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CFCG 2023 Contacts

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Our website
<http://www.cfcg.ca/>

Contact Neighbourhood Reps
nrep@cfcg.ca

Waitlist - closed at present

Emergency Number to Call for Water Line Break in the gardens: TBA

Provincial Conservation Officer Services
To report a wildlife threat to public safety call 1-877-952-7277

Plot Renewal in 2024

Members have the opportunity to renew their plots from year to year, provided the plots have been maintained the previous season. **The deadline for membership and plot renewal with payment of fees is January 31, 2024.** After Jan.31 renewals are subject to a \$25 late fee.

Memberships must be renewed and fees received by March 1st. After March 1, plots that have not been renewed are reassigned according to the waiting list

2024 Annual Fees

Fees cover operating expenses of the gardens.

- Annual membership fees are \$12.00
- Associate members: \$6
- Plot fees are \$17.00 for each garden plot
- In-kind work: a *minimum* of 4 hours of work party or alternative work (admin or committee work).

Incomplete Work-in-Kind

Gardeners who do less than 4 hours of work party (or committee work) in a season will pay cash-in-lieu of work of \$50, to be added to their annual membership fees at the next renewal. They will also be ineligible to add a plot the following spring.

Work Parties

There are 10 scheduled work parties throughout the year. Members may attend one or more work parties for 1 to 4 hours to fulfill the minimum 4-hour work party requirement.

- Bring gloves, hand tools and water to work parties. Dress for the weather.
- Dogs, as well as children who are too young to participate, do not belong at work parties.

Member Responsibilities

- We are subject to all Federal, Provincial, and City By-laws as well as Metro Vancouver Park By-Laws and these Guidelines and the **CFCG Code of Conduct**
- Notify admin@cfcg.ca if your contact information changes.

- Work your plots by May 1st. At a minimum, weeds and cover crops must be cut down and edges trimmed.
- Maintain your plots and provide weed control throughout the growing season.
- Every gardener must have a compost plan. Compost all organic waste (except seed heads, diseased or invasive plants) on your plot.
- Arrange for someone to look after your plot(s) if you are away from the garden. Notify your neighbourhood rep or admin@cfcg.ca so we know the plot has not been abandoned.

How to Add a Plot

Apply to the Waitlist (Currently Closed)

<http://www.cfcg.ca/about-us/how-to-join/>

State if you wish a specific (or adjacent) plot, or a plot anywhere. Plots are assigned based on the date of application. However, if a specific plot you requested is available, it will be considered first *as long as a person higher on the list is not prevented from attaining a plot*. Plots “belong” to the gardens, not the gardener. Plots may not be traded or reassigned except by the CFCG Board.

Member Services

Manure is purchased by the Board and sold to recover costs. Members can buy tickets at membership renewal, at meetings and work parties, and from some Board members in the garden. **The 2023 rate is \$7/wheelbarrow.**

Tool Sheds and Tools

The tool sheds should be kept **locked at all times**. Please treat the community tools as if they were your own. Use tools in a safe manner, and clean them before returning them to the shed. Community tools are to be used at the garden, and returned at the end of each day. Please **leave a note if a tool is broken**.

Your Garden Plot

Environment

- We are an organic garden. Herbicides, pesticides or chemical fertilizers cannot be applied anywhere unless they meet organic standards. If in doubt about any product, contact a member of the Board.

Bear Safety

- No bird-feeders, including humming-bird feeders, are permitted at Colony Farm
- No fresh kitchen scraps for composting
- Remove all food-related garbage promptly (e.g. food packaging, left-over lunch)
- **Pick all ripe fruits and veggies promptly, especially berries – do not attract bears!**
- Blow 3 times on your emergency whistle to signal to others that you see a bear.

Planting

- Plots are for cultivation. At least 75% of garden beds should be planted.
- Do not plant anything outside the borders of your plot. Planting in common areas must be pre-approved by the Board.

Metro Vancouver forbids the planting of **any plants in the Genus Cannabis** including marijuana and hemp.

