



Valley Natural Foods, 13750 County Road 11, Burnsville, Minnesota 55337
952-831-1212

2011 Co-op Community Gardens

Conditions for Participation

If accepted as a gardener, I will abide by the following rules, terms, and conditions:

- 1.) I use this garden at the sole discretion of Co-op Community Gardens I agree to abide by its policies and practices.
- 2.) The fee for the use of a key-hole garden is **\$18.00** per plot, per year (January 1 – December 31), due on or before (January 1). If you are interested in a field crop plot the fee will be **\$5.00** per plot.
Non-member fees are **\$22.00** for a key-hole garden and **\$7.00** per field crop plot.
There are no refunds.
- 3.) Once I have been assigned a plot, I will cultivate and plant it within two weeks. My plot cannot be left fallow or unused for any period of three weeks or longer.
- 4.) My key-hole garden is 8 feet in diameter. I will not expand my plot beyond this measurement or into paths or other plots. I will keep all my plants within the limits of my garden plot and will not allow any plants to grow more than eight feet high. I must keep my plot free of weeds, pests and diseases.
- 5.) I will keep my plot, paths, and surrounding areas clean and neat. I will completely separate my trash into three groups: 1) dead plants, leaves, and other green waste plant parts; 2) rocks, stones, and asphalt; and 3) paper, plastic, cardboard, wood, metal, etc. I will put each type of trash only in the areas designated specifically for each. Anything I bring from my home I will take back home. I will not bring household trash and leave it at the Co-op Community Gardens.
- 6.) I will have no more than two plots in the Co-op Community Gardens. If I adopt an abandoned plot during the season, I will be happy to relinquish it the following year.
- 7.) I will not plant any illegal plant. I will not smoke, drink alcoholic beverages, use illegal drugs, or gamble in the garden. I will not come to the garden while under the influence of alcohol or illegal drugs. I will not bring weapons or pets or other animals to the garden.
- 8.) Guests and visitors, including children, may enter the garden only if I accompany them. They must follow all rules, terms, and conditions stated here. I will supervise my children at all times when they are in the garden. I am solely responsible for the behavior of my guests.
- 9.) The garden coordinator/committee will assign me general garden maintenance tasks each month, and I must complete them by the end of the month that I am assigned them.
- 10.) I will water my plot according to water-wise guidelines.
- 11.) I will attend the regular (bi-monthly) garden club meetings. If workshops are offered, I will attend at least one on each of the following topics: soil preparation and maintenance, watering the vegetable garden, and pest and disease control.
- 12.) I will not apply any pesticides in the garden.
- 13.) I will not make duplicate keys of any locks at the garden or give my key or lock combination to another person.

- 14.) I will not take food or plants from other gardeners' plots. I will not take anything from the garden that is not rightfully mine.
- 15.) I will respect other gardeners, and I will not use abusive or profane language or discriminate against others.
- 16.) I will work to keep the garden a happy, secure, and enjoyable place where all participants can garden and socialize peacefully in a neighborly manner.
- 17.) I forfeit my right to sue the owner of the property.

Additional growing spaces, such as the triangular shapes outside the key-hole spaces can be adopted by individual gardeners. ID flags will be provided by the Co-op Community Garden. An expectation is that your neighboring gardeners would consult about plantings and work cooperatively on these spaces. Some field plots will be used for teaching garden spaces, and some will be open to the community of gardeners as a communal growing space.

Harvesting of garden produce is an outcome and time of celebration for our gardening efforts. Valley Natural Foods would like to insure that none of our efforts or produce goes to waste. Therefore it is up to the grower to pick the produce from their plots in a timely manner. Gardeners should contact the Community Relations Developer at Valley Natural Foods if you would like others to pick ripe produce for donation.

Please indicate your choice here:

I allow volunteers to pick ripe produce from my garden plot(s)
on Wednesday of each week (y)____(n)_____.

I am growing vegetables only for the purpose of donation (y)____(n)_____.

I am growing vegetables for my use, but may at times offer produce to other gardeners and for donation (y)____(n)_____.

The Community Relations Developer of Valley Natural Foods is the highest governing authority at the Down In the Valley Community Gardens.

Breaking any rules, terms, and conditions is cause for exclusion from the garden and loss of your plot.

- 1.) You will receive one verbal warning from the garden coordinator/committee.
- 2.) If no response or correction has been made, you will receive written notice two weeks later.
- 3.) In another two weeks, if no response or correction has been made, you will receive written final notification that you have forfeited your gardening privileges and plot.
- 4.) You will be allowed to reapply for another garden plot only after one year, and only at the discretion of the garden coordinator/committee.

Commitment

I have read and understand the application and accept these rules, terms, and conditions as stated for participation in the Co-op Valley Community Gardens.

Signed: _____ Date: _____
Gardener

Approved: _____ Date: _____
Garden Coordinator/Committee Member