

Rules and Guidelines for The Oldsmar Organic Community Garden

Overview:

A community garden can build and strengthen the community, provide economic benefits, educate, increase social equity and promote environmental stewardship. The primary goal of these rules and regulations is to ensure an enjoyable experience for all. **By signing the OOCG plot membership document, you agree to abide by the rules and guidelines outlined below.**

Garden Hours: 8AM – 7PM

Upon completion of obtaining a City of Oldsmar Recreation card, orientation, payment for bed(s), and understanding the rules, members will be given the combination to the gates, and members shed.

Raised Bed Rental Fees:

1. Yearly rentals will commence on September 1st of each year. \$50 per bed must be received from returning gardeners prior to September 1st in order to retain your plot. New gardeners will be assigned beds on a first come, first serve basis.
2. If renewal fee is past due by 30 days, the use of the plot(s) will be forfeited.
3. The fee is non-refundable.
4. Oldsmar residence and those employed by a business residing in Oldsmar will have priority when new beds become available.
5. A raised bed may be transferred to a family member or friend in writing, one time, only if the original member contacts the Board of Directors in writing for confirmation and written approval acknowledging the transfer. Upon approval, the transferred member must fill out all membership paperwork and abide by the rules, and regulations.
6. Members may rent a maximum of 2 beds when available. Initial__

Use of own Plot:

Gardeners may use only the plots assigned to them. Gardeners must maintain their plants within their plot and will trim any plants that extend into neighboring plots or into common areas. Gardeners may not alter the dimensions of their plot. Excessively tall plants that will unduly shade adjacent plots will be prohibited. Gardeners will maintain their plots and adjacent path in a clean and neat fashion, promptly removing any weeds, overgrowth, or other waste from their plot. Gardeners will promptly harvest edible plants, and are responsible for hauling and disposing of their own trash, weeds, boxes, trays, bags, packets, and similar items.

Plantings:

Gardeners may plant vegetables, fruits, and flowers. Florida is divided into USDA zones 8 through 10. Oldsmar, Florida is in USDA Hardiness Zones 9B (Central Florida climate zone). A planting guide is available through <https://sfyl.ifas.ufl.edu/lawn-and-garden/florida-gardening-calendar/>, or you may see the referenced copy in the shed. There are many sources for organic and non-GMO (Genetically Modified Organism) seeds. You can find them at Lowe's, Home Depot, Ace Hardware, Whole Foods, Earth Origins Market, Shells, and by mail order (Baker Creek Heirloom Seeds, among others). Organic starts can be purchased from Wilcox Nursery in Largo or Sweetwater Organic Community Farm in Tampa.

Organic methods:

Gardeners will garden organically. All soils, fertilizers, pesticides, and herbicides must be OMRI (Organic Materials Review Institute) approved. Use of compost, organic mulch, and biodigester fertilizer is acceptable. The use of organic seeds and starts is recommended whenever possible. Use the best quality ingredients you can afford. If you are in doubt about a product, please ask a board member. Gardeners may not grow any plants above 4 feet in height. Planting structures that impede the security of the garden or impede adjacent gardener's access to sunlight by the nature of their height, material, or density are prohibited. Initial_____

Composting:

Each and every gardener will be responsible for composting the right way! When standards are followed, the compost can be turned around within a 6-9-week period for use in the gardens. The smaller the materials placed in the compost, the faster it will decompose. Chop it up, turn it into the existing compost, and cover it! The list of materials needed are listed above the compost bin. Items like corn cobs, melon rinds, stalks from cabbage, broccoli, and cauliflower need to be chopped up or they will take forever to break down. Please, no tomatoes, or tomato vines. No pea, or bean vines (leaves only). No roots, and no diseased plants or plants that have gone to seed.

Prohibited plants and other items:

Plants that are regulated or prohibited by federal or state laws are prohibited in the OOCG. Trees, shrubs, mint, catnip, raspberries, marijuana, and other invasive plants are prohibited in the raised garden bed.

Common Responsibilities and Volunteer Commitment:

All gardeners are responsible for the overall appearance of the Community Garden. A list has been compiled of chores that need to be attended to. As a member of the garden, there is a commitment to contribute **2 volunteer hours per month** towards club functions or garden improvements. Please document volunteer hours in the volunteer book located in the tool shed. Noncompliance will lead to forfeiture of membership without reimbursement.

Absence: Members may not abandon their plot(s). Abandonment means failing to maintain a plot for 2 or more weeks. If a member expects to be away from the garden for more than 2 weeks, but less than 3 months he or she must inform the Board of Directors (oldsmarorganicgarden@gmail.com). Members who are away for more than 3 months **will lose their plot(s)**. Terminated members are not entitled to any refunds or other payments from the community garden. Initial_____

Water Conservation Rules

The irrigation system will operate 7 days a week from 5am until 6am. Individual gardens requiring additional water may only be hand watered, using the sprinkler cans located beside each rain barrel, before 10am, and after 5pm. In most instances, it is unnecessary to use additional water unless you are planting new seedlings or starter plants in your garden. Too much water can rot the roots and rob the plants of much needed air. Soil that is constantly wet will also cause diseases and unwanted pests. If the soil has dried to a depth of 3 - 4", the garden needs water. (For your convenience, water gauges are located inside of the toolshed.)

Build your soil: Adding organic amendments will help your soil retain moisture and provide nutrition to the plants. Adding 2 - 3" of compost material, found in the 3rd finished compost bin, can greatly reduce water use and add needed nutrients to the soil.

Plant wisely: Florida is in USDA Hardiness Zone 9B. A planting guide is available through <https://sfyl.ifas.ufl.edu/lawn-and-garden/floridagardenipg-calendar/> or you may read the referenced guidelines found in the greenhouse, and the toolshed.

