

# Fifth Street Community Garden Rules

## Be Organic

- Choose compost or other soil-building additives. The use of synthetic chemical insecticides, herbicides or fertilizers is prohibited.
- Seeds and plants do not need to be certified organic.

## Garden Use and Maintenance

- Maintain your plots by planting, mulching, watering, weeding and harvesting.
- If you are unable to take care of your plot, notify the garden leader.
- If your plot becomes unkempt you will be given notice; you must improve and maintain your plot in that time period. After that time it will be reassigned or tilled under.
- Clean up your plot in the Fall unless you are Winter gardening. Bare ground should be covered with organic mulch to protect it from the Winter rains. Leaves, wood chips and straw are recommended. Cardboard or newspaper will also work.
- Plan your garden so that it can be maintained from the pathways or inside your own plot.
- Do not walk in your neighbors' plots.
- Do not allow your plants to encroach on your neighbors' plots or the pathways. Beware that any parts of plants outside of your plot boundary may be damaged by mowing.
- Plant tall crops only where they will not shade neighboring plots.
- Harvest only your own crops unless given permission by another gardener. If you didn't plant it, don't pick it!
- Common areas (identified in green on the map) are available for harvest by all gardeners and the general public.
- Mint and comfrey, outside of containers, are not allowed in the garden.
- Illegal plants are not allowed. Marijuana may be legal now but you can't grow it in this garden.
- Invasive or perennial plants are not allowed without permission. Artichokes and strawberries are fine. Fruit trees, berry bushes and blackberry/raspberry canes are not. If in doubt, ask first.
- If you borrow community garden tools, clean and return them to the storage area when you are finished.
- The last person out of the garden **must** make sure that all garden gates are closed and secured.

## Watering

- Please conserve water. It is best to water in the morning or late afternoon/evening when waste from evaporation is less.
- Water deeply, especially with mature plants, as it is better to give plants a good watering once or twice a week instead of a daily light sprinkling to promote deeper and strong root systems. Rule of thumb is 1-2 inches per week. Empty tuna fish cans in your plot can help gauge how much you are watering.
- Do not use overhead sprinklers.
- Try to avoid watering pathways. It wastes water, creates mud and encourages grass and weed growth.
- Fix water leaks in hoses or connections or notify the garden leader of plumbing problems.
- Water only your own plot as your neighbor may have different watering needs or plans.
- Be careful not to drag hoses through other plots when moving them.

## Miscellaneous

- Gardeners **must** contribute time to the maintenance of the whole garden by participating in work parties, adopting common areas, or taking on individual tasks.
- Smoking, pets and amplified sound are prohibited.
- Children must be supervised. Help them learn about gardening and boundaries.
- Take your trash home for disposal.
- You may garden in any daylight hours of any day.