

# Gray Community Garden

## Garden Rules

### Vision

Our vision is that the Gray Community Garden inspires healthy and sustainable growth - in the garden, the gardeners and the whole community.

To achieve our vision:

- \* We will work together to create a beautiful, safe, nourishing garden that is welcoming to everyone and shared by all
- \* The garden will be green in every sense, incorporating environmentally friendly and sustainable gardening practices
- \* Everybody will be valued for their individual qualities and strengths
- \* We will have fun - gardening, learning, playing and relaxing!

## Membership

### Membership Fees

Membership Type	Annual Fee (from 1 <sup>st</sup> July, 2014)
Social Membership	\$10 per person
Social (Concession)	\$5 per person
General (Children - under 18 years)	Free
Plot holders - community/organisation (plot fee only) - full plot 2m x 4m	\$150
Plot holders - individual/household - full plot 2m x 4m includes social membership	\$100
Plot holders - individual/household (Concession) - full plot 2m x 4m includes social membership	\$50
Plot holders - individual/household - half plot 2m x 2m includes social membership	\$80
Plot holders - individual/household (Concession) - half plot 2m x 2m includes social membership	\$40

Only one plot is available per household. Each household must apply each year for a plot but returning members will be given first preference and permitted to keep the same plot if they wish.

Plots cannot be sub-let.

Members must be a resident of Palmerston when they join the garden and community groups must be providing a service delivered in Palmerston to be eligible for a plot.

Members must be over the age of 16 to be eligible for a plot.

Membership fees are non-refundable. If a member becomes unfinancial then their plot will be forfeited.

Members are required to attend 50% of working bees scheduled for general maintenance of the communal areas. If participation is less than 50% then an invitation to renew their plot and membership may not be issued.

Any member not complying with the rules stated here will be requested to take action to amend the problem. Failure to rectify the problem within 30 days may lead to the Committee issuing a letter advising that the plot/membership has been forfeited. Members who receive 3 written warnings per annum will have their plot/membership automatically forfeited at the discretion of the committee.

Members are expected to wear appropriate clothing, footwear and sun protection at all times whilst in the garden. Correct safety procedures should be followed when using tools and members should ensure the safety of children and others always be of the highest priority whilst they are working.

## **Access**

Members have access to the garden from 6am to 8pm daily.

Vehicles are only permitted on the internal "road" to deliver or collect large or heavy objects and must be reparked outside the gates as soon as possible.

Vehicles are not permitted on areas other than the road surface.

The garden and storage areas are kept locked to protect plants and equipment from damage by vandalism or theft. It is every members responsibility to ensure that the shed and gates are locked when they are the last person to depart the garden. The garden has a number of coded padlocks on the access gates and storage areas. Members will be advised of the code when their fees are paid. Members are not to pass the codes on to non-members. Exceptions can be made for people tending a plot whilst a person is away. If you provide the codes to outside people you are responsible for ensuring they abide by these rules and any breach is your responsibility.

## Plots

The garden plot must be utilised for the purposes of growing vegetables, fruit (as approved by the committee), herbs and flowers only. There is a 2m height restriction and plot holders are encouraged to plant on a north-south axis so as to avoid overshadowing of adjoining plots. All frames must be sited where they do not shade neighbouring plots.

Trellises or other structures for growing produce are permitted as long as they comply with these rules.

Prohibited plants as decreed by law must not be grown.

If plot holders are unable to maintain their plot due to illness or absence on holidays they must inform the committee. Plot holders can arrange for non-members to tend their plot in their absence but it is best to ask a fellow member to tend your plot if possible.

If there is no evidence of activity at your plot for longer than 3 months then your plot will be reassigned.

Members are responsible for the care and maintenance of their own plot and should ensure that their plot is kept free of rubbish and any items that may obstruct surrounding pathways.

It is recommended that you visit your plot at least once each week.

If your plot is overgrown with weeds you will receive a written warning.

If you decide not to use your plot please contact the committee so it may be reassigned to someone on the waiting list. There will be no refunds on plot fees paid.

Biodegradable mulch such as compost, leaves, straw and hay are encouraged. Non-biodegradable/non-organic mulch such as carpet is prohibited.

