, pesticides, and fertilizers are not allowed. For a list of permitted materials, please see WCG's Organic Standards document. Certified organic seeds and seedlings are encouraged, but not required.
- Do not alter plot boundaries or make permanent improvements such as box frames without WCG permission. If a gardener's plot already has an approved box frame, gardeners are responsible for maintaining it in proper condition.
- Plots must be cleared of weeds by April 15th, and planted end-to-end by June 1<sup>st</sup>.
- Gardeners must control the weeds and trash in their own plots and adjacent pathways during the season. All weeds must be removed if taller than six inches, or longer than twelve inches, or going to seed.
- Weeds that have gone to seed, or weeds that reproduce from cuttings (eg. bindweed), are not permitted in compost piles, and should be deposited in trash or brown waste bins. Any plants added to compost bins must be chopped to 6 inches. Additional protocol is directed by the Compost Stewards and Garden Manager.
- Gardeners must harvest their ripe produce regularly, to reduce garden pests and vandalism.
- Gardeners must remove any plants with heavy pest infestations, and deposit in trash.
- Perennial plantings, brambles, trees, and invasive herbs, are not allowed without permission.
- Plots are inspected the week of the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month. Gardeners that do not meet maintenance requirements will be notified. Failure to remedy the situation within 14 days may result in plot forfeiture. If a gardener is unable to tend their plot, it is their responsibility to arrange for someone else to temporarily tend their plot.
- The fall winterizing deadline is November 1<sup>st</sup>. Perennials and overwintering crops may remain. Plots must be cleared of debris and trellising, and covered completely in mulch and/or cover crop. Trellising that is too large to transport off site may be stored on the plot in a tidy fashion. Drip lines should be laid out straight, below mulch.
- Gardeners who fail to meet plot maintenance requirements will lose their gardening privileges and crops, as well as their place on any garden waitlists administered by WCG. To be considered for a new plot, they must reapply through WCG's Plot Application and complete a make-up activity determined by the Garden Manager.

- WCG reserves the right to access all garden plots to check irrigation, and to remove weeds, diseased plants, safety hazards or other materials, as needed for purposes of the Community Garden Program.

### **Land Use Restrictions and Safety**

- WCG does not own most garden properties and there is a possibility that access to land will be revoked.
- Public access is required during daylight hours or based on landowner policies.
- Gardeners and visitors must abide by all rules established by the garden's landowner. Children are welcome in the garden but must be accompanied by an adult and supervised.
- Pets must be on leash or in a crate and supervised. Do not allow pets to drink from watering cans, or defecate or urinate in garden beds. Please pick up after pets visiting the garden.
- Gardeners and volunteers are required to sign and submit liability waivers to WCG prior to utilization of the garden space.
- For liability reasons, hosting visiting groups or public events at the garden requires pre-approval by WCG.
- For Health Code reasons, it is prohibited to serve prepared foods at public events without a permit.
- Gardeners must maintain their plot in a safe condition. Metal posts must be securely capped; pathways clear of obstacles and hazards; tools locked away; holes and hazards identified with colorful barriers; irrigation controls secure from public access; and first aid kit and emergency contacts on the premises. Rebar is not allowed.
- Gardeners are not permitted to leave items in garden common areas without the permission of WCG. Any materials left in common areas of the garden, without written arrangement with WCG, may be assumed abandoned and disposed of by WCG at its discretion. WCG is not liable for lost or stolen items of gardeners or visitors to the garden.
- Please alert WCG staff to any safety issues or illegal activities observed at the garden.

### **Community Garden Involvement**

- WCG oversees garden management, but regularly seeks gardener input and participation when appropriate. Group decisions are made at spring and fall meetings, and through the garden's email list-serv. Whenever possible, WCG encourages consensus-building among gardeners, with final decisions made by WCG.
- New gardeners are required to attend a spring orientation meeting. Gardeners are encouraged to attend meetings in-person unless recently exposed to, or showing symptoms of COVID-19, are sick, or experiencing other medical conditions. Gardeners may arrange for a friend or family member to represent them at the meeting, in lieu of attending in person.
- All gardeners with email access and written English proficiency are required to be signed up to the garden's email group, which is used for official notifications and garden-related discussions.
- Gardeners are expected to read emails from their Garden Manager, and communicate by email and phone.
- In addition to tending a garden plot, each gardener is required to contribute at least 6 hours per year towards collective garden needs by fulfilling an assigned garden service role. Gardeners serve in these roles at the discretion of the Garden Manager, and are required to complete assigned tasks within the time frames provided. Hours spent volunteering with other WCG programs or events do not count towards this 6 hour requirement.
- All donations of materials or funds to the garden are treated as general donations to WCG. Gardeners must obtain pre-approval from WCG before approaching any business or individual for donations for the garden.
- Outreach activities, including public events, flyering, tabling, public speaking on behalf of the garden, and posting of signage at the garden, require pre-approval by WCG.

### **Community Behavior and Non-Discrimination**

- Wasatch Community Gardens strives to be an anti-racist organization. To learn more about our commitment, please read our Anti-Racism Statement: <https://wasatchgardens.org/who-we-are/anti-racism-statement>
- Disrespectful or abusive language, harassment, discrimination, illegal activities, activities that endanger others, or destructive behavior (including vandalism and theft) are not permitted, and may result in the immediate loss of all gardening privileges and crops.
- WCG staff is available to mediate conflict between gardeners as needed. Gardeners may be required to meet with WCG staff to address conflict, or other garden-related issues.
- Gardeners may request exemptions or extensions of policy requirements due to a personal emergency. At WCG's discretion, WCG may make reasonable accommodations.

- To fulfill these Garden Policies, labor is required such as bending, reaching, lifting, using tools, etc. Gardeners needing accommodations to complete garden tasks or others required by our Garden Policies due to a medical condition may request accommodation by talking to their Garden Manager and providing a doctor's note. At WCG's discretion, WCG may make reasonable accommodations.