

# South Riding Community Garden Club Packet

## GENERAL INFORMATION

South Riding Community Garden Club provides residents of surrounding areas the opportunity to participate in a community gardening experience through our SRCGC Membership. All members are obligated to meet established deadlines, to actively tend their designated spot during the season, and to keep weeds under control at all times. Site checks are conducted regularly throughout the year to ensure compliance. School groups, community groups, nonprofit organizations, and families are strongly encouraged to apply.

## OBTAINING A COMMUNITY GARDEN SPOT 2019

Read the **Garden Spot Rules & Guidelines** before signing up for a garden spot so that you are fully aware of the commitment you will be making. Once you have reviewed the rules, the application is on our website that you will need to email and follow up with payment. If you are new to the garden, there is a \$50.00 deposit requirement for each garden plot you purchase, if you are renewing, then your 2018 deposit will be held on file for the 2019 year.

### Contact Information for the South Riding Community Garden Club:

If you have any questions about obtaining a community garden spot, our Garden Coordinator may be reached at [member@southridinggardenclub.org](mailto:member@southridinggardenclub.org) or at 703-327-4424. All forms and applications are available for download at [www.southridinggardenclub.org](http://www.southridinggardenclub.org).

## RATES AND IMPORTANT DATES 2019

### Your Garden Spot Includes:

- Free subscription to *Better Homes & Garden Magazine*
- 10' x 20' garden spot
- Deer-proof fencing surrounding outer perimeter
- Four-foot-wide service paths for easy access
- Full southern exposure to sun, 8-hour daily minimum
- On-site water hookups
- Security fence with coded lock
- Ample all-weather parking adjacent to gardens
- Picnic area for lounging and relaxing
- Options for roto-tilling and composting services are available for an *additional fee*
- Membership discounts from local supporters

### Fees and Optional Services Available for 2019:

- \$105.00 annual fee (non-refundable)
- \$50.00 garden spot deposit

Checks are to be made payable to **the South Riding Community Garden** for annual fee and/or deposit.

- \$40.00 roto-tilling services. This is tilling of the current area, not weed removal or clean up, so the garden must be prepared by the date of tilling free from weeds, and any planting material for a clean till.

- \$25 8 cubic foot compost. A garden of 10x20 may need more than one 8 Cubic Ft Pile pending your use. The compost will be placed in the corner of your garden area. All compost/till will need to be requested no later than February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2019 and check made payable to **Ticonderoga Farms**. They will be completed on March 14<sup>th</sup>/15<sup>th</sup> dates ONLY. Dates may be subject to change *due to weather*.

### **Important Dates:**

- January 30 – End of annual membership for prior year.
- January 31 – Last day to renew your current garden spot membership for the year.
- February 1 – Vacant or non-renewed spots will be available for new gardeners to obtain.
- February 28- Ticonderoga Farms received all payments for compost and tilling.
- March 14 & 15 – All tilling and composting services will be completed at this time, weather pending. Please have gardens completely cleared and prepped if receiving these services.
- May 19 – Free Membership “Plant Something Day” Garden Event from 10AM-12PM: seeds & plants available, raffles, free basic gardening class, how-to demos, meet your neighbors, and much more!
- May 31 – Your garden must be “active”, which means at least two-thirds of the spot must be in cultivation: weeds under control, spent plants removed, and crops harvested throughout the season.
- November 15 – Garden spot inspections will be completed on this day. All spots must be cleared of debris and prepped for winter, as per the membership rules and guidelines below. If your spot passes inspection, deposits will be returned, if you are not renewing for the new year. If your spot fails to meet minimum standards, we will retain your deposit.

