

Winooski Community Garden Guidelines

Updated March 2008

- Visit your garden often and get to know your fellow gardeners. Find ways to pitch in to help maintain your site. Keep your plot *and* the adjoining pathways well cared for.
- **SAFE, ORGANIC GARDENING ONLY!** Organic gardening involves 3 main principles: 1) Feed the soil by using compost or cover crops to add organic matter and nutrients (Chemical lawn fertilizers such as 5-10-5 are not used in organic gardening). 2) Apply natural mulches (such as hay or straw) to suppress weeds, reduce water loss, and add organic matter to the soil. 3) Use natural, botanical and biological insect controls to avoid harming beneficial organisms and pollinators (Don't use synthetic pesticides, as they can have unwelcome side effects to plants, wildlife, and people). **Miracle-Grow is not organic!** Organic Insect controls include Bt (a bacterium), rotenone, pyrethrum, Neem, copper soaps, and various homemade remedies. Please use caution and read all instructions before applying any pesticide!
- **Please water in the morning or evening**, and apply water at the base of plants where possible to conserve water. Use mulch to reduce evaporation. **HOSES MAY NOT BE LEFT UNATTENDED WHILE IN USE.** As a reminder sprinklers, underground water systems, and unattended watering are not allowed. Please use water wisely.
- Pick up after yourself. Return **CLEAN** tools to the shed after use. Place rolled up hoses back at the spicket to prevent them being kinked or run over with a lawnmower.
- Keep the lawn and paths free of rocks, weeds, and plant debris. Pick up piles of debris so as not to create a hazard for tripping over or the lawnmower. **DO NOT THROW ROCKS OR WEEDS INTO GREENWAYS!**
- Please remember to **take your trash home with you!** Winooski Community Farm and Garden Program is not responsible for disposing of trash or debris at the garden site.
- Practice good composting habits to keep our space free of bad smells and disease
 - no meat, fish, poultry, or dairy products in the pile
 - feed cooked veggie scraps to the worms
 - NEVER place diseased plants or pests into the compost piles.
- Mind the gate. Make sure it is locked if you are the last one out and lock the lock to the chain if you are the first one in.
- Do not drive into the garden unless you have permission.
- No tall varieties of corn, large sunflowers, or pumpkins (these plants just take up too much space and shade other people's plots). If you grow vining plants, you are responsible to keep them within the boundaries of your plot.
- All normal park rules apply to the community garden, including hours, noise regulations, parking, etc. Go to the bathroom in the pool house or across the street in the storage building.

There guidelines are intended for the health and safety of all. If you have any questions, suggestions, or are experiencing a problem, please contact your site coordinator or Erin at 655.6410 x 31 or ebuckwalter@gmail.com Thanks for your help and have a great season gardening.