

# 2022 Amended GARDEN RULES

*All gardeners are responsible for being familiar with and abiding by garden rules.  
If you have any questions, please contact the Garden Manager at [IndianPeaksCG@yahoo.com](mailto:IndianPeaksCG@yahoo.com)*

## 1. General (see details in Sections 2-5 below):

- A. Garden is open dawn to dusk, seven days a week. Please practice social distancing.
- B. This is an organic garden. The responsible use of garden products means that your use will in no way affect other gardeners, the soil and microbes, groundwater, and our crops.
- C. Water is non-potable; do not drink.
  - The water is not ditch or lake water, so using it to wash yourself and tools is fine.
- D. Pets are not allowed in the garden (except registered service animals).
- E. Children are more than welcome in the garden but must be always supervised.
- F. Smoking or use of any tobacco or marijuana products is prohibited at the garden and entire IPMC campus. Tobacco can also carry the Tobacco Mosaic Virus, which is harmful to many plants, especially tomatoes. \*\*\*No alcoholic beverages are allowed in the garden area. \*\*\*
- G. No trespassing or picking in other plots.
  - Do so by invitation only – this is one of the best parts of community gardening; let us cherish and respect it!
- H. Trash service is not available. Pack it in; pack it out – in your own containers or bags.
  - ALL WEEDS must be carried out; and are not compostable here.
  - Diseased plants (yellowing leaves, powdery mildew, etc.) cannot be composted and are considered trash.
  - Flowering plants producing lots of seed (sunflowers, marigolds, calendula, etc.) cannot be composted – trash seed heads to reduce seeding next year.
  - Do not throw anything outside the garden fence.
- I. Keep out of beehive area. Do not allow disturbances of the hive (throwing rocks, etc.).
- J. Timelines:
  - Plant your plot by June 1, or it will be made available to other gardeners.
    - Water will be turned on sometime in April. You are more than welcome to start planting in early spring but be prepared to haul water for a short time.
  - Winterize your plot by November 30.
    - Gardeners are responsible for clearing their plot of all plant material as well as all other items so that only clean, level soil remains.
    - All personal items must be taken home; no storage is available in the shed over winter. Any abandoned personal items will be forfeit.
- K. Participate in scheduled garden cleanup days and other events.
  - Since there is no charge to have a plot in this garden, all maintenance is performed by our community of gardeners. Several of these will be scheduled throughout the season.
  - Other “events” may include educational classes, cooking demonstrations or other events that both gardeners and the surrounding community can participate in.
- L. Help maintain common areas, paths, fence lines, entry.
  - Weeds, trash, damage, etc.
- M. Restrooms and drinking water are available at Indian Peaks Medical Center (hours vary).
- N. Secure the garden and shed. Never leave the garden storage shed unsecured when unattended, even during the day. Do not give combination codes to anyone else/not authorized!

## 2. Watering:

- A. Be diligent about conserving water. Use of water should always be controlled.
- B. Excess water **cannot spread outside your plot more than one foot** into the path and must dry within a few hours. Due to the construction of garden plots over compacted soil, excess water seeps slowly from the plot into the garden paths and adjoining plots affecting everyone.
- C. No overhead irrigation is allowed (sprinklers).
- D. Hand watering is acceptable (do not use an open-ended hose).
- E. Absolutely no “flood irrigating” is allowed. This prematurely rots plot boards and is an irresponsible use of water.
- F. Low-volume watering systems are encouraged (drip irrigation, soaker hoses, etc.).
  - You are responsible for knowing the output of your system (see B above). This means you **cannot “set it and forget it”** and includes monitoring rain events to adjust or skip run times. If you allow your automatic watering to run during rainy periods, it is wasteful, can cause disease to your plants, and creates muddy pathways for everyone.
  - If you use a timer (encouraged), the hose left attached to the hydrant must be your own and buried where it crosses paths and alongside other plots. Security and operation of your equipment is your responsibility. Timers must be placed within your plot – not at the hydrant.
  - We have four (4) hydrants, and nineteen plots. Each of the four hydrants will have a 4-way connector. Disconnect and wind up your hoses when not in use, and turn the connector knob off. If all connectors are off, turn the hydrant off. If any connectors are in the “on” position, timers may be in use, so leave both the hydrant and connector on.
  - There will be times when sharing and disconnecting is necessary. Before disconnecting, make sure the hose is not actively watering a plot. Be a good neighbor, and if you absolutely must disconnect someone, reconnect immediately.
- G. Be aware of hoses becoming trip hazards.
- H. If there is any evidence of running/streaming/pooling/geyser water, turn off the appropriate hydrant and notify the garden manager immediately (call or text 517-206-5799).

