



RULES AND GUIDELINES

Working together will help make the garden beautiful and weed-free for all. Gardeners are responsible for being familiar with and obeying all garden rules. If you have any questions, please contact garden@TheOrchardLife.com

Registration and more information:

<https://theorchardlife.com/goodseed-community-garden>

Good Seed Garden will provide:

- Landscaping/earthmoving
- Water (regulated by city and weather conditions)
- Management
- Compost and peat for gardeners to mix soil
- Composting area
- Infrastructure installation
- Wildlife fence around perimeter of the garden.

Gardeners are responsible for:

- Annual program participation fee
- A clearly worked, weeded and harvested plot during all growing season
- Maintaining weed-free, mulched pathways around their plot
- Creating and maintaining a garden boarder on all sides of the plot
- Preparing soil with amenities for plot
- Seeds
- Hoses
- Drip irrigation systems ([if desired](#))
- Hand tools
- Row covers
- Removal of all trash from premises
- Any additional plot needs
- Maintaining current address, phone numbers and email address with the Good Seed Garden through the office at The Orchard [or email garden@theorchardlife.com](mailto:garden@theorchardlife.com)

Applications

Gardeners desiring a garden plot in the Good Seed Community Garden must first fill out an application for a garden plot. If there are more requests than plots, garden plots will be assigned to gardeners through a lottery system. To receive a garden plot, gardeners must pay the annual fee and sign an agreement to comply with all rules and regulations.

Plot Assignments

Plots are not transferable without the permission of The Orchard. Plots may be shared and cared for cooperatively. Garden plots are not assignable to others. All garden participants require registration through The Orchard office.

When assigning locations, priority will be given to returning gardeners. Returning gardeners are allowed to retain their previous season's plot, when possible, or have top priority in requesting a new plot. To be assured of a plot, returning gardeners must submit a renewal application and pay the renewal fee by the deadline on the renewal notice.

Refunds/Revocation

If a garden plot is voluntarily relinquished, notification must be given to Garden Manager by May 15th to receive a refund minus a \$10 processing fee. The plot will then be reassigned. No refunds will be given after this date. The Orchard has the right to revoke plots for any reason, including failure to comply with the stated rules. No refunds will be issued for plots that have been revoked.

Plot Renewals

Renewal information will go out the first quarter of each year. If you maintain your garden and pathways throughout the season, regularly harvested crops, clean the plot up at the end of the season, have no outstanding money due, and have not violated any community garden rules; you will automatically be sent a renewal notice. It is your responsibility to keep your address, email and phone number current with The Orchard office and Good Seed Garden. After the renewal deadline has passed, and you have not renewed your plot, it will be made available to others during open registration.

Soil Preparation

The Orchard will provide land that has been plowed and tilled. The Orchard will mark plot borders. Soil amenities (when available) of compost, peat, and sand will be made available to gardeners on a first come first serve basis. It is up to you to create the soil texture and ph levels you desire. All soil amenities must comply with organic standards.

Garbage Service

There is no garbage service at The Good Seed Gardens. Please keep trash and litter cleared from your plot. Please take it home for disposal.

Composting

Compost containers are available on premise for all of your compostable garden waste. Please do not overfill compost bins. If bins are full, please contact garden@theorchardlife.com and wait until bins have been emptied to add any compostable debris. Please do not leave piles of debris alongside the compost bin.

Organic Gardening

Please adhere to organic gardening techniques only. Only organic fertilizers, herbicides and pest control methods are to be used in the garden. Chemical pesticides, insecticides, herbicides, and/or fertilizers made from synthetic chemicals **are not permitted**. Non-genetically modified (non-GMO) seeds are preferred. Please see handout provided in the information packet for a more detailed explanation of organic gardening methods. If you have any questions please email:

garden@theorchardlife.com

Plot Neglect/Abandonment

Plots must be obviously worked and weed control begun by May 1st weather permitting. Any abandoned or unattended plots will be re-assigned and no refund given. If you are unable to keep or maintain your plot you must contact The Orchard office or send an email to garden@theorchardlife.com immediately. Temporary help will be sought or your plot will be reassigned permanently, depending on the circumstances.

Plot Maintenance

Plots must be reasonably maintained. Reasonably maintained means weeds under control and plants are regularly cared for, watered and harvested. Plants must not exceed plot boundaries and a proper border maintained. By November 15 all non-wintering plants must be removed as well as stakes, trellises, support, walls of water, row covers, etc. You may not store black plastic bags of leaves/organic matter over the winter. No furniture, trash or items other than garden related are allowed in the garden. (A chair or bench is acceptable).

