

The definition of new gardeners for this policy include those new to gardening and those experienced gardeners new to gardening at the RVACG.

New Gardeners may request application / registration forms at any time.

New or inexperienced Gardeners shall be required to participate in a preseason Garden Basics Seminar Series before their application is accepted and a plot assigned. After participating in the seminar Gardeners will review the Gardener Guidelines, sign the Gardener's Agreement, pay plot fees and be assigned a plot number.

New Gardeners may not start planting until the registration process is complete.

Experienced RVACG first year gardeners may begin planting when they have completed the registration process and adequately answered the falling questions:

- How many hours per week are you planning to work on your garden plot during planting time? Throughout the growing season?
- How will you handle weed control throughout the season.?

Experienced gardeners who do not adequately answer the questions shall be required to complete the Garden Basics Seminar before planting before completing the registration process.

Mentors shall be assigned to new and inexperienced gardeners to help ensure their success and reinforce the skills learned during the Garden Basics seminar.

Mentors shall be assigned to experienced new gardeners to help them navigate the process of gardening in a community garden for the first year..

The Board shall work with the new gardeners to ensure they have what they need for tools, mulch, fertilizer, equipment, etc. for a successful gardening season

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Where does description of Garden Basics course go? How many hours? Open to the public?

Curriculum; Preparing the plot (manure, compost, tilling, raking / flat, raised rows, hills

Planting: Seed packet info / starting seeds / planting seeds and seedlings spacing

Care: Watering / fertilizing / trellising

Weed control: Mulching, mowing, hoeing

Disease & pest control basics

Harvesting

Garden clean-up: Winterizing /, storage,/ mapping and crop rotation

Question: Can new gardeners apply after the Garden Basics course is given? Are their additional questions to ask new experienced gardeners to determine their knowledge level.

