



Davis Community Gardens Packet 2009

City of Davis
Community Services Department
23 Russell Blvd. Davis, CA 95616
530) 757-5626 fax (530) 758-0204
<http://www.cityofdavis.org>
csweb@cityofdavis.org

The Davis Community Gardens are sponsored by the City of Davis through the Parks & Community Services Department. The gardens are located on 5th Street between L Street and Pole Line Road. There are 113 garden plots; most are 18'x20' although a few are half plots. The City provides the land, water, some facility maintenance and some administrative support.

Registration fees

The annual registration fee is \$57 (\$27.00 for half plots, when available).

Registration fees are used to defray administrative and material costs, and are ordinarily *not refundable*.

Non-residents of Davis are charged an extra fee, which is \$6 for residents of the Davis school district (El Macero, Willowbank, Binning Tract, UCD campus, Cactus Corner, Royal Oak Mobile Home Park), and \$12 for those outside the school district.

Cleaning deposit

In addition to the annual fee, a cleaning deposit of \$32 per plot is required (\$16 for half plots). This deposit will be returned when the plot is vacated and left clear of weeds and debris. See "Deposit refunds" for details.

Registration

All garden registrations are renewed annually. Registration materials are mailed to current gardeners at the beginning of each year. If a plot is not registered by the due date, an attempt will be made to contact the gardener to get registration. However any plot not registered by the due date is subject to being made available to new gardeners.

Mid-year registrants: New gardeners registering after July 1st for fall and winter gardens pay the full deposit and half the annual fee, which covers the remainder of the current calendar year. (They must then re-register for the next year.)

Half plots

Half plots may occasionally be available. All garden rules apply to half plots, including weed, path, and reassignment policies. They are charged half the normal fee and deposit.

Coordinator

The Community Gardens has a part-time paid Coordinator, whose duties include registration, garden inspection, policy enforcement, providing for maintenance of physical facilities, organization of work days and other types of 'hands-on' activities.

Coordinator: Jane Schafer-Kramer
Phone: 750-7943
E-mail: davisgarden@aol.com

Address: City of Davis, Community Services
c/o Christine Rivard
23 Russell Blvd.
Davis, CA 95616

Advisory Committee

The Advisory Committee consists of volunteer gardeners, and meets quarterly or as needed to provide feedback to the Coordinator and to discuss policies, problems and plans for the gardens. Any gardener interested in attending a meeting or being on the Advisory Committee should contact the Coordinator for time and place.

Davis Community Gardens Policies

Gardening in the Community Gardens is not exactly like gardening in your own backyard, because how you care for your plot impacts many neighbors. Hence we have policies on how and when certain things must be done. The Community Garden encourages all gardeners to use organic gardening methods in order to enhance food safety, ground water quality, and a healthy ecosystem. The garden coordinator will provide information on organic gardening methods to gardeners upon request.

Garden policies are reviewed and updated as necessary by the Coordinator with the assistance of the Advisory Committee. They are then reviewed and approved by the City Parks and Community Services Department.

Use and Care of Gardens

Gardens must be **actively used** for growing crops; and must be **cared for** throughout the year, including during the winter. Regular care includes watering/harvesting when necessary, and the prompt removal of weeds and spent crop plants. Plots that are not used or cared for will be reassigned.

Plots may not be used to grow crops for sale.

There is a limit of 1 plot per household (a few people have 2 due to past usage, but that is being phased out). Garden plots must be used by the gardeners to whom they are assigned. Plots may not be registered to someone "in name only" while a friend or relative actually uses the plot and does most or all of the work.

Garden tenancy is transferable, with the permission of the Coordinator, to members of your immediate family or household, or to someone who has been *registered with you* as a co-gardener in the plot. Except for these persons, you cannot transfer your plot to anyone when you leave.

Weeds

All plots and adjacent paths must be maintained weed-free throughout the year. Plots in violation of this policy may be reassigned (see "policy enforcement" section). Please note that herbicides are **not** allowed (see "chemicals" section).

Paths and Boundaries

You may **not** extend your garden beyond its official defined boundary. The boundaries of each garden plot are marked by four corner posts. These posts should not be disturbed, or used as fence posts or plant supports. Please report any missing or poor-condition corner posts to the Coordinator.

Paths must be kept clear, level, and free of all obstructions. This includes weeds and garden plants.

The paths adjacent to each plot are the joint responsibility of the gardeners on both sides of the path. Gardeners on the north, west, and south borders of the gardens are responsible for maintaining a clear, walkable path at least 3 feet wide on the border.

