

# Gardening Guidelines and Expectations 2021

*River Valley Area Community Gardens, Incorporated*

## Welcome to the 2021 Gardening Season!

The Board of Directors of River Valley Area Community Gardens (RVACG), wants you to have a great experience gardening. Please notify a Board member if you have a question.

*Garden Plots:* Each plot must be used for the cultivation of vegetables, flowers, fruit, or herbs. Gardeners may not sell produce. Excess produce may be shared with area food pantries, friends, school kitchens, nursing homes, etc.

*Registration:* All plots are rented for a gardening year. Priority in plot assignment is given to returning gardeners. Late registrations will be accepted for an extended period of time into the summer.

*Refunds:* Gardeners who choose to forfeit their plot after registering must contact the Treasurer.

*Plot Transfers:* If a gardener gives up the plot before the end of the season, the plot may be transferred to another individual ONLY if the Garden Superintendent or Treasurer is contacted

*Weeds:* Gardeners must manage weeds so that they do not flower and go to reseed. Weeds should be placed into the designated weed pile for composting. Any questions on weed management should be directed to Duane Miller. A list of noxious weeds designated by the Village of Spring Green is posted in the Gardener's shed. Many of these occur in our garden area.

*Expectations of Gardeners:* Throughout the course of the growing season Gardeners are expected to

1. Be conservative in using the irrigation system. Drip irrigation may be installed
2. Be respectful of your fellow community gardeners. ~~We are all a neighborhood of gardeners.~~ Each Gardener has a different viewpoint to gardening. Discuss issues respectfully and bring any disputes or ~~like~~ concerns to the Board of Directors where appropriate.
3. Plant inside the boundaries of the plot. Take into consideration the growth or spread of plants being planted so that they stay within the boundaries.
4. Enter the plot of another gardener only when invited or permission is given.

*Organic Gardening Standards:* The Garden practices organic gardening techniques. Acceptable fertilizers include compost, composted manure, green manure, leaf mold, and worm castings.

If using any chemical fertilizers, pesticides or other soil amendments, they must be approved by the National Organic Program (NOP), which is administered by the US Department of Agriculture (USDA). A registry of NOP-approved and prohibited substances may be found by visiting: [www.ams.usda.gov/about-ams/programs-offices/national-organic-program..](http://www.ams.usda.gov/about-ams/programs-offices/national-organic-program..)

The following graphics may be found on the labels of approved garden chemicals



Organic Materials Review Institute

Midwest Organic Services Association

US Dept of Ag Agriculture Marketing Service National Organic Program

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*Irrigation system.* Irrigation ports are available in each garden section. Gardeners may provide their own hoses or use the hoses provided by the Garden. Drip irrigation installation is permitted. Doug Rouse is available for consultation on installing drip irrigation systems.

*Compost.* Compost bins and a tumbler are available for garden waste. Composted manure is added to garden plots in the fall and spring before tilling. Gardeners may add their own compost. Weeds may be piled in a corner of the plot and added as compost.

*Mulch.* Biodegradable mulch such as compost, leaves, straw, and hay are acceptable and encouraged. Gardeners may use from the bales of marsh hay provided by the Garden. With the exception of glossy ad sheets, newspapers may be laid in garden rows as a weed inhibitor and topped with mulch such as grass clippings or marsh hay or straw. All nonorganic mulch such as plastic sheets must be removed by Closing Day. Carpet, stone and wood mulch are not allowed in plots. Non-glossy cardboard is also allowed

*Tall Plants:* Tall plants such as sweet corn or pole beans or trellises should be placed where they will not shade neighboring plots. Tall support structures must be sturdy and unlikely to fall onto neighbors' plantings.

*Prohibited Activities:* The Garden is located on public parkland owned by the Village of Spring Green. Village ordinances prohibit target shooting, open fires, and alcoholic consumption are on-site. Gardeners are encouraged to smoke in the picnic area for fire safety purposes.

