



CEED Centre Organic Community Garden Guidelines

CEED Centre | Beckett Park | Pioneer Park | Brimming

Congratulations on joining a community garden, a space where you can enjoy growing in the company of others. To ensure that the experience is optimal for all, we have a few practical rules.

General

1. Only organic gardening methods are allowed in this garden— no chemically derived pesticides or fertilizers are permitted.
2. The community garden year runs from Jan 1 to Dec 31. Membership and plot fees are due Jan. 1 and expire Dec 31. Fees are non-refundable and non-transferable.
3. Please notify the CEED Centre immediately if you no longer wish or are able to use your plot so that it can be released to someone on the waiting list.
4. You must actively use the plot by April each year or notify the CEED Centre when you plan to start. Otherwise, your plot will be reassigned to another gardener.

Responsibilities and Communication

1. Community gardening is all about working together in harmony. Please be courteous in all interactions, and work to resolve any disagreements.
2. NEVER water or weed another persons' plot—unless specifically requested. Tragically, this is an important rule.
3. You must protect the safety of all in the garden by your actions and behaviors.
4. As a garden member, you are obliged to assist with common area maintenance, around your plot and in display areas. Typically, this means contributing about 10 hours each year.

Plot Use

1. You are responsible for upkeep of the plot year round and in every season. Please arrange for other members to maintain your plot when on vacation, ill or unable to attend.
2. You must maintain your plot so that it does not adversely impact plots around you. Avoid shading other plots and allowing plants to impede the walkways.
3. Although we may supply soil amendments from time to time, you are responsible for maintaining plot fertility with organic materials. Please seek advice if you are uncertain about best practices.
4. Please use the compost bins provided for each site: do not dispose of organic waste in public garbage receptacles.

Staying in Touch

Please contact the CEED Centre at 604-463-2229, community@ceedcentre.com or 11739 223 Street, Maple Ridge, to:

- update your membership and plot fees, or advise of discontinuation of plot use,
- advise of issues you encounter, or ask for gardening advice, share knowledge, or say hello.



Current Best Practices for Community Gardens

1. Keep something growing in your soil at all times to feed the soil microbes with the products of photosynthesis. The microbes in turn feed and protect your plants. Cover crops help when the season does not support food crops, but their use requires some learning.
2. Disturb your soil as little as possible to keep the microbes and small creatures in the right aerobic or anaerobic conditions, and keep from breaking up the delicate fungal hyphae that transport nutrients between plants.
3. Keep the soil covered with organic mulch to reduce weeds, retain water, provide habitat for beneficial organisms, insulate the soil from the sun, regulate soil temperature, prevent frost damage, prevent compaction and improve soil structure. About two inches (5 cm) of straw, wood chips, or compost work well.

Knowledge Areas

We encourage you to learn about regenerative agriculture and the soil food web. Here are some knowledge areas that may be helpful to look up.

1. No-till Farming (no-dig methods to avoid disrupting the soil food web)
2. Permaculture (design principles for backyards or farms)
3. Korean Natural Farming and JADAM organic farming (low-cost organic farming principles/techniques)
4. Soil Food Web (all about the soil microbiome)
5. Square foot gardening (space utilization)
6. Cover Crops (plants to keep photosynthesis going in the off-seasons)
7. Hugelkultur (berms or mounds with woody matter at the base, for water saving +)

Select References

A few of our favorites. Although some are for farming, the techniques are useful for garden-scale growing too.

- Working with Nature: Shifting Paradigms. The Science and Practice of Organic Horticulture. Heide Hermary, Gaia College. 2007 (very technical for why you add organic matter)
- JADAM Organic Farming: Innovative Organic Farming Technology Established In Korea. Youngsang Cho. 2016 (low cost organics)
- The Living Soil Handbook, The No-Till Growers Guide to Ecological Market Gardening. Jesse Frost. 2021. (growing with the least disturbance to the soil)
- Farmer Jesse's No-Till Market Garden Podcast
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCLhu5JoRWPgEGDoUffQHTPQ>
- "Secrets of the Soil Sociobiome" with Dr. Christine Jones, Youtube <https://youtu.be/Xtd2vrXadJ4>
- Soil Food Web School, Dr. Elaine Ingham. <https://www.soilfoodweb.com/>