

Portland Community Garden

Gardening Rules and Etiquette

- 1.) This is an **organic** garden.
 - a. This means herbicides and pesticides are NOT allowed (i.e. Roundup, Sevan, etc.)
 - b. Natural, non-chemical products (Neem oil, Safer insecticide soap, etc.) can be used to control bugs and disease.
 - c. Natural fertilizers like MiracleGro, garden soil, composted manure and additives and nutrients that improve growth are fine.

(Please note that we are not maligning or endorsing any of the abovementioned products. We are just using their names as examples).

- 2.) Regular maintenance of your garden plot guarantees a better harvest and happier neighboring gardeners.
 - a. Gardeners are required to plant, water, weed and regularly harvest their plots.
 - b. Gardeners are required to remove all plant debris at the end of the season (see rule #3 for more information about this).
 - c. Plots need to be maintained (i.e. weeded) throughout the season and kept as weed free as possible. Not only will this help your plants grow better, your neighbors **will** appreciate it!
 - d. We recommend that as plants die off they be pulled. Also, please harvest ripe plants throughout the season so they don't rot and attract bugs and other critters.
 - e. All plant debris should be bagged and placed by the trash bin near the entrance to the fields.
 - f.
- 3.) At the end of the season, gardens need to be cleared.
 - a. All remaining growth, plants and weeds (dead or alive) need to be cleared from your plot by mid-October. This especially includes sunflowers. This will prevent weeds from overwintering. It will also make it easier to prepare plots for the next growing season.

- 4.) Remember – This is a Community Garden. Please be respectful of your neighbors' plots!

These few rules help make the Community Garden successful. If any gardener does not follow these rules, they may not be allowed to register for the community garden next season.

Joe Balskus is this year's volunteer Community Garden Coordinator. Please feel free to contact Joe with questions about the garden by emailing him at jbalskus@hotmail.com