

## Belle Creek Garden Plot Agreement pg. 1

1. Do not prune, rake or pick anything from another gardener's plot. Thieves are not tolerated and will be asked to leave the garden and forfeit their deposit.

2. Trees and tall shrubs are not allowed in garden plots. Trees are NOT permitted in individual garden plots. Root systems can be extensive. Even dwarf species have in-roots that can spread underground to a neighbor's plot, leaching the soil of nutrients and moisture. Leaves, of course, block the sunlight. Woody shrubs must not exceed 3 feet in height and their root system must not extend beyond the plot in which they are planted. Woody shrubs may only be planted with prior approval. The only exception to this rule is roses. Tall plants may also shade your neighbor's plot. Plants where they are least likely to cast shade. No perennial.

3. The Garden is a community garden and it is everyone's responsibility to maintain the common areas of the garden. This includes pathways, courtyards, street, and front sidewalks. Weekly Weeding of your beds and the common areas are must.

4. You must maintain your plot. Volunteers maintain the overall garden and do not have the time to clean up or maintain your plot. You are expected to actively garden and maintain your plot in an acceptable manner. All garden plots must be worked by May 10th. Expectations are that you are actively gardening - digging, sowing, planting, weeding, pruning, watering, harvesting, etc. - once a week at the very least during the growing season. If you are ill or on short vacation, ask another garden plot holder to water and tend your plot or contact the Steering Committee to ask a volunteer to "garden sit" during your brief absence.

5. Trees and tall shrubs are not allowed in garden plots. Trees are NOT permitted in individual garden plots. Root systems can be extensive. Even dwarf species have in-roots that can spread underground to a neighbor's plot, leaching the soil of nutrients and moisture. Leaves, of course, block the sunlight. Woody shrubs must not exceed 3 feet in height and their root system must not extend beyond the plot in which they are planted. Woody shrubs may only be planted with prior approval. The only exception to this rule is roses. Tall plants may also shade your neighbor's plot. Plants where they are least likely to cast shade. No perennials. Plants that vine are allowed, but must be kept within the confines of the individual gardener's plot.

6. Standing towers and walls are not allowed. "High rise" structures, walls, fences or any construction of materials that encloses a plot or intrudes on another is not permitted. Only one side of a garden plot can have vertical trellis-like, open, airy structures for supporting climbing vegetables, vines or flowers. Poles, stakes, cages

and other supports that are used for plants are allowed. It is recommended that trellis go east to west to keep from shading neighboring plants from the morning sun.

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7. You must weed the walkway that borders your plot. You are responsible for taking care of the pathway bordering your plot. It must be smooth to walk on and kept free of debris and weeds. Plot borders must not extend into the garden's dividing paths. These paths cannot be eliminated and must be kept clear. Pots, boxes, containers, etc., must not be placed on any walkway (a means of extending your plot). Plants cannot extend onto the walkway. Be considerate of all who walk past. Prune tie back or transplant errant plants - especially if they are thorny.

8. You must bring your own tools.- There are some tools there for shared use.

9. Hoses must be neatly rewound after use and placed on their retainer. Please take special care not to damage someone else's plants when pulling a hose to your plot. If you're the last one to use the hose, shut off the spigot and let the water drain out as well as turn the valve off in the ground. Never water another plot unless you have been asked to.

10. Please No Pesticides. It is the Belle Creek Community Garden policy that NO chemical (nonorganic) pesticides, herbicides, and fertilizers are used under any circumstances. Please utilize your other gardeners for recommendations. Organic is best.

11. We encourage you to compost, but only that which will decompose. You may compost coffee grounds, tea bags, eggshells, clam shells, deadheaded blooms, thinned sprouts, dead plants, leaves, chopped vegetables, citrus and fruit peels. Do not compost plastic bags, metal, rubber, glass, large branches or any branches with thorns, non-vegetable matter (meat, fish, dairy), kitty litter, pet feces, grease, plants with disease or pests, rocks or anything that isn't organic.

12. We encourage you to volunteer in the garden - to donate some time to the maintenance of the garden and to make sure the garden rules are obeyed. The garden is an all-volunteer effort and maintenance needs to be done daily. By signing the agreement you are agreeing to the standards which includes the maintenance of the full garden.

13. You may bring guests. Children must be supervised. No pets are allowed in the main vegetable garden area. Visitors are welcome in the garden but must be accompanied by a garden member. Please closely supervise children 12 years old and younger so that they do not wander. Children are not allowed in any other gardeners' plot.

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14. During the "Off-Season" please clean up and take home all personal items on your plot by end of season. Each gardener is responsible for cleaning his/her plot. This includes but is not limited to dead plants, weeds, trash, tools, sticks and cages. End of the season is the first weekend in November.

15. Please communicate with your neighboring gardener. If you have an issue and cannot communicate with them in person, you can contact the Family Center.

16. Please remember that invasive plants ( such as mint ) should only be garden in an enclosed pot.

By signing the Belle Creek Garden Plot Renewal/ Sign Up each year you agree to abide by the above rules and regulations. Failure to follow them may result in garden privileges being revoked and/or garden plots being reassigned.