Do not use boards, plywood or carpet for 'mulch' in the paths – they present a tripping danger to people. We are advised that individual gardeners can be held legally liable for any injuries on a path adjacent to their plot caused by poor path maintenance.

Your garden plants must not extend into or over the paths – plan for growth when planting near the edges of your garden, and when locating a trellis or fence near the garden edge. *Any garden plant extending into a path may be trimmed, moved, or removed by the Coordinator without notice.*

Tall Plants, Pest Plants

Please try to work with your neighbors when planting tall things such as sunflowers or bean trellises so you don't shade the adjacent gardens.

Trees and large perennials (shrubs, cacti, etc) are not allowed, due to shading and root problems.

Be very careful with other plants that are invasive and hard to eradicate. Examples are mints, berry vines, and morning glories. Don't let them get away, or they may be considered weeds.

Pests and Diseases

Gardeners are encouraged to keep insects and other pests under control so they do not spread into other gardens (please see notes in "chemicals" section). It is also helpful if you dispose of diseased plants in a way that limits the spread of disease (such as hot composting or removal from the gardens area).

Chemicals

As this Community Garden is located on City of Davis property, we are obliged to follow the City's policies on pesticides and to adopt the principles of Integrated Pest Management. "Integrated pest management (IPM) is an ecosystem-based strategy that focuses on long-term prevention of pests or their damage through a combination of techniques such as biological control, habitat manipulation, modification of cultural practices, and use of resistant varieties. Pesticides are used only after monitoring indicates they are needed according to established guidelines, and treatments are made with the goal of removing only the target organism. Pest control materials are selected and applied in a manner that minimizes risks to human health, beneficial and nontarget organisms, and the environment."¹ In other words, IPM promotes healthy gardens by integrating the different aspects of gardening, including how the soil is prepared, how plants are placed in the garden, watering, fertilizing, weeding, harvesting, and clean-up. Additional substances brought into to garden for the control of pests and weeds must be done with careful consideration of the effect on the entire garden. The City's IPM policy is posted at the garden center kiosk.

City of Davis policy prohibits the application of chemical pesticides on its property unless approved by the City's IPM Coordinator and applied by a trained and certified technician. Any gardener who believes their plot has a pest problem that would justify the use of chemical pesticides should contact the garden coordinator for a consultation.

The attached appendix to the garden's policies provides an abbreviated list of chemicals to avoid using in the garden, and lists less-toxic alternatives that may be used if an infestation persists. An extensive listing of less-toxic pest control, weed control, and fertilizer products is posted at the kiosk in the garden center and is also available at this website: http://www.ourwaterourworld.org/Portals/0/documents/pdf/products_by_pests.pdf

The use of herbicides in a community garden risks damaging the "good" plants as well as the unwanted ones, therefore gardeners must consult with the garden coordinator before using any herbicide, including those on the "less-toxic" lists.

The use of chemical fertilizers in the garden is not in compliance with IPM. Chemical fertilizer used results in plants that are more susceptible to pest damage than plants fertilized organically. Examples of organic fertilizers include compost, composted manure, seaweed, fish emulsion, bone meal, blood meal, coffee grounds, earthworm castings, bat guano, and cover crops.

Gardeners are encouraged to learn about the role of beneficial insects in the garden and to include plants that attract these insects in their garden plots. Related information is posted at the garden center kiosk and it may be viewed at these websites:

<http://www.ipm.ucdavis.edu/PMG/NE/index.html>

http://www.ourwaterourworld.org/Portals/0/documents/pdf/IPM_School_Booklet_9-14.pdf

The Coordinator will arrange for the City's IPM Coordinator to conduct educational workshops for gardeners on the principles of IPM.

Waste

Plant debris is best utilized by composting, digging it into the soil, or as a mulch. That which is not used must be placed in the area designated by the City. Check with the Coordinator for the current location.. That area is for *plant debris only*, no trash/rocks/wood/wire etc. Do not dump anything under the trees on the North edge. For more information about composting and how to receive a free compost bin, call the City of Davis Public Works Department at 757-5686.

Trash, especially plastic, should be picked up and disposed of promptly. Please take your trash home with you, since we have no trash pickup service. There is a small trash can in the central shed area; this is tended by volunteers so please don't overload it with large or heavy items.

¹ University of California Statewide IPM as viewed at <http://www.ipm.ucdavis.edu/IPMPROJECT/about.html>

Davis Community Gardens - Policies

Water

Hoses are provided. Hose breakage should be brought to the attention of the Coordinator.

