

Grove Community Garden Rules, Regulations, and Enforcements

The purpose of these rules, regulations, and enforcements is to summarize the Declarations of the Covenants, Conditions, and Restrictions that gardeners are required to accept as required by The Grove Church.

GARDEN PLOTS

1. **Aesthetic Maintenance:** The garden is situated within the common grounds of The Grove Church. Each gardener must maintain the aesthetics of their garden plot.
2. **Invasive plants:** Invasive plants, like mint, may be planted in your plot *if you keep it in a container*. You are responsible for keeping it from spreading to the ground.
3. **Weed Control:** Garden plots, and surrounding pathways should be free of weeds, grass, and debris that harbor pests. Any weeds over one foot tall or with seed heads must be removed. Common weeds include Bermuda grass, cheese weed, and spurge that easily spread. Please contact the Garden Committee for assistance if needed.
4. **Weed Disposal:** Please dispose of weeds and diseased plants in the trash cans located throughout the garden. There is no need to use garbage bags. The Garden Leadership will empty the trash bins as needed.
5. **Composting:** Composting is highly encouraged. We are happy to explain the composting process via email or in person. Please refrain from placing weeds or mint in the compost bins.
6. **Neglect Notifications:** Gardeners who neglect their plots will receive an email notification about their failure to complete mandatory gardening tasks. (See Termination of Garden Plots)
7. **Structural Restrictions:** Building tall structures in garden beds requires Garden Committee approval. No PVC is allowed, and structures must be 6 feet or shorter. All structures should be well-maintained; unstable ones must be repaired or removed. Trees are prohibited, and garden art should be minimal; the Committee may remove unsightly art.
8. **Uniform Covers:** To ensure a cohesive appearance, all frost covers, shade cloths, and netting must be uniform in color, as the garden is visible from the road. Please consult with Garden Leadership for guidance on color selection.

9. **Garden Common Areas:** Caring for the Community Garden's common areas is a shared responsibility. **Members must participate in maintenance for at least (4) four hours each year.** We will hold occasional workdays and provide task lists for those unable to attend. A sign-in sheet will be available on workdays, and you may self-report your work hours to garden leadership. Failure to meet the participation requirement may result in non-renewal of your plot(s) for the following year.
10. **Respect Your Neighbor's Space.** Do not trespass on another gardener's plot without permission. Refrain from cutting or trimming your neighbor's plants. If you have concerns about any encroaching plants, kindly reach out to a member of the leadership team. We're here to help facilitate communication and address any issues.
11. **Crop Donations:** Gardeners are encouraged to donate some of their plot's crops to a charity of their choice.
12. **Plot Care During Absences:** If you are going out of town for an extended period, please inform the Garden Committee. If possible, arrange for a fellow gardener or family member to maintain your plot for you.

PESTICIDES, CHEMICALS, AND TRAPS

1. **Organic Gardening:** The Grove Community Garden adheres to sustainable and organic gardening principles. All chemical pesticides and herbicides are prohibited. Any products used should be OMRI (Organic Materials Review Institute) approved. The Garden Committee can provide a list of pest management strategies to help your garden thrive.

WATER AND IRRIGATION

1. **Irrigation System:** The garden has a private well and an automated irrigation system set by the Garden Committee for seasonal watering. Basic irrigation setup is provided. Members may make changes to the existing irrigation at their own expense. Hoses are available throughout the garden for additional watering. Please return and coil hoses neatly in the designated areas after use.
2. **Watering Issues:** Please contact one of the Garden Committee Members if you have issues with the amount of water you are receiving. We can adjust watering schedules if necessary or help you troubleshoot your irrigation system.
3. **Leak Reporting:** Report any leaks or major water issues immediately. For severe leaks, contact The Grove Church office at 480-883-3733, or after hours, call or text Sally Kazilek at 480-275-0527.

SUMMER GARDENING

1. **Seasonal Maintenance:** If you choose not to garden during the summer, please let the Garden Committee know and shut down your plot by turning off your water or changing out the watering heads. Mulching your plot 2-3 inches thick can help prevent weeds. You can also solarize your soil; instructions are available from the Garden Committee.

CONTACT CHANGES

1. **Notification Requirements:** Participants must inform the Garden Committee of any changes to their contact information (address, phone, email) to ensure timely delivery of garden updates, workday notices, and other essential information.

TERMINATION OF GARDEN PLOTS

The Garden Committee will regularly inspect plots to ensure compliance with rules and regulations. In cases of non-compliance:

1. **First Notice:** A written notice of non-compliance will be sent via email, requiring corrections within 15 days.
2. **Second and Third Notices:** Continued non-compliance will result in a second written notice via email. If there is no response after 7 days, a third and final "failure to comply" notice will be issued, resulting in plot termination. All funds will be forfeited, and the plot will be reassigned.

GENERAL CONDUCT

1. **Inappropriate Behavior:** The Grove Church may immediately terminate a Participant's right to participate in the Garden due to inappropriate or disrespectful behavior. The Gardener must leave by the end of that day and may not reenter without the Church's permission.

Member Signature: _____ **Date:** _____