

Things to Know

Hilltop Community Garden, 20200 SW Martinazzi

The gardener agrees to the following rules and responsibilities. Failure to follow these may result in cancellation of the gardener's contract.

Basic Considerations

Cost: Rent of **\$30** per plot for the season is due when application is submitted. If no plot is available, a refund will be given. Your rent covers water and other expenses. A \$10 credit will be given for the following year's rent if your plot is cleaned up well, particularly for the winter.

Hours: Dawn to dusk.

Facilities: You are welcome to bring your own, but hand tools are available in the storage shed. Please wipe away dirt and return tools to shed when finished. Code for lock available from Garden Manager. Note: We have no toilet at the garden.

Water: Hoses and watering wands are shared. Be careful when moving the hose around other plots. Remember that gentle deep watering near the roots of plants is much better than sprinkling from above. Please make sure water is turned off when done!

Pets: Pets are not allowed in the garden area, but can be tied near the parking lot. Please take away any waste.

Children: Future gardeners are always welcome, but must be supervised at all times.

Environment: The Tualatin United Methodist Church and grounds are tobacco, alcohol, drug, and weapons-free.

Parking may be limited when other groups are using the church building, so come back another time when space is available. Driveway must remain clear for emergency vehicles.

First aid kit is available in the garden shed. Call 911 for a real emergency. Address above.

Community Expectations

You **must** attend at least one orientation session to learn safety procedures and basic operating procedures.

We follow organic growing practices. Check our website for suggestions on disease and pest control. Our plot soil provides everything plants need. You can add organic materials as a “top dressing”.

If you have someone helping or tending your plot while you’re away, make sure they know these guidelines, too. Please give the Garden Manager their name and contact information.

Dispose of plant waste in our compost area. Please take away all other trash and recyclables. Do not put woody material in the compost piles.

Your Responsibilities to the Garden Community

Respect others’ gardens; only touch your own!

Your plot and pathways need to be weeded regularly. Garden Manager will notify you if he thinks something needs attention.

Join in work parties especially during spring preparation and fall clean-up.

What Other Community Gardeners Have Learned

Successful garden plots require at least 1-2 hours a week of care during the active growing season.

Some popular vegetables don’t work well in small raised beds. For example, corn grows tall and requires several plants to pollinate. Vines can sometimes be trained on trellises, but plants like pumpkins require lots of space to “run.” Plants that spread through an expansive root system such as mint should be avoided.

Raised beds can accommodate tighter plant spacing. Google references like “square foot gardening” for hints. Ask Manager about determinate (smaller size) tomato plants and “bush” varieties that grow well in raised beds. Good air circulation is important, though.

Head off problems before they spread. Powdery mildew, aphids, slugs and other irritants can be avoided by checking with the Garden Manager for preventive measures. Flowering herbs, for example, attract good insects that devour bad ones and help pollinate your crop.

What we will do for you

Provide advice and even free seeds and plants when available.

Provide soil annually to top off your bed.

Organize occasional group opportunities like work parties if needed, community potlucks, tips from master gardeners, and how to cook or preserve your produce. These are optional but guaranteed fun.

For assistance: Jim Serrill, Garden Manager, 503-539-4768, pdxtimberjim@comcast.net

Also: Larry McClure, 503-476-4882; Vic and Karen Miglioretto, 503-692-3298