*Pathways and Plot Boundaries:* Lawn pathways are to be kept clear of tools, hoses, garden equipment, weed piles and other obstacles. Gardeners may not extend plots past the boundary markers. Plants growing into pathways may be mowed. The boundaries of individual plots are marked with wooden posts which should not be removed. When planting, allow a foot on all boundaries for walking, plant overgrowth, and mowing.

*Pets:* For the sake of public health and safety, dogs and other pets are not allowed on-site. We apologize for the inconvenience.

*Temporary absence(s) due to illness, vacation, etc.* Gardeners who are unable to care for their plot/s due to illness, vacation, or some other event shall be responsible for finding someone to care for their plot until their return or contact the Superintendent to discuss arrangements for caring for their allotment **it**.

*Permitted plants:* Gardeners may cultivate annual and biennial fruit and vegetable crops. The planting of more permanent crops needs to be discussed with the Superintendent.

*Tools:* Gardeners may borrow tools from the Gardeners shed, so long as they return them – Tools may not be taken from the Garden site.

*Equipment:* A tiller, mulching mower, wheelbarrow, and wagon are provided for Gardener use. Please return equipment to the storage area. Equipment should leave the garden site.

If the gas can is emptied or equipment isn't working, please notify Duane Miller and leave a dated message on the equipment.

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*Gardeners Storage shed:* A locked storage shed is available for Gardeners storage of their personal garden tools and supplies as well as community tools for gardener use- The combination will be given to each primary gardener. Gardeners may provide their own storage totes

*Car parking:* Parking is available along both Westmor Street and Locust Drive. Gardeners may drive only on the north side of the site and on the driveway in the southern area of the site. Contact the Registrar on parking questions.

*Gardening resources and advice:* Board members are also a resource-specifically Doug Rouse, UW professor of plant pathology and Rose Ellen Schneider, Master Gardener. Also other gardeners have a lot of experience and knowledge. Gardening is a series of experiments that may yield mistakes and successes

*Park area:* The Village of Spring Green provides two picnic tables in the park area for public and Gardener use. Enjoy them for a brief respite after gardening, or to enjoy a meal!

*Waste receptacle:* Any garbage or recyclable waste should be placed into the appropriate receptacles. Please do not litter.

Plastic seedling packs or pots and starter trays are recyclable and given to the RVHS Ag Department. Please place them in the designated tote in the Gardeners shed.

*Orchard:* Gardeners may partake of strawberries, raspberries, rhubarb and fruit in season. Community vegetables include asparagus and sweet corn

*Work Days:* Work days are planned to provide time to prepare and maintain the Garden site. Gardeners are invited and encouraged to participate.

### III. Board of Directors

The members of the RVACG Board of Directors are as follows:

- Sarah Alt, Secretary Email: [alt.sarah@gmail.com](mailto:alt.sarah@gmail.com)
- Tom Hilston, Director Email: [tchilston@gmail.com](mailto:tchilston@gmail.com)
- Don Koller, Director Telephone: (608) 588-2406
  - Duties: Compost, storage shed and tool management; and tool maintenance
- Becki Miller, Director Email: [bgpflager@live.com](mailto:bgpflager@live.com)
  - Duties: lawn care.
- Duane Miller, President and Superintendent Email: [dmmiller76@live.com](mailto:dmmiller76@live.com)
  - ⊖ Duties: coordination of the maintenance of the grounds; irrigation system management
- Doug Rouse, Vice President Email: [dir@plantpath.wisc.edu](mailto:dir@plantpath.wisc.edu)
  - Duties: food pantry plots; plant disease/pest control and prevention; irrigation
- Rose Ellen Schneider, Secretary / Treasurer / Registration Email: [rschneid3@frontier.com](mailto:rschneid3@frontier.com)
  - ⊖ Duties: Registration, Publicity, Facebook page administration; volunteer coordination  
Youth coordinator.