Gardeners must provide their own water faucet key to turn faucets on and off, otherwise the faucet stems get damaged. Keys are the T -handled type "sill cock key" (or some are 4-in-1 keys). Report any defective faucets to the Coordinator.

Do not leave water turned on while you are not in the gardens. This has caused flooding in the past when people forget to return and turn it off. It can also inconvenience people needing to use the faucet while you are away. Any water that is left on unattended may be turned off.

Each row has a *water shutoff valve* on the south end by garden #13, under a round flagstone in the pathway. The main shutoff valve next to plot A13 shuts off the water to entire area. If there is an emergency such as a broken water line, turn off the water to that particular row; then contact the Coordinator, the City Public Works Department, or the Fire Department. If you call a City agency please also leave a message for the Coordinator so he knows that the problem has been dealt with.

Tools

We try to keep a few basic tools in the tool shed: shovel, rake, spading fork, and wheelbarrow. Please return them promptly when you are through using them, especially if there are other gardeners who may want to use them. Report missing or broken tools to the Coordinator. Tools are used and maintained at the gardener's own risk. Tools are donated for garden use.

Pets

Pets are not welcome unless they are on a leash and kept out of other people's gardens. Dogs that are repeat invaders should be identified as well as possible and reported to the Coordinator or to Animal Control.

Parking

Please do not block the roads. Parking will be minimal during and after the well construction.

Community Work

All gardeners are encouraged to participate in the repair, maintenance and improvement of garden facilities and common areas for at least a few hours each year. Regular workdays are scheduled for such projects. If the workday times are inconvenient for you, please consider helping out in other ways. You can contact the Coordinator for suggestions.

Notices and Procedures

Contacting You

Notices of major significance (fee deadlines, etc.) will be mailed. Notices to individual gardeners may be mailed to their address, sent via email, attached to the clip on their plot marker post, or made by phone. General notices will be posted on the bulletin board in the center of the gardens - mailing these is not always possible due to time and money constraints, so please watch the bulletin board and the clip by your plot number.

Mailed notices go to the gardener's last known address. Because mailed notices may include time-critical items such as registration or weed compliance deadlines, it is important to keep the Coordinator informed of any changes of address, phone or e-mail address.

Leaving / Deposit refunds

If you decide to give up your plot, please contact the Coordinator so your garden can be reassigned quickly, before it gets weedy and run down. If you don't tell us, it takes 2 or 3 weeks to figure out that it is abandoned.

When you have cleared your plot, ask the Coordinator to inspect it and see if it is in "refundable condition", which means: no weeds, plants, stakes, wire, trash, etc. - *except* for crop plants (and their supporting structures) that are healthy and within their normal growing season (the Coordinator may require even these to be removed).

If the plot is in refundable condition, the Coordinator will notify the City, who will issue you a refund check within about a month. Be sure the Coordinator has a valid forwarding address.

If the garden does not pass inspection, you will have 1 week to clean it up. If it is then still not in shape, the deposit is forfeited. You may appeal to the Coordinator in writing. Plots vacated due to eviction or abandonment are not eligible for a refund of the deposit.

Davis Community Gardens - Policies

Abandonment

Any garden that is visually abandoned may be reassigned with 2 weeks notice.

If you are unable to care for your plot for an extended period, please consider giving it up so that someone else can use it. In special circumstances, where illness, injury or other commitments will only be for a few months and have a known ending date, other arrangements may be made if approved by the Coordinator.

Vacations

Vacationing gardeners are not exempt from weed and other maintenance rules, or compliance deadlines. It is wise to contact the Coordinator before you go on extended vacation so we know that you are not abandoning the plot.

Policy Enforcement

The Coordinator is responsible for interpreting and enforcing the policies. Most things can be resolved in an informal manner, however experience has shown a need for a formal process to deal with some issues. The Coordinator will attempt to call or meet the gardener to discuss the problem.

If the Coordinator determines that a plot or its owner is in substantial violation of garden policies:

1. Written notice of the problem and a request for corrective action will be mailed.
2. If the problem remains unresolved 1 week after the written notice is sent, a 2-week deadline notice will be sent.
3. If the gardener does not comply within 2 weeks, he/she will be evicted.

Gardeners are encouraged to discuss the situation with the Coordinator at any time during this process. Special circumstances will always be taken into account and other arrangements may be made at the discretion of the Coordinator. All final evictions are reviewed by the Community Services Supervisor in charge of the gardens, and appeals may be made to the Supervisor.