



Plot Maintenance Policy

All BACG Gardens Are Organic

- ◆ Every gardener is expected to follow organic practices.
- ◆ No Genetically Modified Seeds (GMO) may be used.
- ◆ Only organic fertilizers and pest control products may be used. For a complete guide to organic materials, please refer to the Organic Materials Review Institute listings at <http://www.omri.org/omri-lists>

Abandoned Plot Process

A plot may be deemed “abandoned” if no work has been done in a plot by the date in which the site leader sets at the beginning of the season.

Abandoned Plot definitions (any of the following):

- ◆ No signs of planting.
- ◆ No signs of garden maintenance.
- ◆ Weeds have gone to seed.
- ◆ Gardener has not responded to inquiries from the site leader.
- ◆ Harvest rotting on the vine.

Once this date passes the following process will be set in motion:

- ◆ Site leader will follow up with gardener by phone or email.
- ◆ If the garden plot is overgrown one month after the plant by date, the site is considered abandoned. The site leader will notify the Parks & Recreation Department for follow up.
- ◆ Abandoned plots will be re-assigned by the Parks & Recreation Department and they will make the decision on the gardeners’ status.

Maintenance

Gardeners are expected to keep their gardens in reasonable condition and be respectful of other gardeners by:

- ◆ Planning the garden to allow ample room for growth. Plants that spread should not be planted too close to plot borders so that they do not stray from assigned plot.
- ◆ Keeping vines and stray plants out of neighboring plots, pathways and mowing areas.
- ◆ Planting tall plants so that they do not shade neighbors' plants.
- ◆ Visiting the garden at least once a week.
- ◆ Being a good neighbor and getting to know fellow gardeners.
- ◆ Notifying the site leader if help is needed or if gardeners will be away due to vacations or illness.
- ◆ Weeds should never be allowed to go to seed because they compete with other plants and quickly become invasive, affecting neighbors' plots.
- ◆ "Reasonably maintained" means weeds are under control (they can be distinguished from plants), and plants are regularly watered and tended.
- ◆ Crops must be harvested once they mature. Harvesting crops on a regular basis helps to deter theft. Keeping plot free of over ripe, spoiling vegetables minimizes pests and disease.
- ◆ Large woody plants and all others that have reached the end of productive life must be removed or mulched to prevent the spread of disease.

Compost Pile

- ◆ Only plant material may be placed in the compost area.
- ◆ No diseased plants (bag diseased plants and dispose in home trash).
- ◆ Soil should be knocked off roots of plant material prior to placement in the compost pile.
- ◆ Do not place rocks or stones in the compost pile.
- ◆ No home or off site materials in site compost (unless otherwise indicated by your site leader).

Tilled Plot Fall Clean Up

- ◆ Gardeners are responsible for cleaning out their plots at the end of the season.
- ◆ Plots must be cleared of all non-plant materials (i.e. stakes, fencing, plant cages, burlap, twine, etc.) and ready for mowing and tilling.
- ◆ Weeds should be at a minimum.

No Till Plot Fall Clean Up

- ◆ Gardeners are responsible for cleaning their plots at the end of the season.
- ◆ Plot should be cleared of all plants that are no longer producing or will not be overwintering by the date indicated by the site leader.
- ◆ Failure to clean up plot properly may result in suspension of gardening privileges for the next garden season.
- ◆ Weeds should be at a minimum.
- ◆ Plot must be neat and free of debris and trash.