

AGRITOPIA FARM COMMUNITY GARDEN RULES

Ensuring an enjoyable organic gardening experience for all the Agritopia® Farm Community Gardeners, while upholding the shared vision of the Community Garden, is the primary goal of the following rules.

1. Garden plots are leased for one year. Each gardener must begin actively gardening with season-appropriate crop(s) in their plot within 3 weeks of signing their lease.
2. Gardeners are expected to actively garden their plots, as well as keep the surrounding areas/pathways clean and free of weeds at all times. This is truly a community of gardeners, and the quality of the garden as a whole depends on each gardener's active role. Therefore, it is expected that you visit your plot a minimum of once per week. For the success of a thriving garden, it is strongly suggested that tending to your garden 3 times a week is optimal. Plots showing neglect will receive a warning that a clean-up action must be taken within 10 days. If no action is taken, a second notice will be emailed. If after the second notice the subsequent issues are not resolved, your plot will be considered forfeited and there will be no reimbursement of any fees.
3. Gardeners are expected to participate in other community shared duties such as but not limited to:
 - a. Weeding common areas surrounding assigned plot
 - b. Participate in community stewardship of Date Palms
 - c. Participate in keeping garden free from trash.
 - d. Taking out trash from common bin areas if it needs to be done.
 - e. Participate in keeping the common sink area clean and free from debris and empty buckets.
 - f. Participate in keeping wheelbarrows clean and free of debris.
4. Gardeners are required to participate in two annual meetings each year. These meetings will occur the second Saturday in September and the second Saturday in March.
5. The garden is meant to be community ran, therefore any ideas and plans for events and activities benefiting the garden (for example, "weeding socials") are encouraged and will need to be community led. If there are any special approval of financial requests needed, they can be addressed to the Farm Director.

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6. The garden is intended to be a family-friendly area, so please do not bring anything into the garden that would compromise the safety of health of the gardens or gardeners. Please do not smoke in the garden. Do not bring pets into gardens or common areas. Please closely supervise your children, making sure they don't touch timers or irrigation.
7. DO NOT feed the chickens unless you are a member of the Chicktopia group.
8. Be respectful of your neighbor's garden; please keep your plants from encroaching on other plots. Do not take produce from another's garden.
9. Gardeners are responsible for their own seeds and amendments to the soil. Gardeners are not permitted to use any synthetic fertilizers, herbicides or other inorganic produces in the plots. Only OMRI approved amendments (see www.omri.org) should be used. Any wood chips or bedding used in the garden should be natural and free from any treatments or color stains.
10. Each garden plot has its own water hose bib, and all gardeners are responsible for the watering of their own garden. Please do not waste water or use excessive amounts in your garden plot. Monitor your irrigation system for leaks. Gardeners shall not turn off another gardener's water supply or irrigation controller. If you see a leak, please attempt to directly contact that gardener by phone, text, email or Facebook and ALSO send an email to communitygarden@agritopiafarm.com .
11. Please note that your plot uses water from an irrigation well shared by Agritopia® Farm and the Agritopia® neighbor at large for the landscape irrigation. From time to time based on water usage in the neighborhood and the time of year, your garden water pressure may drop significantly. Likewise, the irrigation system can shut down for repairs. We do our best to notify gardeners when such events occur.
12. The tools in the storage shed are for community use and must be put back in the shed in a clean and organized fashion after use. You must lock the shed if you are the last one in the garden.
13. The sinks are for community use, but it is strongly suggested that you do a quick preliminary cleanup of your produce with the hose in your own plot. If you must use the sinks, please use minimal water and then empty the "catch bucket" below the sink into your own plot or a nearby tree. Sinks and buckets must be left clean and free of mud. **THE WATER SOURCE FOR THE COMMUNITY GARDEN IS NON-POTABLE WATER AND IS NOT INTENDED FOR CONSUMPTION.**

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14. The community garden has a designated area for discarded plants in the Farm's dumpster, located to the west of the garden. Please deposit your plant material in the designated dumpster and DO NOT put it in the trash cans or leave it in the wheelbarrows. The designated area is only for discarded plant material.
15. There are trash cans to the west of the storage shed that are to be used for SMALL trash items (not plant material, discarded irrigation supplies, tomato cages, stakes etc.) You must haul out your own large trash/recycling and not leave them in the garden. If there are items that you would like to discard but could be useful to another gardener, please leave them in your plot and notify the other community gardeners. It is the responsibility of the community gardeners to empty the trash cans when they are full. You can dispose of the trash cans in the dumpster.
16. Markers that indicate your name and plot number are permanent and should not be removed. You may add your own distinctive garden-appropriate signage. Please refrain from attaching structures to or mounding dirt against the wooden plot borders. If you are desirous of adding any structures (i.e. trellis, shad structure, pergola etc.) and or trees to your plot, you will need to first get approval from The Johnston Family Foundation for Urban Agriculture. Please email communitygarden@agritopiafarm.com with a sketch of any design and materials information for consideration.
17. Do not drive your vehicle or golf cart into the garden area. Parking is available in the spaces around the restaurants or in the overflow area by Joe's Farm Grill.
18. If a dispute should occur with another gardener, attempts should be made to handle it privately.
19. For your safety, we highly recommend that your tetanus shot is up to date. Please bring plenty of your own drinking water, as the water source for the garden is safe for plants but is "untreated".
20. Your plot is delivered to you as is. If you are taking over a plot that has elements that you no longer desire, you assume to remove items and dispose of them as indicated above.
21. The option to renew your lease will be evaluated yearly and is based on your demonstrated ability to maintain your garden and perform your community tasks. Only gardeners meeting the criteria stated in these Rules will be eligible to renew.
22. The Johnston Family Foundation for Urban Agriculture reserves the right to update these rules as it deems appropriate to maintain the community garden to uphold the pillars of Agritopia® Farm.

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