

***2021 GUIDELINES***

*Welcome to the CHC Garden initiative.*

*We aim to build wholesome relationships with each other, to learn from one another, and, as we respect our environment, to enjoy the challenge of growing organic food to eat and share.*

**Please familiarize yourself with the following guidelines and follow them.**

1.Plots can be rented from the church: $30/year for a 4’ x 12’ sized bed, $40/year for a 4’ x 16’ sized bed. This can be payable by cash or cheque to the garden administrator by **April 1**.

2. To rent a plot, contact Nancy, the garden administrator, via email (garden@centralheights.ca) and you will be placed on a waiting list. Gardeners from previous years will be given first preference and will be required to keep their same plot. The number of plots per gardener will be limited according to demand. \*YOU MAY NOT SUBLET YOUR GARDEN SPACE TO ANYONE ELSE.\*

3. If you decide not to renew your plot rental from the previous year, please contact the garden administrator so that it may be reassigned to someone else on the waiting list. If there is no activity on your plot by May 15, it will be reassigned. ***There are no refunds on plot fees***.

4. The committee has the duty of enforcing guidelines and resolving conflicts, including the power to refuse a plot to a gardener or dismissing a current gardener. Unresolved issues between gardeners will be referred to the garden committee.

5. Each gardener is responsible for maintaining and weeding their own plot. Keep the general garden area neat and tidy, picking up debris on the grounds and properly disposing as needed.

6. Petroleum-based pesticides (insecticides) and herbicides (weed-killers) or ANY chemicals or synthetic fertilizers are **strictly prohibited** in any part of the CHC Garden. It is our goal to keep the gardens as **ORGANIC** as possible. We provide a good quality composted soil, so no outside soil or soil additives are to be brought in.

7. Do not remove any of the soil from your garden bed for your own personal use at home. If there is a surplus of soil at the end of our annual spring workday, please see garden administrator to purchase some.

8. Maintain a safe and healthy environment at the garden for all who come, including other gardeners, children and pets. No smoking permitted at any time on the garden site.

9. Teach young children to respect other garden plots and to be conservative in the use of water.

10. It is suggested that you visit your plot at least once a week. If you are unable to tend to your own plot due to illness or vacation, please ask someone else to do this in your stead. If there is no activity after 30 days, your plot may be cleared out by the administrator.

11. Only clean garden debris from your plots is permitted in the compost bins \*NO weeds, NO potatoes, NO garden debris with aphids, NO outside debris from your home, NO flowers.\*

12. If your plot if overgrown with weeds, you will receive a warning by phone or email. After 14 days with no action, your plot may be cleaned out by the garden administrator and reassigned.

13. Weeds/larger debris are to be discarded in the grassed area under the fir trees along the fence, west of the site. No weeds in compost bins!!

14. Keep vines out of neighbour’s plots; keep walkways between the garden beds clear to allow lawns to be mowed.

15. Do not harvest from or pull weeds from another gardener’s plot.

16. Garden or lawn ornaments are prohibited. Contact garden administrator if there are issues with moles. Decorative rocks are permissible.

17. Report any vandalism, theft, or other concerns to the garden administrator as they arise. ***KEEP LOCK CODE PRIVATE***!

18. **A total of 5 volunteer hours in the community garden is required by each gardener per year**. This allows for smoother operation of the initiative and creates a feeling of ownership and commitment amongst the gardening partners. *If a gardener does not fill this obligation, they will be dismissed (see #4) and your plot will be reassigned to someone else.*

19. Pets are allowed **only on hand-held leash** in the garden area and if children are not frightened. Clean up animal waste before leaving site.

20. Water is available on site. Avoid watering during mid-day during peak heat days. Early mornings and evenings are better.

21. At the end of the growing season, clear your plot of *annual* plants no later than November 15. If you plan to keep your garden plot for the following year, you are welcome to plant fall or winter crops.

22. Garden plots are solely intended for the purpose of growing organic vegetables/fruits. Flowers are not permitted, except for food purposes. You may rent a separately designated spot for growing flowers.

23. The CHC Garden is for personal use only; do not sell produce. If you have a surplus of produce, please consider donating or sharing.

***If you have read and understood these guidelines, please sign and return to the garden administrator.***

*I, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_* (please print name)*, have read and understood the guidelines pertaining to the use of the Central Heights Garden and agree to adhere to organic gardening methods; plot number \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ .*

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