## 3. Your plot:

- A. Control weeds in your plot. This includes weeds in your half of paths. If your plot borders the fence, you are responsible for removing weeds in the path and along the fence in your area.
  - Definition of a weed: any plant growing where it was not intended. This includes any reseeding flowers, herbs, or ordinary weeds. When in doubt, ask the garden manager; it is fun to learn how to identify young plants.
  - Weeds should be removed when small, before going to seed (flowering) to inhibit reproduction.
  - ALL weeds must be carried out as trash and cannot be put in the compost bins.
  - Mulching is encouraged to control weeds (see section on Mulch).
- B. Do not attach anything to the plot boards.
  - Use free-standing posts for support.
  - Keep supports/posts inside the plot.
  - Feel free to build rabbit fences, row covers, etc., but they must be free-standing and not attached to the plot boards.
  - Damaged or rotted plot boards must be replaced with non-pressure-treated lumber of the same size.
- C. Plant growth must be contained within plot boundaries.
  - Keep your plants from hanging out of your plot or vining into pathways by not planting too close to the edge. Feel free to use cages, trellising and/or fencing to contain the plant.
  - Remember, we are a handicapped accessible garden.

- D. Tall crops and structures shall not shade another's plot. (Plant these in the center of your plot or in east-west rows.)
- E. Abide by "Do not grow" list of plants. These include (but may not be limited to):
- Perennials (plants living longer than one season)
  - Corn
  - Marijuana, hemp
  - Poisonous plants
- F. Harvest promptly; discourages pests and theft.
- Remove and compost healthy plants that have finished.
  - Deadhead (remove spent flowers/seeds) where appropriate (like dill, marigolds, calendula, and other easy-to-reseed plants). Seeds need to go in the trash.
  - Have an abundance? Share with others or let the garden manager know – they may know of another gardener in need.
- G. If you will not be able to tend your garden for 7 days for any reason, it is your responsibility to: 1.) find someone to water, weed and harvest it as needed, **and** 2.) notify the garden manager of your absence so we know someone will be in your plot.
- H. Controlling gardening problems. Organic practices will be used to control insects, diseases, and weeds. Due to different definitions of "organic", the following guidelines have been created:
1. Insects and diseases prefer to attack stressed plants. The first line of defense is to keep plants as healthy as possible by mulching, amending appropriately, and watering properly.
  2. The second line of defense is to rely on sustainable gardening practices:
    - Insect pests: Be sure of identification. The different life stages of insects can look quite different from the adult. Know your beneficial insects.
      - Hand-pick insects and larva, squish eggs (again, be sure of identification)
      - Spray off insects with hose
      - Use physical barriers, such as row covers.
      - Interplant with repellent or "companion" plants
    - Diseases:
      - Plant disease-resistant varieties
      - Remove diseased plants from garden (cannot compost)
      - Avoid overhead watering to reduce mildew and blight-causing fungus.
    - Weed control:
      - No herbicides (weed killer)
      - Hand-pull (cannot compost)
      - Mulching (to prevent weeds)
      - Dense plantings (to crowd-out weeds)
      - Hoe/chop as needed to remove flowers/seeds. We also have a weed whacker.
  3. Many occurrences of insects and diseases can be tolerated if they are not causing significant damage or affecting other gardeners. However, if treatment is necessary, use products which contain an OMRI® approved seal. These products are listed at [www.omri.org/omri-lists](http://www.omri.org/omri-lists). (Organic Materials Review Institute)

I. Fertilizers – organic only.

- Refrain from over fertilizing (even with organics), as this can cause imbalances in the soil and micronutrients and can cause groundwater contamination.
- See the Organic Materials Review Institute <http://www.omri.org/omri-lists>, the Garden Manager or your favorite nursery for organic fertilizers, if needed.

