

Your Community Garden Guide

With your plot comes a stewardship to the whole garden, which means we all must take care of the surrounding lands to our plots, as well as be good stewards to the plots we are assigned.

Your Garden Plot

Most important in tending to our garden plots is that we see the future in the soil. Whatever you put in, take out, care for must reflect the longevity we all aspire for in the space of the community garden. If a plot is left weedy with many seeds falling to the ground increasing the weed load for the next growing season, you will lose priority for a plot the following season.

When you are amending your soil with compost, nutrients, mulches, think of what these substances will be doing in the years to come. The goal is to use substances that add to the nutrients in the soil, not deplete it. Some examples are:

- Hay is not recommended as a mulch as it tends to be full of weed seeds- use straw instead,
- bark mulch can be too acidic to break down and draw on an nitrogen in the soil
- well rotted manure and compost builds soils structure and fertility increasing the potential nutrients in the food that will be grown there in future seasons
- Please review the permitted materials list if you unsure of whether a substance is allowable.

Plant as many flowers as you would like, the world and or own ecosystem is losing our valued bees. Flowers especially sunflowers, marigolds, calendula, hyssop and various herbs all attract and provide food for bees.

Make sure you have signed your waiver form for insurance purposes.

Daily Check List

As a member with a garden plot, you are part of the stewardship team that is also making sure no one get hurt in the garden. We have set up a daily check list that is too signed at the end of each day. Please check in with the plot manager about what day of the week would work best for you to be able to come to the garden and check that the garden is safe. Your job on this day will be to go to the garden in the afternoon/evening sometime, grab the checklist and walk the garden checking everything is in order and no hazards have been left out. There is then a log where you can sign off that this has been done.

Permitted Materials:

The garden area is considered “organic”. It is not certified, but we will adhere to basic organic standards. For a list of approved products, you can visit the certified organic website for BC at www.certifiedorganic.bc.ca. If you can not find what you are looking for, best to check with the Community Garden Board - “materials permitted” captain. You can contact him @ {phone number} or email at {email address}

1. no chemical fertilizers, pesticides, or herbicides
2. manure if well rotted and well dug into beds; unrotted manure from conventional animals has a high likelihood of genetically modified seeds passing through from the feed. New research is also indicating that any antibiotic/hormone use in the animals passes through the manure and is being picked up by vegetables being grown in unrotted manure. The garden will have ongoing piles of rotting manure; make sure that the manure you choose to use the pile that is ready to go. Check with compost captains to see which is which.
3. mulch that is also fairly clear of seeds or grass that may go to seed; straw is generally better than hay for mulch
4. lumber tarps or black landscape cloth are permitted but must be removed in time for tilling and/or if you are no longer using your plot
5. house compost from garden members that is all organic and contains no meat or other animal products, may be brought to the garden- please check with our composting captain about which bin to drop your compost in
6. Peat moss, home rotted compost, other soil building materials that are free of weed seed and chemical free.
7. Seaweed if you happen to making a trip to the coast, if not, comfrey tea is a comparable plant to add to soil for nutrients and fertilizing
8. Both comfrey and nettles make for excellent nutrients to the soil, but must be root free or your plot will become a comfrey/nettle patch. Making compost teas with these plants is an excellent local source for ongoing fertilizer.
9. Growing compost crops and cover crops are all permitted, as long as they are removed before they set seed unless you are growing grain and will be harvesting the grain itself. Good compost/cover crops are clovers, buckwheat, rye, oats, beans and peas. Vetch can also be a common plant used, however we have a very invasive version of wild vetch that is very hard to get out, so we do not recommend planting vetch as a cover crop.
10. If you are saving seeds, check in with your other garden plot members to see if there are also saving seed and see that you won't be saving seeds from families that will cross. If you are unsure, you can contact {name}.

The Garden Shed and Shared Tools

1. Each member is responsible to ensure that no tools, garbage or other hazards are left around the garden. If you find a tool or hazard, please put away in appropriate place.
2. The lock for the shed is {insert combination # here}
3. Any tools in the shed may be used and put back in the spot they were found, this is essential for all members to know where to find different tools. The shed does have "friends", as in wasps and littlebeetle like bugs. We will do our best to remove the wasps, however in an age of declining pollinators that are very important to the ecosystem and will sometimes be spared. Best practices if you run into a wasp is stay calm, let them know you are working with them to improve the plants, seriously talking to bugs does help...and they are much calmer when it is cool out such as in the morning or evening. If you have allergies to wasp and/or bees, please carry your epi pen and preferably to have someone with you in the garden should you get stung.

I use this garden at the sole discretion of Community Garden Society of Kaslo.

I agree to abide by its policies and practices.

The annual fee for garden membership is \$10. The annual fee for rental of a plot is \$25, if your plot is cared for according to this agreement, you will receive \$10 back at the end of the season.

The gardening year runs March 1-February 28. There are no refunds.

Once I have been assigned a plot, I will cultivate and/or plant it within two weeks.

I will not expand my plot beyond its measurement unless approved by the garden co-chairs.

I will keep all my plants within the limits of my garden plot.

I will keep my plot free of weeds, pests and diseases.

I will volunteer time for general maintenance to keep the garden site looking neat and tidy, at least one hour a week during April-September. This includes mowing pathways and/or weeding and cultivation of communal plots and borders and/or trash pickup, etc.

I will dispose of weeds and plant materials in the designated compost area.

I will dispose of trash and non-compostable debris in the garden's trash receptacle.

I understand that all plots will be inspected three times throughout the year and that renters of plots that have not been planted, are weedy, or do not meet the guidelines will be notified.

I understand that failure to respond within 14 days of notification will result in forfeiture of the plot.

I will notify the garden co-chairs if I am no longer able to tend my plot, will be absent for a long period of time, or have asked a friend to tend my garden.

I will not take food or plants from other gardeners' plots.

If vandalism or theft occurs, I will notify the garden co-chairs immediately.

I understand that dogs, except those on a leash, are not allowed.

I understand that friends and family members are welcome in the garden but that young children must be supervised so they don't disturb other plots.

I will conserve the use of water. I will mulch with leaves, grass clippings or straw to reduce water evaporation.

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.

Commitment:

I have read and understand the application and accept these guidelines for participation in the Kaslo Community Garden. I understand that failure to comply with the above may result in loss of gardening privileges.

Signed:

Plot #