

Gardening Guidelines • South Austin Community Gardens (SACG)

Gardening methods: SACG are organic only: no synthetic/chemical herbicides, pesticides, fungicides, or synthetic fertilizers are permitted on the site, including treated wood products used as edges/borders.

Plot maintenance: Regular maintenance is required. Plot borders should be kept to the standard 12x18 so as not to encroach on pathways. Diseased or pest-infested plants should be removed. Ongoing control is required of pest grasses and weeds that can spread into pathways and neighboring plots through seed dispersal or root growth. Trees are not allowed. If a gardener fails to comply, they will be contacted and given two (2) weeks to comply. If not in compliance at the end of this period, the gardener will be notified of the immediate forfeiture of their plot.

Pathway maintenance: Pathways between plots should be clear. Gardeners need to maintain (including weeding/mulching) the pathways around their plots. Personal gardening supplies/tools/equipment should be stored in your plot or in the shed or common storage area, not in the pathways. Vegetation from plots should not hang into pathways. (NOTE: pathway maintenance around your plot is not considered as part of volunteer time commitment.)

Tools: Gardeners must maintain and clean cooperative tools after use. Tools should be cleaned and returned to the storage shed and left in an orderly manner. Tools broken through negligence must be replaced by the gardener. Gardener's personal tools may be stored in the shed and should be labeled to avoid confusion.

Watering/hoses: The main water supply is turned on/off at the main Salvation Army building and should be turned off by the last gardener leaving. When leaving, also please check that you have turned off your hose. When using hoses take care not to damage other gardens and when finished watering please untangle and neatly curl up hoses next to (not wound around) standpipes. If using a drip hose and you wish to keep the water on, please leave a note at the faucet indicating the time you expect to return to turn off your hose. To function properly and conserve water, drip hoses should be in good repair and set to drip only. Overnight watering is not permitted.

Pets/children: Pets and young children are welcome but should be under supervision at all times within the gardens and kept out of garden plots. Please clean up after your pets.

Security: Access to the gardens is through the main gate. The lock combination is _____. The tool shed lock combination is _____. Be sure that the tool shed and main gate are locked if you are the last one leaving. Please leave the locks set with the numbers reading right way up.

Participation/volunteer time: Our monthly business meeting/potluck supper is held on the first Thursday at 7:00 p.m. in The Salvation Army community room adjacent to the gardens. Gardeners are encouraged to attend; your input adds to the success of the gardening community. Group workdays are usually held the Saturday following the monthly meeting and gardeners are encouraged to contribute their time then. If you cannot be at the regular workday, contact the grounds or workday coordinator (see roster) or see the list of tasks posted on the note board by the mailbox. Volunteer hours performed should be logged in on the form in the white notebook in the mailbox. (Please be sure to record your hours on the line corresponding to your plot number.) Recording volunteer hours is also important for applying for grants we may request.

Two hours of community volunteer time per plot per month are required. Any gardener who falls six hours behind in volunteer time has the following options: (1) to make up their hours within one month (2) to pay a delinquent fee of \$15 per hour or (3) to select a combination of the first two options. Otherwise, notice will be given to the gardener and the plot will be forfeited and reassigned.

Compost: Compost is available to all gardeners. Everyone using it is expected to help maintain it and to be reasonable in the amount taken for personal use. Only the most mature compost should be used. If you have questions about compost/composting, please refer to the Compost Guide or contact the compost co-ordinator (see roster).

Co-op garden/orchard: The co-op garden and orchard provide other opportunities for gardening and are separate from personal plot gardening. For more information about participating, contact the co-op garden and orchard co-ordinators (see roster).

(guidelines 8/1/09)