

Community Garden Information and Policies 2017

Shepherd of the Mountains

Welcome to the 2017 community garden season at Shepherd of the Mountains. We are anticipating a successful growing season, providing food and friendships in our community and congregation. Our gardening policies and procedures are important for all gardeners to understand and follow. If you have any questions about this information, please call Mary Antinori ([801.243.9635](tel:801.243.9635)) or Kari Moe-Hoffman ([435.729.9285](tel:435.729.9285)).

Cooperation

This project will be more successful if all of our gardeners work together. We ask that in addition to your annual plot fee, you also contribute 3 (or more) hours of your time by participating in the spring garden work day, and by doing general maintenance throughout the season (especially on the pathways).

Water use, drip irrigation and mulch

An automatic drip irrigation systems operates in all plots. SOM will maintain this system. Please do not try to alter the system in any way. Report any problems or leaks ASAP to Mary ([801 243-9635](tel:801.243.9635)) or Jim Antinori, ([801 232-0550](tel:801.232.0550)).

The drip system is a water-efficient method of garden irrigation. Each gardener should learn how the drip irrigation system works at a gardener orientation meeting or work day. You can also help make sure that water is not wasted, and reduce your garden's water needs by using mulch. This also helps keep out weeds.

You will be notified by email when the drip irrigation system is turned on. This is usually done in May. The exact date will depend on rainfall and temperature in the spring. Until then, if you choose to plant early, please water your plot by hand using the hose and water spigot by the west (smaller) gate.

Please do your best to keep the drip lines straight and do not step on them. When you are working in your bed, slide them gently to one side. Folds in the lines can easily lead to cracks (and the need to replace the lines).

We realize that sometimes a drip line will accidentally or inadvertently be cut. The drip lines are easy to repair or replace, but please inform Mary or Jim right away. There is a green shutoff valve the top of each individual gardening section. Turn the valve so it is perpendicular to the tubing. This will keep the leak from washing away the soil, and minimize water loss. The valve will be opened when the leak is repaired.

Soil

No herbicides, pesticides or chemical fertilizers are allowed. Our goal is to create and nurture healthy soil and a healthy plant environment in the garden. Because plant and soil health deteriorates with the use of chemicals, they are not allowed in our community garden. Gardeners using chemical weed killers, fertilizers and/or pesticides will lose gardening privileges.

“Potguts” (Uinta ground squirrels) live in the area. They are impossible to completely eliminate, and they can burrow under the garden fence. Protect your plantings with barriers (Wall-o-Waters, row cover, etc.) early in the season, especially in May and June. The potguts become less of a problem in July and August, and as your plantings get taller.

You can use mousetraps or other trapping devices to try and control the potguts, but be aware that there are often children in the garden. When placing any traps, please be considerate of their safety.

Weeds and Trash

It is each gardeners' responsibility to control the weeds and trash in their own plots, and in the adjacent pathways during the season. Please clear your plot of trellis materials, weeds, and plant debris at the end of the season. Remember, **weeds in your bed mean weeds in other garden beds**. Weeds should be disposed of in the dumpster in the church parking lot, or in the area south of the garden between the gravel path/fence and the berm.

Compost

Compost is delivered every spring, in the area outside the east (main) gate. Gardeners are welcome to use this compost and add it to their own beds.

No Rebar

For safety reasons, **exposed** rebar is not allowed for staking or trellising unless permission is granted by a Garden Steward.

Garden Tools

A few basic gardening tools will be available in baskets attached to the fence. Use them as needed, then please place them back in one of the bins.

Theft

Stealing of any kind is not permitted and will result in immediate loss of gardening privileges, as well as forfeiture of garden fees.

Disrespectful Behavior

Disrespectful or abusive language, or destructive or inappropriate behavior (including vandalism) will result in the immediate loss of all gardening privileges, and forfeiture of fees.

Notification

All plots will be inspected on a regular basis. Gardeners of plots that have not been planted, are weedy, or do not meet any of these guidelines, will be notified. Failure to respond within 7 days will result in forfeiture of the plot and garden fees. It is the responsibility of the gardener to notify Mary or Kari if he/she is no longer able to tend their plot, or will be absent for a long period of time, or have asked a friend to tend their garden.

All gardeners are expected to weed and plant their plot(s) by [June 18, 2017](#). If you do not weed and plant by that date and you don't contact one of the Garden Stewards for an exemption, your plot will be forfeited and re-assigned to another gardener.

If you plan to be absent for a long period of time, please ask a friend or fellow gardener to tend your plot for you. You are allowed to give them the codes to the garden gates.

Please remember Shepherd of the Mountains is a non-profit organization supported by donated funds that must be raised annually. The purpose of our community gardening program is to provide access to land, water, education and general garden administration. The care and maintenance of the garden is the collective responsibility of all the gardeners.

SOM reserves the right to make changes or exceptions to policies, when appropriate.

Garden Stewards

Mary Antinori (mobile [801.243.9635](tel:801.243.9635))

Jim Antinori (mobile [801.232.0550](tel:801.232.0550))

Kari Moe-Hoffman (mobile [435.729.9285](tel:435.729.9285))

Gate Care and Codes

Gate codes are on the Garden Reservations document, or call Mary, Kari or Jim. Please wrap the cable lock so that the gate is tight to the fence. This prevents children and small animals from slipping in.

Natural Weed Killer Recipe

Digging up weeds and grass is always preferable. However, if you feel the need to spray...

- 1 gallon white vinegar
- 2 cups Epsom salt (not table salt)
- 1/4 cup Dawn dishwashing detergent

Mix together in a garden sprayer. Apply in the morning of a sunny day. This will kill grass and weeds. Please be careful when spraying- it can also kill crops! This solution is recommended for in the garden pathways only, not for use on or inside the beds. Try to apply when the wind is calm or minimal, to avoid inadvertent spraying into the plots.