Due to the cost and effectiveness of watering, all gardeners are prohibited from watering between the hours of 10am til 5pm. 60% of moisture is lost during watering when the soil is hot. Excessive watering is unnecessary.

Do not allow children to play in, on or near the rain barrels, or play with the sprinkler cans. Children should always be supervised by an adult when near water at all times.

Individual use of any added, or extended hose attached to the main water source, or to the rain barrels is prohibited.

Tampering with the irrigation timer at any time is prohibited.

Initial_____

Common Tools:

Tools and sprays in the garden storage shed are shared by all members. Please return after using. All tools and lawn equipment are the property of the OOCG and are not to leave the garden premises. Trellises, stakes, and some fencing are found behind the large shed for members to use. Do not store your personal tools, sprays or trellises inside or behind the garden shed unless you are contributing them to the garden collection to be shared by all gardeners.

Respect Others Property:

Members and guests may not enter other members plots, use another members tools or supplies, or harvest another gardener's produce, without the explicit permission of the other gardener.

Guests:

Members may bring guests, including children, into the garden, provided that the guest(s) complies with the rules. Members will supervise any child under the age of 16. Members will be responsible for the conduct of the children and their guest(s) making sure they do not damage or interfere with activities on other plots or engage in inappropriate conduct.

General Conduct:

Members are expected to be civil, honest, and cooperative in dealing with other gardeners, and their guests to include:

- ❖ **No Smoking**
- ❖ **No Alcohol or Drug use**
- ❖ **No Open Fires**
- ❖ **No Soliciting**
- ❖ **No Loud Music. Bring your ear buds to listen to your favorite music.**
- ❖ **Do not Molest, (bother) Feed or Remove any Wildlife from the garden, other than the Insects that are causing harm, and invading your produce.**



Photo Release Form

At the Oldsmar Organic Community Garden, we take pride in all of our endeavors, including the use of communication tools to keep our community informed.

Occasionally, we photograph events with some of the photographs containing images of children, youth, and adults participating at the garden.

Being mindful of the safety and privacy of the individuals who participate, we would like to obtain your permission to post, print, and publish images taken of you and your children at the garden.

Parts of hands, legs, back of head etc., may be in photos and will not be removed. This is outside the scope of this release. Initial here_____.

Safety is our primary goal. Please take the time to fill out the information below:

I _____ hereby grant permission to have photographs taken of:

_____ My child Child's name _____

_____ Myself and Family members

Names of family members _____

Parent/guardian signature _____

Date:_____



Release of all Claims

I, _____, am a participant (Visitor, Volunteer, or Member) in the Oldsmar Organic Community Garden (OOCG). As a condition of being allowed to participate in the OOCG, I agree to the following:

1. I am duly aware of the risks and hazards that may arise through the participation in the OOCG and assume any expenses and liabilities I may incur in the event of an accident, illness, or other incapacity. If I have any questions about the OOCG, its nature, risks, or hazards, I have contacted an OOCG coordinator and discussed those questions with him or her to my satisfaction.

2. In consideration of being granted the opportunity to participate in the OOCG, I, for myself, my executors, administrators, agents, and assigns do hereby release and forever discharge the OOCG Executive Board, Committee

Chairpersons, Members, Volunteers, and the City of Oldsmar from all claims of damages, demands, and any actions whatsoever, including those based on negligence, in any manner arising out of my participation in this activity. I understand that this Release means that, among other things, I am giving up my right to sue for any such losses, damages, injury, or costs that I may incur.

I represent and certify that I am 18 years of age or older or, if a minor on this date, my parent or legal guardian has read and signed this Release. By signing this Release, I agree to have read it, understood it, and will be legally bound by it.

PRINTED NAME

SIGNATURE

DATE

“Choose a Task”

Remember as a garden member there is a commitment of 2 hours per month towards club functions and garden improvements. Be sure to sign your name in the volunteer book located in the small shed. Noncompliance will lead to forfeiture of membership without reimbursement. Below is a list of responsibilities around the garden.

- ✓ **Weed Pollinator, Butterfly, or Food Forest Garden**
- ✓ **Weed aisles between gardens**
- ✓ **Weed around the large OOCG sign at the front entrance**
- ✓ **Weed the flower garden outside of the main entrance along the fence**
- ✓ **Weed around the Biodigester, sheds, and greenhouse**
- ✓ **Weed vacant beds**
- ✓ **Bring cardboard in**
- ✓ **Spread mulch in and around the garden**
- ✓ **Turn the compost (all 3 bins)**
- ✓ **Ensure that the container next to compost is full of leaves found in and around the parking lot**
- ✓ **Plan a plant sale, exercise clinic, garden demonstration, potluck, art class, cooking demonstration, fundraiser ect..**
- ✓ **Attend Board Meetings/Presentations**
- ✓ **Oversee the High School Volunteers**
- ✓ **Donate organic soil, peat moss, cow manure, plant starts, or any useful items for the garden**
- ✓ **Stock and organize “The Little Library”**
- ✓ **In lieu of non-commitment of your 2 mandatory hours per month, you may pay \$20.00 towards the Volunteer Fund.**

I, Secretary of Oldsmar Organic Community Garden, Inc. Do hereby certify that the before attached Rules and Regulations were first adopted by a vote of the BOD on the 1st day of April, 2021 and the Rules and Regulations include amendments, if any, duly adopted on the dates stated below, and are currently in effect as of the date of this certification.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Kathryn Merdian", is written over a solid horizontal line.

Secretary

Date: April 1, 2021