

# **Community Garden Information and Policies**

## **Shepherd of the Mountains**

last updated May 2021

Welcome to the 2021 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 contact Mary Antinori or Kari Moe-Hoffman.

### **Garden Stewards**

Mary Antinori (mobile 801.243.9635)

Jim Antinori (mobile 801.232.0550)

Kari Moe-Hoffman (mobile 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 your time by doing general maintenance through the season (especially on the weeds in the pathways).

### **Water Use, Drip Irrigation and Mulch**

An automatic drip irrigation system 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 or Jim Antinori.

The drip system is a water-efficient method of garden irrigation. The drip system goes on every morning for 30 minutes. 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. Remember to turn off the water and release the pressure in the hoses when you are finished.

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, or an inadvertent strike with a shovel or hoe, can easily lead to cracks or breaks, and the need to replace the lines. These things happen, so don't despair, just contact Mary or Jim ASAP so the break or leak can be repaired.

The drip tubes can sometimes become detached from their connectors to the main water lines. If you do notice that one or more tubes has a leak, or becomes detached, please turn off the water to that plot and inform Jim Antinori (each plot has a master valve, look for the green shutoff valve at the top of each

individual plot, and turn the valve so it is perpendicular to the tubing.) Jim will fix the problem ASAP, and open the valve again once it's fixed.

## **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. Let us know if you have any pest problems and we will work with you on organic options.

## **Uintah Ground Squirrels, AKA "Potguts"**

Potguts and mice live in the area. They are impossible to completely eliminate, and they can burrow under the garden fence. Please keep the movable barriers in front of the gate when you leave the garden. Protect your plantings with barriers, (Wall-O-Waters, row cover, cloches, etc.) early in the season, especially in May and June. The potguts become less of a problem in July and August, as your plantings get taller, and the weather gets hotter.

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

## **Weeds and Trash**

It is each gardener's 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 not be put into the garbage dumpster. They can be discarded in the area between the garden fence and the rock wall, or in the area close to the berm.

## **Compost**

Compost bags will be delivered to your plot every spring. It is important that it is used for the health of the soil, whether you use it as mulch or dig it into the top few inches of your bed. Please take empty plastic bags to Recycle Utah for recycling.

## **No Rebar**

For safety reasons, rebar is not allowed for staking or trellising, **UNLESS IT IS COVERED** by PVC pipe or other protective material. For any questions, please contact Jim Antinori.

## **Theft**

Stealing of any kind is not permitted and will result in immediate loss of gardening privileges, as well as forfeiture of any crops remaining and 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 could 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 not 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 plots by June 15 each year. 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 could 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 paid 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.

## **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)
- ¼ cup Dawn dishwashing detergent

Mix together in a garden sprayer. Apply in the morning of a sunny day. This will keep grass and weeds under control. Please be careful when spraying – it can also kill crops! This solution is recommended for 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.