Path Maintenance

It is each gardener's responsibility to keep his or her paths clear and weed-free (half the path closest to their plot). Pathways around each plot are to be 4 feet wide. Paths must be clear, weed-free and well mulched. This works: in early spring weed whack or scythe your paths, put down commercial weed barrier and cover with 3-4 inches of mulch. Reapply mulch as needed. Community Gardens with gravel or wood chip pathways will need to be weeded as needed. Weeding after a rain or snowstorm really works!

Weedy Warnings

There are many weeds in community gardens. Weeds compete with other plants in your garden and can quickly become invasive. If weeds are left to go to seed they will affect your neighbor's gardens as well. If a Good Seed Garden leader sees too many weeds in your garden or your plot looks unattended you will receive an email and written letter from [the Good Seed Garden](#). If there is no communication and resolution after 1 week, your plot may be revoked and made available to others. There is no refund of fees for revoked plots.

Garden Plot Borders

The Good Seed Garden is designed as a garden and a park, with garden borders playing a significant role. As part of tending a garden plot you are required to create a border. Borders are an important part of a community garden by keeping soil from your garden

from spreading into pathways. It also prevents the pathway materials and weeds from moving into your garden.

Borders can be created from rocks, untreated wood, and other natural materials. Tires, pressure treated wood, glass, carpet, sharp metal and plastics are not allowed. Raised garden beds are allowed but must be well constructed in a way they do not fall or protrude into the pathways or create a hazard for walking.

The Good Seed Garden does not provide border materials. Please do not take rocks or wood found on The Orchard property unless it is designated for this purpose. Garden borders should not exceed the dimensions of your plot. They should fall within the boundaries of 5' x 10' or 5 x 20'. If you have any questions regarding appropriate garden borders please send an email to garden@TheOrchardLife.com

Water & Hoses

Water in the gardens is turned on by April 15 and shut-off by October 31. This can be subject to change due to weather conditions and city requirements.

Use of water should always be controlled. Drip systems and timers are encouraged. Keep hydrants in the "off" position when not in use. Continuous pressure from being left in the "on" position for timers and other devices leads to the rapid breakdown of the hydrants and their internal parts. Check hoses for leaks. Gardeners may not leave garden hoses in use unattended unless using a drip irrigation system. Drip irrigation is highly recommended in our dry, arid climate and can be purchased locally.

Gardeners are responsible for bringing their own hoses. If using Good Seed Garden's hoses please coil them correctly next to the water spigot. Absolutely do not drag a hose through another garden plot or crush plants that are on a corner of another plot.

Fences

Fences are not permitted around individual garden plots. There is a wildlife perimeter fence around the whole garden. If you experience wildlife damage, please email garden@TheOrchardLife.com

Raised Beds

Raised beds are permitted but must use the border materials described above and be no higher than 18 inches.

Trellises and Plant Supports

Natural materials are preferred for trellises and plant supports. Plant supports and trellises should not block sun from a neighboring plot. They also must not protrude outside of the plot borders.

Tools

Basic tools and wheelbarrows are kept on site at the gardens for everyone's use. Please lock everything up at night. Tools for community use are painted a bright color and are labeled. The Orchard is not responsible for any personal tools, etc. Please contact the Good Seed Garden for the tool shed code.

Responsible community tool use

As respectful gardeners, we value our community tools: use them carefully, leave them better than before you used them, and put them away for safe keeping before leaving the garden.

- *Please use each tool for its intended purpose*
- *Clean tools when you are finished using them*
- *Put each tool in its proper storage slot before you leave*
- *If needed, ask other gardeners about the correct use of tools*
- *If you see a tool being misused, kindly offer assistance*
- *If a tool needs repair or attention, please email garden@theorchardlife.com*

Vehicles

A small parking lot is available at the north entrance to The Orchard. Additional parking is behind The Orchard or near Crystal River Elementary.

What to grow

Vegetables, herbs, flowers and small fruit plants for home consumption and donation are appropriate. Produce may not be sold, but sharing produce is encouraged. Marijuana cultivation, beehives, mint, dill, sunflowers, cane fruit (raspberries, blackberries, etc.) and personal fruit trees are not permitted. Please be a courteous neighbor when planting your garden so that your crops do not shade other plots. Examples of this would be where you plant corn or other plants whose seeds can end up in other areas of the garden.