Members must ensure that their plants are contained within their own plots.

Members are responsible for the care of ½ the pathway between themselves and their neighbour.

Do not pick from your neighbours plot even if you think it has been neglected. Please respect other peoples plots.

The garden is not available for commercial use.

No fencing around a plot is permitted however borders such as flowers, sleepers or rocks are acceptable.

Members are not permitted to build permanent structures on garden plots or on vacant areas of the garden or to use the garden to store building or other materials.

Gardeners are responsible for the ongoing improvement of the soil in their plot through the addition of compost, green manure crops, animal manures and mulch. Soil must not be removed from the garden plots.

Trees, vines and large shrubs are not permitted for planting in plots but will be allowed in the communal areas of the garden at the discretion of the committee after consultation with members.

The whole garden is fully irrigated. If you have plants requiring more specific/regular watering methods there are watering cans provided to accommodate this. However, members are requested to consider a modest use of water at all times and to avoid overwatering as well as watering over other plots.

## **Tools**

Members should provide their own tools however some larger tools and equipment such as watering cans have been provided for communal use and are to be stored in the shed. A lawnmower and edge trimmer are also supplied. Communal tools are exclusively for use in the garden and cannot be borrowed or taken home by members.

When using communal equipment please return it to the storage area and clean it if needed.

Members should report to the committee if garden equipment is missing or broken or if they notice any other maintenance that may be required eg. Leaking taps.

## **Waste**

Plant refuse piles are set up for weeds and diseased plants. Please use these designated areas.

Kitchen scraps (excluding meat) should be placed in the approved communal compost heaps. Members may bring any compostable materials from home to add to the heaps if they wish. All other waste is to be taken home with you.

Prunings/cuttings and other plant matter should be chopped up or broken up into small pieces and placed only in the approved communal compost heaps.

Recycle and standard waste bins are located outside the community hall for shared use between the garden and the hall. The bins may be wheeled into the garden if required but must be relocated to the front of the hall after use.

## **Chemicals**

Chemical based weedicides/herbicides/pesticides are banned. Companion planting and natural pest management is encouraged as alternative approaches.

Biological and organic control of weeds, pests and diseases is encouraged and the garden will promote information relating to such methods.

No treated wood should be used anywhere in the garden.

## **Children**

Children are always welcome in the garden but must be under adult supervision for their safety.

The garden is a place to encourage your children to respect others plots and the communal areas of the garden.

Always keep gates closed when working in the garden so that children cannot wander out onto the road.

## **Pets**

Dogs/pets other than access dogs are not allowed in the garden because their waste can be a health hazard and their digging can cause damage to other peoples' plots.

## **Smoking**

Smoking is not permitted anywhere in the garden.

## **Alcohol and drugs**

The responsible consumption of alcohol is only permitted in the garden when a permit has been obtained from the Palmerston Police Station. The committee will apply for a permit for all working bees. If members would like to arrange a permit for any other time they need to contact the committee. Sharing a cold drink after working in the garden is something that members may enjoy socially together at these times but intoxication and unruly behaviour will not be tolerated in any way and will result in a warning from the committee. Repeat offenders will have their membership revoked.

Drugs of any kind will not be tolerated in this garden. Members who flout this rule will have their membership revoked immediately.

## **Council Property**

The permanent structures within the garden – the shed, shade structure and footpaths/driveway – remain the property of COP and any alterations or additions will need approval from COP in the first instance.

## **Toilets**

A key to access the internal toilets in the hall is kept in a coded lock box inside the shed. The code will be changed for security from time to time and members will be notified.

Please respect other people who are using the hall when you have to use the toilet facilities and also try to keep down the noise when close to the verandahs if there are people inside.



The garden should be a safe place for the community, children and members. Do not bring anything that will compromise the safety of the garden.

Ensuring an enjoyable gardening experience for all of the garden community is the primary goal of these rules and responsibilities. For this reason please observe the rules of the garden and be a good neighbour.

The garden's executive committee has the duty of enforcing rules, resolving conflict and making decisions for the garden between annual meetings of all members.