



# Ranch Community Garden

## Rules & Policies for Members

RCG (Ranch Community Garden) is an *organic* garden welcoming both new and experienced gardeners. The garden is run by an all-volunteer Board, and encourages all members to volunteer at least 10 hours each year to help build the community. Sixteen RCG plots are designated to raising produce for a local Food Bank each year. Your plot fee is helping maintain the garden infrastructure and also contribute fresh food to those in need. We encourage composting, sustainable fertilizing, and helping each other weed and harvest. If you believe in our community vision feel free to contribute more to the garden fund.

By paying the annual fee you automatically become a Ranch Community Garden Member. Each of our members will follow the rules and policies listed below.

- 1) **Have fun gardening.** If you need help please ask. Members are encouraged to help each other.
- 2) **Members are required to attend a Spring Kick-off meeting.** The meeting will be used to disseminate important information for the gardening year and to collect plot fees.
- 3) **Members are required to contribute at least 10 volunteer hours per year.** Hours include volunteer work days, pulling weeds from community areas, composting, working in the food bank garden plots etc.
- 4) **No herbicides (weed killers) allowed.** Weeds can be pulled by hand and Natural/Organic remedies can be used to control pests. If chemical pesticides/insecticides must be used they must be certified organic and applied on a calm day.
- 5) **Members are responsible for keeping the walkway around their plot(s), and the plot itself, as weed free as possible.** Please work with your neighbors to keep your walkways clear of weeds.
- 6) **Have your plots cleaned and/or planted by the last Sunday in May.** If we do not see anything tilled or weeded by this date we will contact you to see if you are still interested in gardening. You will have 7 days to respond to our emails, texts, and phone calls. After that time your plot may be reassigned so an active gardener or a new garden on the waiting list.
- 7) **Members should notify the Garden Board if they cannot find anyone to watch their plot when they are on vacation or absent.** A garden buddy can help with this, and there will be space on the information board to post your need.
- 8) **If a Garden member has to abandon their plot, or has emergency situation and cannot tend their plot, please notify the Garden Board immediately.**
- 9) **If a garden member's plot becomes unkempt (weedy, trashy, unharvest crops etc.) the member will be notified.** The Garden Board will attempt to contact the member via email, phone, and text about violations to our good neighbor policy. Unattended or weedy plots create a nuisance and spread weed seeds to other plots. Please ask for help if you need it.
- 10) **Children are encouraged to participate in the garden but must be accompanied by an adult.**
- 11) **Pets must be kept on leash and in the common picnic area or outside the fence.** Pets will be banned from entering the garden entirely if issues or complaints arise.

- 12) **Bikes need to be stored along the fence in the picnic area.** Biking or walking to the garden is encouraged when possible to help with parking.
- 13) **Keep gates closed at all times.** Small critter like to sneak in through open gates.
- 14) **No Smoking, Alcohol, or Drugs in and around the garden.**
- 15) **Harvest all crops when they are mature.**
- 16) **Members must clean their plots at the end of each garden year by putting the leftover plant matter into the appropriate compost bin.** If you are planning to return to the garden the next year you may plant winter crops or cover your cleaned plot with permeable groundcover.
- 17) **A height limit of 5 feet (60 inches) will be enforced for all enclosed structures in your plot.**
- 18) **Community compost should be available at the start of the season.** Please follow directions on the amount of compost and time of year that the compost can be taken and used in your plot.
- 19) **Members are responsible for monitoring the water needs of their plot.** You may occasionally need to hand water some of your plants. If you plot is becoming over watered, turn down/off your plot main line water valve and water by hand until the issue is resolved. Please contact the Garden Board if you see any water leaks or have any questions/issues with water in the garden.
- 20) **The padlock combination should not be shared with non-Members.** If a garden member has someone else tending to their plot on a regular basis that person will need to register online as a helper and/or with the Garden Board.
- 21) **Members understand by agreeing to follow these garden rules that neither Ranch Community Garden nor owner of the land (Beth-El Mennonite Church) are responsible for their actions. Garden members therefore also agree to sign a hold harmless clause either electronically or on paper before entering the garden.**

## **Garden Board**

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