## **SRCGC RULES AND GUIDELINES 2019**

The rules and guidelines for the South Riding Community Garden Membership have been established to ensure that all members enjoy a positive gardening experience, that individual spots are an asset to the community as a whole, and that all spots are used in a productive manner. When gardeners sign for their annual SRCGC membership, they acknowledge that they have read and understand the following rules:

1. All gardening activities must be contained within the spot boundaries for the 10-foot x 20-foot space provided.

2. Fences are not required. If a gardener chooses to erect a new fence, the gardener supplies the materials and labor. Recommended fencing is galvanized steel wire fencing on 4-inch by 4-inch wooden posts. The following criteria apply to new and existing fences:
  - a. Fences and other structures are to be kept in good condition: gates on hinges, posts and fence materials upright, no sharp/rusty wire or other protrusions that could result in injury.
  - b. Posts must be placed deep enough into the soil to securely anchor the post in a vertical (plumb) position. Poured concrete may not be used.
  - c. Fence posts may be up to 4 feet tall (4 feet above the ground) and up to 4 inches wide. Wooden 4-inch posts are preferred. Metal fence posts are also permitted. If metal posts are used, it is recommended that they have a flange at the base.
  - d. Fences must have mesh fence materials (preferably galvanized steel wire mesh) and may be no taller than 6 feet but can have a single strand of wire or string above the fence. The total height of the fence and strand of string or wire is not to exceed 6 feet.
  - e. Fences may be used as a trellis between spots only if BOTH gardeners agree.
3. Simple, non-permanent structures such as trellises, raised beds, and deck box containers are permitted. The gardener supplies the materials and labor for non-permanent structures. The following criteria apply to new and existing structures:
  - a. Raised beds are permitted. Wood is recommended for the bed edging, but not required.
  - b. Simple trellis structures are permitted if they do not shade other gardens.
  - c. Do not use poured concrete for anchoring any structure.
  - d. Neither solid walls nor solid roofs are permitted on trellises.
  - e. Storage bins for tools are permitted but must be placed inside your 10 x 20 spot.
  - f. Your box or bin must not shade other gardens.
  - g. Row covers are permitted. Anchor them securely to prevent blowing away, and store when not in use.
  - h. Plastic-cold frames are permitted if they are no taller than 30 inches. Sturdy plastic only.
  - i. Greenhouse-like structures are not permitted.
4. Open, standing water is not permitted in your spot at any time or in any form because it fosters the development of mosquitoes. In that light:
  - a. The use of plastic (or any other material on which water puddles) as a ground cover is not permitted. Permeable weed cloth is acceptable as long as it does not block infiltration.
  - b. Empty all containers and store them upside down. Buckets, trash cans, wheelbarrows, or other open containers of water are prohibited.
  - c. All water-filled containers, such as rain barrels, must be tightly covered. Rain barrel usage is highly encouraged to help the farm conserve water during drought months.
5. Gardeners may not dig channels or create berms outside of their spots.
6. Mulches such as stone, carpet, and artificial turf are prohibited. All tarp must be covered with natural material such as wood mulch or leaf mulch.

7. All woody plants, such as trees, shrubs, roses, woody vines, etc., must be kept shorter than 4 feet tall. All woody plants are measured from the top of the soil line to the highest branch of the plant. If a gardener's plant roots extended and/or the plant creates shade in a neighboring spot, the gardener may be asked by the Coordinator to remove or relocate the plant.
8. If you must use a pesticide or herbicide, you **MUST** follow these rules:
  - a. All pesticides or fertilizers used **must be certified organic**.
  - b. Read the label. It is against federal law to use a pesticide or herbicide for a purpose that is not listed on the label.
  - c. Research the problem pest and the guidelines for managing it in the Virginia Pest Management Guide: <http://pubs.ext.vt.edu/456/456-018/456-018.html>.
  - d. For everyone's safety, not commercial or organic pesticides or fertilizers may be stored anywhere in the garden spot at any time, including locked storage bins.
  - e. Flamers or torches for weed control are strictly prohibited due to the risk of fire and personal safety.
9. Take all trash and plant debris that you do not compost within your spot must be taken to your home, or to a citizen trash collection locations. There are two designated areas for placing "composting" weeds and other vegetation located outside of the fence at each end of the garden. **DO NOT** place plants, weeds, or trash anywhere outside of your spot, or in surrounding sports of wooded areas.
10. Gardeners may not store excess lumber, fencing mesh, or other materials at their spots for aesthetic and safety reasons.
11. Weeds must be kept under control throughout the year. Keep weeds off fences and weed 8 inches on the outside of the non-shared fence(s). Gardeners may place bark mulch or leaf mulch on the Outside of their fences to a height not to exceed 8 inches above ground against the fence (measured up the side of the fence) and to a distance not to exceed 8 inches away from the fence (measured from the fence along the ground to the edge of the mulch). This is very important for all neighbors, both for aesthetic appeal, as well as reducing weed-seed dispersal.
12. Do not block off-road garden paths and aisles with structures, equipment, debris, or vehicles.
13. Gardeners who are not in compliance with these rules will:
  - a. Receive a noticed by email or phone from the Garden Coordinator;
  - b. Have 14 calendar days to correction the problem(s) upon receipt of the notice; and,
  - c. If the problem(s) is/are not addressed within the allotted time frame, the garden spot may be reclaimed and reassigned
  - d. Receiving more than one noticed of non-compliance in a single calendar year may result in the spot being reclaimed.
14. Using mulch in your garden spot has many benefits. As organic mulches break down, they add valuable nutrients to your soil. You will need less fertilizer. They also help conserve water.
  - a. Organic mulches, such as compost, leaves, and straw, are highly recommended to conserve water and add nutrients to the soil. Shredded bark mulch is an appropriate deterrent for weeds in pathways within and immediately outside your spot.