Invasive species are not permitted:

- *English Ivy (*Hedera helix*) and varieties
- ***Himalayan and evergreen Blackberry (*Rubus discolor*, *Rubus laciniatus*). (Thornless blackberries are allowed.)
- ***Lamium (*Lamium galeobdolon*)
- *Policeman's Helmet (*Impatiens glandulifera*)
- *Purple Loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*)
- ***Morning glory (*Convolvulus sepium*)
- **Goutweed (*Aegopodium podagraria*)
- ***Yellow flag Iris (*Iris pseudocarpus*)
- *Periwinkle: Vinca (*Vinca major*, *Vinca minor*)
- Cherry Laurel (*Prunus laurocerasus*)
- ***Comfrey (*Symphytum officinale*)
- **Yellow archangel (*Lamium galeobdolon*)
- Hops (*Humulus spp*)

Mint and Horseradish are also invasive and **must** be planted in containers.

Trees are not permitted in garden plots.

Plot Maintenance

- Keep your plot weeded. Prevent plants from growing beyond your borders.
- **Neighbourhood pathways must be kept clear of woodchips, rocks, wire, garbage, and tools.**

Waste Management on Plots

All non-plant material such as plastic or metals (i.e. garbage) must be removed and disposed of **in your home garbage** (not in a compost bin or Metro Vancouver garbage container).

All organic matter on your plot must be buried, composted, or chopped and used as a mulch. Weeds can be buried or composted on your plot.

Bag and remove: blighted tomato and potato plants, plants with club root, morning glory, horseradish, comfrey, other invasive plants, and weeds with mature seed heads.

Dumping of any type of waste material including plant material violates our agreement with Metro Vancouver and can result in a loss of your plot.

Maintain your plot throughout the year. Harvest your produce as it ripens. If you are unable to harvest your crop, please email foodbank@cfcg.ca for help. Begin plot cleanup as you harvest, and have your plot ready for winter by November 1. (Winter crops such as kale, Brussels sprouts, leeks, etc., can be left to mature.)

The consequences of not maintaining your plot are outlined in the section on [Guideline Enforcement](#), p. 5.

Water

We are connected to City of Coquitlam water system. We pay for our water. Automatic sprinklers and drip hoses (unless connected to your water barrel) are not permitted. Do not alter taps or hoses. Report leaking hoses to hoses@cfcg.ca Share the hoses!

Mulches are a Good Organic Practice

Retain soil moisture! Boost fertility. Acceptable materials for mulching are grass clippings, straw, leaves, peat moss, manure,

corn stalks, fir bark and sawdust. Cardboard and newsprint are acceptable provided they are anchored. **Do not** use cedar bark mulch, black plastic, hay or gravel.

Pathways in your plot

Acceptable materials for covering pathways are landscape fabric (non-plastic), sawdust and woodchips (not cedar), leaves, bark mulch (not cedar), straw, concrete blocks, stepping-stones.

Structures and Plantings

Structures include pole bean and pea supports, trellises, arbors, plant/row covers, cold frames, fences, water barrels and raised bed borders. Cedar can be used for building. **Gardeners will be required to remove noncompliant plants and structures!**

Guiding Principles

- Locate structures and tall plants (over 1 meter) to minimize shading a neighbour's plot.
- Maintain your structures and plantings without stepping in a neighbour's plot.
- Structures must be sturdy and safe. **Avoid** sharp edges, protruding edges and wire. Glass is not permitted.
- Structures must be monitored year-round and kept in good repair. We recommend removing plastic covers for winter.
- All structures and plantings in common areas must be pre-approved by the board.

Restrictions

- Black plastic or plastic tarps.
- Loose fitting and "invisible" netting (hazard for birds).
- Folding camp chairs are acceptable.
- Rubber tires are not permitted. (aesthetics)
- **No treated lumber!**

Storage of Construction Material

- ✎ Materials can be left over winter on plot, bundled neatly.
- ✎ Materials cannot be stored in public pathways or common areas.