Food Donations:

A core value of the garden is providing fresh produce for those who lack access to food because of economic difficulties. Gardeners are encouraged to donate their excess crop to the local Lift-Up food pantry. According to the pantry coordinator, this is a great need because the LIFT-UP program can't supply fresh produce for a balanced diet. "We would love it!" she says. Food donation details will be announced through email newsletters.

Not Allowed in the Garden

Marijuana cultivation, beehives, tires, pressure treated wood, carpet, barbed wire, smoking, alcohol, drugs, music (use headphones please), selling produce, cane fruit (raspberries, blackberries, etc...), fruit trees, pets and unsupervised children.

Dogs and Pets

Dogs are not allowed inside the garden. They may be leashed to tether poles outside the garden gate. The owner is responsible for their dog's behavior while left unattended at the gate. The Orchard is not liable for any injuries incurred from dogs left at the gates.

Children in the Garden

Supervised children are welcome and encouraged to garden with their parents.

Gardening Conduct

To assure a pleasant gardening experience for all gardeners, please refrain from smoking, using loud radios, and help keep the garden clean and clear of trash by adhering to the “pack in, pack out” rule with any garbage or litter.

Please respect other gardeners by not walking through their plot, using tools that are not yours without permission, or harvesting produce that is not in your plot. If you at any time witness bad conduct by other gardeners: [please try to work it out with them directly. For persistent problems, email: garden@TheOrchardLife.com](#)

No gardener shall at any time:

- lay a hand upon, shove, strike or threaten
- [use](#) obscene gestures, objectionable demonstrations
- [use](#) foul language (swearing) or abusive verbal attack upon any fellow gardener
- appear in the garden under the influence of alcohol or other legal or illegal substances to the extent that he/she is inclined to cause harm to himself/herself or another gardener

The Orchard [may](#) suspend the [offending](#) gardener immediately from further gardening.

Change in Rules and Regulations

The Orchard reserves the right to change these Rules and Regulations. Changes will be announced through email.

WALKWAY AND WEEDING AGREEMENT

Before preparing my own plot for the current growing season, I agree to prepare my walkway following these guidelines:

Renew cardboard and wood chip walkways:

1. Rake back the existing wood chips.
2. Dig up the weeds found there.
3. Get the ground wet, then cover with cardboard. Make sure to overlap the cardboard to prevent tiny spaces for weeds to pop up.
4. Water the cardboard well. This helps it adhere to the ground and prevent the weeds from finding the space to grow under the cardboard.
5. Cover with 3-4 inches of wood chips. The wood chip pile is outside the fence.
6. Water well. Continue to water for the next week or so to make sure that the cardboard continues to stick to the ground.

Please weed your walkways throughout the growing season!

If you have questions, contact:

Garden Manager garden@theorchardlife.com

- I. I have read these Rules and Regulations and agree to abide by them. I understand that my failure to comply may result in termination and reassignment of my garden plot(s) with no plot fees refunded. I understand that I acquire no rights in or to the Good Seed Community Garden.

- II. In case any one or more of the provisions contained in this Agreement shall for any reason be held invalid, illegal, or unenforceable in any respect, such invalidity, illegality, or unenforceability shall not affect any other provision, and this Agreement shall be construed as if such invalid, illegal, or unenforceable provision had never been contained herein. Neither The Good Seed Garden/The Orchard nor the undersigned shall be required to perform any term, conditions, or covenant in this Agreement so long as such performance is delayed or prevented by force majeure, which shall mean acts of God, strikes, lockouts, material or labor restrictions by any governmental authority, or any other cause not reasonably within the control of The Good Seed Garden/The Orchard or Client and which by the exercise of due diligence of The Good Seed Garden/The Orchard or Client is unable, wholly or in part, to prevent or overcome. This Agreement and attachments embody the entire agreement and understanding of the parties relating to the subject matter hereof, is non assignable, may not be amended except in writing signed by both parties, and supersedes any prior representations, agreements, and understandings, oral or written, if any, relating to such subject matter.

- III. Garden plot renter agrees to indemnify The Orchard and save The Orchard harmless from any and all damages or losses The Orchard may suffer, including attorney's fees, as a result of claims, demands, costs, or judgments against it arising out of the use of the Good Seed Garden and the The Orchard's facility by the garden plot renter.

- IV. By signing this Good Seed Garden contract, I agree to share my contact information with local, non-profit organizations, for garden-related communications.

[Updated 3/2024]