- b. Non-biodegradable mulches, such as stone, carpet, and artificial turf, are prohibited. Porous weed blocker covers are permitted but need to be secured to the ground to prevent them from blowing away. Cover them with a thin layer of soil, mulch, or other organic material.
  - c. Composting plant materials within the spot is an excellent way to reduce trash and conserve nutrients. Do not compost food scraps (such as meat, oil, or fat), as this attracts animals.
  - d. Avoid fresh manure which may contain weed seeds, smells bad, and may have sanitary issues that could affect neighboring spots. Liquid 'compost tea' fertilizer must be used immediately and may not be stored in the spot. Composted manure is permitted.
15. Most of the community garden spot sites have water faucets where gardeners may attach their own hoses. Many gardeners must share the same water faucet. We recommend using water conservation methods such as mulching and selecting plants that use less water. Earth-friendly and low-water gardening methods are encouraged. Rain barrel usage is strongly encouraged during the drought months to help conserve water.
- a. All hoses must be stored in areas that do not present a safety problem to other gardeners or to the mowing crews that maintain the common areas. Mowing crews are not responsible for damage to their hoses.
  - b. All gardeners should have a Y-splitter to attach to the main faucet while they are watering their spot. This will enable another gardener to water simultaneously.
  - c. Hoses may not be hung on other gardeners' fences without their permission.
  - d. All gardeners should be considerate when using the water. If someone is waiting to water, please limit your time to 15 minutes.
  - e. Fix leaky hoses and leaky connections so water is not wasted or cause pooling in other spots or common areas. Use washers to prevent leaks at hose connections and at the pump faucet. Please report water faucet problems to the Garden Coordinator.
16. Managing Pests
- a. There are many potential pests in the garden, such as weeds, fungi, small mammals, etc. Most can be controlled using good gardening practices. We ask all gardeners to try these actions first. Remember the garden spot community is like a crowded neighborhood. Your actions can affect everyone. See above for specific guidance on pesticide use.
  - b. Choose plant varieties that are appropriate for our area and are resistant to pests.
  - c. Keep plants healthy by using compost for fertilizer and mulches to retain water. Overwatering can cause diseases to increase.
  - d. Remove insects by hand, such as caterpillars and beetles. Clean up dead and diseased plants immediately.
  - e. Get ideas from your fellow gardeners, bulletin boards, books, magazines, and the Internet to help you resolve your pest problems safely. Small mammals such as mice, voles, rabbits, squirrels and groundhogs can be a problem. Barrier methods, such as fencing below the soil line and netting, may help protect your crops.
17. Safety
- a. Renters garden at their own risk.

- b. Alcoholic beverages may not be brought on or consumed on the premises.
- c. Pets are not permitted in or around the garden spots.
- d. South Riding Community Garden Club assumes no responsibility for any loss or damage to personal property, plants or produce at the garden spot.

## **GARDEN HOLD HARMLESS CLAUSE AGREEMENT**

We the undersigned members do hereby agree to hold harmless South Riding Community Garden Club from and against any damage, loss, liability, demand, suit, and expense directly or indirectly resulting from, arising out of, or in any connections with the use of the garden spots by the individual gardeners, successors, assigned employees, agents, and invites.