FERTILIZERS	
<i>Soil fertilization is the addition of nutrients to support crop growth. Know your plant needs and use appropriate applications (follow product instructions).</i>	
<b>Approved</b>	<b>Not approved</b>
Certified OMRI	Manure-based compost
Reliable branded organics	Biosolids (sewage byproducts)
Blood meal	Egg shells
Kelp products (organic)	Rock powders
Bat guano	Bone meal
Corn gluten meal (also inhibits seed sprouting)	Fish emulsion
<b>Not sure? Just ask!</b>	

J. Soil amendments – be conservative.

SOIL AMENDMENTS	
<i>Amendments are any material mixed into soil to improve its physical properties, such as water retention, drainage, aeration, and structure. The goal is to provide a better environment for roots.</i>	
<b>Approved</b>	<b>Not approved</b>
Plant-based compost	Manure-based compost
Sphagnum peat	Sand
Worm castings	Wood ash
	Sawdust
	Wood or bark chips
	Mountain or Colorado peat
	Biosolids (sewage byproducts)
	Fresh manure
	Vermiculite
	Perlite
	Lime
<b>Not sure? Just ask!</b>	

K. Mulch

MULCH	
<i>Mulches are left on the soil surface to reduce evaporation and runoff, inhibit weed growth, moderate soil temperature, and look nice.</i>	
<b>Approved</b>	<b>Not approved</b>
Untreated grass clippings	Wood or bark chips
Plastic barriers	Rock/Gravel
Straw (weed/seed-free)	
Plant-based compost	
Untreated burlap, landscape fabric	
<b>Not sure? Just ask!</b>	

4. **Compost bins:** For appropriate community garden plant material only. Absolutely NO weeds or trash! All plant material must be chopped into finger-sized pieces for easy breakdown in the bins.:

COMPOST BINS	
<i>A specific bin will be marked for the current compost pile. Other bins will eventually have compost at different stages. Plant stems over 1/2" in diameter must be cut into 3" lengths (use your ring finger as a guide!).</i>	
<b>YES, compost</b>	<b>DO NOT Compost</b>
Undiseased plants	Weeds (of any size)
Hay, straw (former mulch)	Trash, paper, plastic
	Animal products (meat, dairy)
	Egg Shells
	Manure/animal waste
	Fats, oils, grease
	Potato peelings
	Any synthetic materials
	Wood ash or lime
	Soil
	Bark chips, sawdust
<b>When in doubt, HAUL IT OUT!</b>	

## **5. Miscellaneous:**

### A. Plot assignment

- First come, first served until the garden is filled, then on a waiting list.
  - Previous year's gardeners (in good standing) will get first choice of their previous plot if they respond to the January email notification in a timely manner (deadline will be posted in that notification).
- Garden plot assignments are not transferable to others.
- We have four (4) handicap-accessible plots. They are raised 2 feet, and measure 4' x 10' so the center of the plot can be reached from each side while sitting. These are reserved for and available to anyone with physical limitations (not just wheelchair-bound gardeners). If these plots are not assigned by March/April, they will be made available to other gardeners.

### B. Personal items

- Due to limited space in the shed, your personal items may not be stored in the shed.
- Your personal tools, trash, and non-compostable plant material must be taken home with you.
- Enjoy your music privately (use headphones, please).

### C. Shed

- A limited number of tools (clearly marked) and hoses are available for all to use. They must be returned and clean. Drain hoses and connect the ends to keep water off the floor of the shed.
- The garden managers will communicate information via email distribution, and the bulletin board in the shed. There will also be a cork board available for gardeners to communicate with each other (no soliciting, please).
- Hard copy rules/policies will be posted.
- Empty plastic buckets are available for use – please empty and return to the shed when done.

### D. Conduct. Treat others as you would like to be treated.

- No gardener shall lay a hand upon or threaten another person, be guilty of obscene gestures or using foul language.
- Do not come to the garden under the influence of alcohol or any other substance to the extent that he/she is inclined to cause harm to yourself or another gardener.
- In the event of any of these behaviors, immediate suspension from all gardening activities and no chance for future plot renewal will occur.
- Report damage, break-ins, theft, or conflict by contacting the Garden Manager(s) immediately.

### E. Garden violations.

- If a plot appears untended (overgrown weeds, unmonitored irrigation, unharvested) or other Garden Rules not adhered to, you will be notified. If the situation is not remedied one week after notification, it will be considered abandoned. A final notification of loss of gardening privileges for non-compliance will be sent, and the plot will be made available to others. Any personal items that remain in the plot after the final notification will become property of the garden and are disposed of, donated, or left for the new gardener.

### F. Maintain your current contact information (phone numbers, email address) with the Garden Manager(s).

Do not hesitate to contact the Garden Manager with any questions, gardening advice or concerns.

Dennis W. Stark 517-206-5799

***Your compliance with the Garden Rules will help everyone have an enjoyable and successful season.***