

Hill East Community Garden Terms of Membership 2010-2011

Plot Plantings

HECG is an organic garden, and as such, **no non-organic pesticides or fertilizers are allowed**. Please check bottle labels for compliance. Do not plant any illegal plants. Also, plant tall crops where they will not shade neighboring plots.

Plot Maintenance Rules

Plots must be kept planted, mulched, weeded, and harvested. Adjacent pathways around each plot must be kept free of weeds and debris and covered with mulch. It is gardeners' responsibility to maintain the raised bed frame for their plot. All raised bed plots are to remain as a part of the permanent garden.

Do not allow your crop to rot in your plot, as this attracts unwanted pests and rodents, which may damage neighboring plots. At the end of the gardening season, all dead/spent plants must be removed, leaving your plot clean in preparation for winter. Winter gardeners must keep plots free of debris throughout the winter.

Non-Compliant Gardeners

If you do not comply with the plot maintenance rules of the Membership Agreement, the following process will begin:

1. A board member will contact you via phone and email to ask you to clean your plot. A red flag will be placed in your plot to notify other gardeners that the board is addressing the situation.
2. If you do not respond to that communication within two weeks, you will be contacted an additional time via phone and email.
3. If you still do not respond after an additional two weeks (a total of 4 weeks after the first communication), the board will consider your plot abandoned, terminate your garden membership, and make your plot ready for the next person on the waitlist.

All plot and/or initiation fees will be forfeited and are non-refundable. Exceptions to this policy will only be granted if extreme and compelling circumstances caused the gardener to neglect their plot. **Routine neglect is grounds for termination of gardening privileges.**

Secondary Gardeners

Every plot has one primary gardener, and may also have one secondary gardener. No individual can be the primary gardener on more than one plot. However, you can be the secondary gardener on numerous plots. Secondary gardeners can join the waitlist for their own plot. If the primary gardener of a shared plot leaves the garden, the secondary gardener is permitted to inherit the plot as the primary gardener.

Garden Community Service

Each plot must contribute at least four (4) hours of work, or two (2) hours if single gardener plot, annually towards the common good of the garden. Work projects include weeding and mulching of paths and perimeter, fence repair, educational events, planning garden socials, attending board meetings, administrative tasks, or other appropriate projects deemed beneficial to the garden and its membership.

Structures

Any structures must be contained within the boundaries of your plot. Structures must be secure enough to withstand high winds, not shade other plots, and cannot be any taller than your ability to reach the top of it with outstretched hands. If your structure does not meet these criteria or causes problems for neighboring gardeners, you will be asked to remove it. Failure to do so may result in termination of your garden membership.

Drip Irrigation

Gardeners wishing to install and/or use barrel-fed drip irrigation systems in their plot must discuss this with the HECG board prior to the construction of drip irrigation system and also sign and agree to terms in the Drip Irrigation Memo of Understanding. This document outlines the rules and parameters governing the use of barrel-fed drip irrigation systems in HECG. Hoses may not be used to fill individual drip irrigation barrels.

Water

A neighbor of the garden who, in turn, is reimbursed for their water bill for the growing season provides water. If you find water barrels empty, you should refill them and encourage other gardeners to do the same. It is the responsibility of every gardener to ensure that water barrels remain full.

Pets

For the safety of pets, other gardeners, and garden plants, all pets must be kept on a leash and monitored. Pets should not wander unattended in the garden. Failure to control your pet in the garden may result in the termination of your garden membership.

Trash

You are responsible for immediate removal of your own trash including weeds, spent fruit and garden trimmings. Gardeners who participate in social events are responsible for immediate removal of trash generated at the event.

Gate Padlocks

All gates have combination locks. Do not give the combination to persons who are not members of the garden. If you are unable to tend your plot during vacations or other

prolonged absences, please arrange for someone else in your household or another HECG gardener to do so.

Gardening Membership is a privilege not a guaranteed right. Violation of the above rules or presentation of extraordinary member actions can result in termination of your membership.