

GROW Garden Guidelines 2022



1. **All Gardeners are required to attend an annual Spring Garden Meeting.** This meeting will introduce the garden committee members and provide an opportunity for new and returning gardeners to meet one another. A review of the garden rules and procedures, water availability, lock operation, garden email and other issues will take place. The Garden community email is Growgardenswestonka@hotmail.com so feel free to send us questions and inquiries there.
2. **You may work your plot as soon as weather allows after receiving plot assignments.** By **June 15**, gardeners must have prepared and planted their plots (weather permitting). A cleanout date will be announced in the fall at which time all plots must be cleared including structures, weed barrier material, decorative structures, etc.
3. **Compost** is provided by GROW Garden at the beginning of the garden season and will be spread over the garden plots and raised beds.
4. **Organic practices** are strongly encouraged in all parts of the community garden. Organic methods such as handpicking bugs, using row covers, and applying pesticides **labeled as organic** are encouraged. Synthetic fertilizers, pesticides, herbicides, and fungicides are **highly discouraged** (such as Sevin, Preen or Miracle Grow). Gardeners are kindly asked to refrain from using such chemicals. Chemicals *may not* be mixed or stored at the GROW Garden site.
5. **To reduce weeds and pests**, improve the soil, and maintain soil moisture, mulch is strongly recommended. Gardeners are encouraged to use materials such as aged compost, composted manure, leaves, straw, or layers of newspaper to protect the soil and reduce weeds. Only compostable materials are to be used in your plots. *No plastic please.*
6. **Invasive or illegal plants** are not allowed in the garden. Aggressive plants like mint, lemon balm, and similar plants must be grown in containers, and must not be allowed to establish themselves in the ground. **We highly discourage Sunflowers** in plots and if you absolutely must have them, please limit the number. If we see an excessive amount in the plots, we reserve the right to pull them from the plots.
7. **Water conservation** must be practiced. Please concentrate on watering roots rather than other parts of the plants. Gardeners must be present when watering. Do not leave water running unattended. Shut off the water at the hydrant and not the handheld nozzle. Release the pressure with the hand-held nozzle as it saves on the life of the hose.
8. **Keep the garden a happy, respectful, and enjoyable place for all.** Gardeners must not use abusive or profane language. Alcohol, tobacco and illegal drugs are not permitted in the Garden. Do not trespass or take things from other gardens.
9. **Guests and visitors**, including children, are welcome at the garden if you accompany them. They must follow all GROW Guidelines. *We prefer that you leave your pets at home when you are gardening.*