Structures

Cold Frames

- ✎ Maximum height 1 meter (39 inches).
- ✎ Maximum coverage 5 square meters (48 square feet) per plot No glass, and no treated wood.

Submit any proposed deviations to the Board for approval prior to construction

Plant or Row Covers; Greenhouses

- Maximum height 2.3 meters (7 feet).
- Maximum area: 5 square meters (48 square feet) per plot, at least 60 cm (2 feet) from N, W or E plot line with a neighbor. *Plots must be adjacent to combine greenhouse areas.*
- Must be structurally sound and anchored within plot border.
- Clear plastic covers must be of a durable thickness (5 mil). Winter removal is recommended. Fabric row covers must be thoroughly secured.
- Row covers must be kept in good repair.

Submit any proposed deviations to the Board for approval prior to construction.

Pole Bean and Pea Supports

- No limit per plot for temporary seasonal supports, but must not exceed 2.3 m (7 feet) high. Do not use "invisible" netting - it traps birds.

Berries/Grapes/Plants over 1 m

- Must be planted a minimum 2' from the north, east and west border with a neighbour.
- Must be trellised and confined so that they don't grow into the pathway or neighbour's plots.
- **Must** be harvested when ripe. **Do not attract bears!**

Trellises/Arbors

- Must be sturdily constructed and safely anchored.
- Maximum height 2.3 meters/7 feet (from ground level to highest point).

- **No treated lumber.**

Compost Boxes and Bins

- Must be securely anchored.
- Plastic allowed. **No treated lumber.**
- Must be located on Gardener's plot.

Water Barrels

- Maximum base height 10 cm (4 inches).
- Maximum 180-liter (45 gallon) container.
- Must be stable and securely covered, e.g., fitted screening (safety factor) and lid during mosquito season.
- Must be on a Gardener's plot.

Fences

- **Baseboards securing fence wire along the bottom of the fence are required along pathways.** Avoid wire hoop fencing along pathways.
- Non-injurious materials permitting movement of light and air are required. **No treated lumber.**
- Maximum height: 42 inches (105 cm).
- No chain link fencing (too permanent).

Personal Benches or Tool Boxes

- Benches and tool boxes require Board approval prior to installation.

Community areas have been set aside to accommodate picnic tables & benches.

Plots are for cultivation.

Disposal of Materials

- Gardeners are responsible for disposal of all unwanted materials.
- No materials are to be disposed of in the common areas, or adjacent to the community garden, or in the Metro Vancouver garbage container.
- Once each year (usually in April), there will be a disposal bin for rotting lumber.
- **Dumping of unwanted materials is a violation of our licensing Agreement with Metro Vancouver Parks and cannot be tolerated. Each instance will be referred to the Code of Conduct Committee**

Guideline Enforcement

Every effort will be made to help gardeners understand and follow the guidelines. If the guidelines are not followed your plots may be revoked. *If you attract bears, you may be required to make changes to your plot.*

Use of pesticides, fungicides and herbicides not approved for organic gardening could result in immediate loss of plots.

Guideline infractions will be handled as follows:

- 1) The gardener receives a phone call or email outlining the concern, the steps to be taken, and a timeline for remediation.
- 2) An extension may be requested. **You have 1 week to call or email to request an extension.**

If you fail to address the concern within the timeline (usually 2-3 weeks) the board may revoke your plot(s).

Situations that could result in a loss of plots:

- Plots not worked by May 1st
- Failure to remove and control invasive plants
- Repeated bear visits to your plot resulting from failure to practice bear safety measures (see p.3)
- Plots neglected and with spreading weeds (3 notices)
- Dumping of any kind of waste material, including plant material, inside or outside the Community Gardens
- Use of herbicides, insecticides and fungicides, and all fertilizers not approved for organic gardening.

See the CFCG Code of Conduct and Processes link for details regarding misconduct. These processes will be piloted in 2023, documented and reassessed at the November Members' Meeting.

"A community in the garden, a garden in the community."