

North East Burnaby Organic Community Garden

RULES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

CONDITIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP

Please read the following rules and responsibilities thoroughly as you will be asked to agree to them on your registration form. By agreeing to these rules and responsibilities, the Administration of the Community Garden understands that you have accepted the terms and conditions of membership and will abide by them.

If a member fails to abide by the rules and responsibilities set out in this document, they will be contacted by the Administration Team for an explanation. If the explanation is deemed unsatisfactory, the member will receive a formal warning. If the non-compliance continues after receiving the formal warning, the member will receive a letter of cancellation; their plot(s) will be forfeited and membership revoked without refund.

1. GARDEN ETIQUETTE

(a) In the spirit of cooperation, all gardeners shall treat their fellow gardeners with respect and consideration. Abuse of property, disorderly conduct, verbal or physical harassment will not be tolerated. Violation will result in loss of membership.

(b) Do not plant, weed, water or harvest from other members' plots unless specifically requested to do so by that member.

(c) Children are welcome in the garden, but must be accompanied by adult and supervised at all times. Children should not be allowed to play in neighbouring plots or in the garden shed.

(d) Most community gardens do not allow pets on the property. For the time being, we will allow dogs to accompany members as long as we receive no complaints and under the condition that pets are kept quiet and securely leashed at all times. Owners must keep their pets away from other gardeners and their plots and realize that pet feces can carry bacteria harmful to plants and people. Cleaning up after your pet is vital.

2. WORK BEES and ASSIGNED TASKS

(a) Member participation is the backbone of every community garden. Without the support of all members, the garden will not be sustainable. Therefore, participation at one 2.5 hour work bee is mandatory. Commitment is to the work bee and the 2.5 hours applies regardless of how many people you bring with you. There are three work bee choices, all at different times of the season (see calendar of dates). Members are expected choose one of that suits their schedule. If you are unable to attend, you must have a designated co-gardener fulfil this obligation. Failure to do so will result in a

warning and if absence at Work Bees continues, then membership will be forfeit. (see Conditions for Membership).

(b) All members are required to choose one task that they will complete over the season. These tasks are listed on your registration form and should be chosen with your personal timetable or any physical limitations you may have, in mind. Throughout the season participation is monitored by Task Co-ordinators. Those members not participating in their chosen tasks will be contacted for an explanation; if the explanation is not deemed satisfactory according to the Conditions of Membership, then non-participation could result in loss of membership.

3. PLOT RESPONSIBILITY

(a) All plots must be planted by May 31. Plots that are unplanted by that date will be assumed to be abandoned and will be forfeited without refund. (see Conditions for Membership)

(b) All plots must be kept maintained and free of excessive weeds, disease and invasive plant species in order to prevent the spread to neighbouring plots. Seriously neglected plots, eg: plots that are overgrown with weeds, especially weeds that are flowering, garbage, old fencing, rotting wood and where there is no sign of care and attention, are subject to forfeiture. (see Conditions for Membership)

(c) Our garden is an organic garden and the use of herbicides, insecticides and fungicides is prohibited. Examples of soil amendments that are permitted are organic mushroom manure, compost, seaweed and fish fertilizer. If you are uncertain about a product, please get in touch with the Administration Team.

(d) Members must not erect large structures that shade neighbouring plots. Trellises for climbing plants and large leafed plants must be placed so as to not impact the amount of sun your neighbour's garden receives.

(e) Members are responsible for weeding and trimming the edges and pathways around their plots. Please do not leave weeds pulled from your plots in the pathways. Keep pathways clear of debris. If you would like to borrow power tools to clear walkways, please get in touch with the Administration Team.

(f) Arrange for someone to look after your plot if you are away, or in any other way unable to yourself. If this person is not a registered co-gardener, or other garden member, please notify the Administration Team. We will need to arrange for someone to provide access to the shed. The combination must not be given to anyone other than a registered co-gardener. If you would like to appoint this person as a co-gardener, you may do so by providing the Administration Team with their contact information and confirmation that they have read this agreement.

(g) Do not dig more than 1 foot below your plot. The garden is located over a pipeline and stakes, posts, or other structures inserted deeply into the soil could present serious safety issues.

(h) You are encouraged to mulch your garden to preserve water, however please mulch with grass clippings, straw, leaves, manure, corn stalks, fir bark and sawdust. Cardboard is acceptable as long as it is covered by other approved materials. Do not use: western red cedar bark, hay or gravel. If you have questions, please contact the Administration Team.

(i) Do not plant trees, shrubs or other bushes directly into your garden. A reasonable sized shrub may be put in a planter or container and placed in your garden, as long as it is not permanent and can be easily moved. Please be thoughtful and bear in mind these plants may cast shade on your neighbour's plot.

(j) Plots must be left cleaned and winterized by the date indicated on our yearly calendar. After this water will be shut off. At this time, perennials should be cut back, dead plants removed and put into green bins and the plot left tidy. This is part of your maintenance agreement and will be treated with the same conditions as leaving a plot neglected. (see Conditions for Membership).

4. WATERING

(a) As gardeners we should be aware of environmental damage and must not waste water. Do not leave watering unattended. Do not leave common areas or neighbouring plots soggy and over-watered.

(b) Do not water neighbouring plots unless specifically asked to do so.

(c) No overnight watering

(d) Obey Municipal watering restrictions

5. THE SHED

(a) The combination to the shed is confidential and must not be shared with non-members

(b) If you track dirt into the shed, please sweep it out afterwards.

(c) Do not store any personal items in the shed.

(d) Drain and coil hoses before hanging them in the shed. A hose mount is located on the side of the shed to help with this process.

(e) Tools must be cleaned, dried and stored in the shed after use.

(f) Any damage to tools, equipment, or the shed lock must be reported at once to the general email account for the Administration Team.

(g) Supplies such as wood, straw, discarded fencing and any other materials must not be stored in or around the perimeter of the shed. Materials may be neatly bundled and left in your own garden plot.

5. GARBAGE and GREEN BINS

(a) Personal garbage and non-plant waste must be taken home with you. There is no garbage pickup on site.

(b) Plant waste must be put in the green bins on site. Please shake off dirt before putting plants into the bins. Do not put rocks or large pieces of wood into the bins.

****You will be contacted shortly with the steps for the online renewal of membership****