

# Turlock Community Gardens

## Garden Rules

We at Turlock Community Gardens desire this shared communal space to serve as a hub of diversity that fosters sustainable gardening practices and enhanced community relationships. In order to make this a safe and welcoming place for all people, gardeners must adhere to the following regulations:

### A. Plot Rental and Renewal

**Rental:** Turlock Community Gardens (TCG) has plots available for any community member to lease. All gardeners are required to complete a Gardener's agreement form and pay an annual fee of \$120. Plot rentals are renewed annually on January 1. If a new member joins outside of this window the cost of the plot will be based on the number of weeks remaining in the year. One plot is allowed per individual, family, or group. No gardening by proxy. While sponsorships for individual garden plots are allowed, plots are to be worked by the person/persons named in the contract.

If you decide to give up or not renew your plot, clear the plot of all plants and materials, especially weeds, by the day your rental period ends. If you do not clear your plot, a cleanup fee may be charged.

### B. Garden Access

**Garden hours:** The garden is open year-round, each day from dawn to dusk.

**Keys and Security:** Each gardener will be provided the code to access the garden tools in the shed/storage cabinet. Gardeners are responsible for locking up after themselves.

### C. Garden Plots

**Use of own plot:** Gardeners are solely responsible for the planting and maintenance of their plots and keeping the pathways around them clear of plants, produce, and trash. Planting must be confined to individual plots.

**Structures:** No borders over 2 feet high are allowed around the individual garden plots. Gardeners should not maintain plant supporting structures that are over 5' high in order to maintain the security of the garden and other gardeners' access to sunlight.

**Water:** All plots have a drip irrigation system, controlled automatically by timer to ensure adequate, equitable, and frugal use of water. The Board of Directors controls the system, sets the timer, and pays the water bill. There are also five spigots with hoses in the garden. Please, be careful not to drag hoses across other garden plots, and always wind up the hose when you're finished. Be mindful of water use and do not overwater; especially avoid flooding pathways as that just waters weeds. Do not leave a hose running unattended. Any hose that comes to the garden is considered property of the garden and may be used by other gardens.

**Drip irrigation:** The drip irrigation system equipment will be provided by the Board of Directors. However, gardeners will be responsible for the cost of repair and replacement if parts disappear or are damaged from their plot.

**Organic methods:** For pest control, first try to hand remove or wash insects off plants. Only organic pesticides or herbicides are allowed. Be very careful with any spray application and don't let any of it drift onto neighboring gardens. Also keep in mind that even organic products can be toxic to beneficial insects such as bees. Always check with other gardeners or the garden committee if you need help or resources.

**Plantings:** Only legal vegetables, fruits, herbs and flowers may be grown in the garden. Do not plant trees or other hard-to-remove plants. No marijuana, poppies, or other drugs (or other regulated agricultural products) may be planted. In addition, no plants that have a high likelihood of causing a severe allergic reaction (peanuts, etc.) are allowed.

**Compost:** Gardeners may place any organic waste such as weeds, dead plants, or rotten produce in the compost pile. See the composting information sheet or a member of the Board of Directors for more composting information and resources. No meat or trash is allowed in the compost piles.

**Tools:** Gardeners may bring their own tools into the garden to use in their plots, but Turlock Community Garden is not responsible for the loss of these tools. Gardeners are responsible for any damage or injury caused by tools they use.

**Personal property:** If gardeners leave personal property on their plots after the termination of their participation in the garden, it becomes property of Turlock Community Gardens.

**Abandoned plots:** If a garden plot has been unused or overgrown with weeds for more than two months, the Board of Directors or garden membership coordinator may, at its discretion void the gardener's rental agreement and reassign the plot to a new gardener. See "G. Eviction" for warning and timeline information.

#### D. Common Areas and Responsibilities

**Common Tools:** Gardeners may use common tools provided by the garden, but must return them to their storage place in the same condition they were taken. The garden is not responsible for injury from common garden tools.

**Maintenance and trash:** Gardeners will keep clean and neat any common areas, such as pathways and storage sheds. Trash and recyclables should be put in the appropriate places whenever encountered. If there is vandalism, storm damage, or other damage to the garden, all gardeners are expected to help in cleaning up and restoring the garden to its prior condition, but TCG will bear the cost of the repairs.

**Pets:** Pets are prohibited in the garden. Service animals are welcome.

**Garden Work Days:** All gardeners are encouraged to participate in four Garden Work Days per year, where they contribute to cleaning and maintaining the garden. TCG will organize these sessions.

**Church events:** On rare occasions, Cornerstone Covenant Church may have events that will temporarily block access to the garden for no more than 12 hours. Notices will be posted (or via email) to alert gardeners prior to these events.

#### E. Gardener Conduct

##### **DO NOT PICK IN OTHER SPACES WITHOUT PERMISSION.**

**Smoking, alcohol, chewing tobacco and drug use are not allowed in the garden.**

**Good neighbor policy:** Gardeners are expected to be good neighbors to the surrounding community. Please avoid playing music or using inappropriate language while working in the garden.

**Extra produce:** Selling produce grown at the garden is prohibited. Please share extra produce. The board will communicate sharing opportunities.

**Hate speech** is not allowed in the garden or any flags or symbols of hate groups as defined by the Southern Poverty Law Center <https://www.splcenter.org/hate-map>

#### F. Communication

**Garden Management:** The garden is managed by a Board of Directors, which will maintain communication with gardeners. Board members will not use any personal information from any gardener application for any use other than the garden.

**Decision Making:** Gardeners are encouraged to give input into the running of the garden; however, final decision-making responsibility lies with the Garden Board of Directors.

**Dispute resolution:** Gardeners will go to the Board of Directors with any disputes about the garden or with fellow gardeners. Board members have the power to hear these disputes and will resolve them in the best interest of the garden.

## G. Eviction

**Eviction process:** If a gardener violates any of the rules above, including their plot being apparently abandoned for two months or more, or violates any terms of their rental agreement, the gardener will be informed of the violation by email, phone call, or in person.. The gardener will have two weeks to correct the violation before a second warning is given. If the violation is not corrected within two weeks of the second warning, the TCG board or membership coordinator may, at its discretion, terminate the gardener's rental agreement and reassign the plot to a new gardener. After termination, the gardener will have two weeks to harvest and clean up the plot.

**Immediate eviction:** Gardeners may lose their rights to participate in the garden immediately if they in any way threaten or endanger other gardeners, TCG, the landowner, neighbors, or any other individual; grow illegal plants or use illegal drugs in the garden; steal from the garden, other gardeners, or the landowners; or commit any crime on the property. The Board of Directors or garden membership coordinator may immediately terminate a gardener's right to participate in the garden for other reasons at its discretion. If that occurs, the gardener must leave the garden by the end of garden hours on the termination day and may not re-enter without TCG's or its membership coordinator's permission.

**Eviction by landowner:** If the Board of Directors has failed to uphold the garden rules, the landowner may also give notice of violation to a gardener, and evict a gardener either immediately or give two weeks' notice, as described in the above guidelines.