



**FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY**

SUMMIT ACHIEVE COMMUNITY GARDEN OPERATING RULES

Primary gardeners must be at least 21 years old and live in Summit; household members must be at least 15 years old to work in the garden unsupervised. All people over age 17 who have access to the garden must sign the Plot Application Form. All children must be closely supervised and are not allowed to engage in roughhousing or other behavior that would disturb gardeners.

OPERATIONAL HOURS:

Monday to Friday, 8:00 AM to 9:00 PM, or dusk (whichever is earlier).

Saturday to Sunday, 9:00 AM to 9:00 PM, or dusk (whichever is earlier).

TIME COMMITMENTS:

1. All 1st and 2nd year gardeners are required to attend one organizational meeting held via Zoom in April (Date TBD). A make-up session will be available upon request.
2. Gardeners must plan to attend at least 2 workdays for general garden maintenance; gardeners who cannot meet this requirement must notify the Garden Committee to make alternative arrangements.
3. Gardeners are encouraged to join a Volunteer Committee and are required to log in a minimum of 4-hours of volunteer time to assist with the maintenance of common areas and Food Pantry beds. Tasks include weeding common areas, spreading wood chips, cleaning gutters, watering beds, maintaining/planting/harvesting and delivering to Food Pantry, maintaining shed.
4. Gardeners are expected to tend their plot at least once weekly. If you are unable to maintain your plot due to vacation or illness, please reach out to the Garden Coordinator at sacg@thesay.org. Failure to maintain your plot will result in forfeiture of your plot for the season and your security deposit will not be refunded.

PLOT MAINTENANCE:

1. The Garden operates as an organic garden. The use of non-organic products is prohibited (e.g., Miracle Grow, Preen).
2. Your assigned plot must be planted by May 1st, or it may be forfeited.
3. Gardeners must attend to their plot at least weekly to harvest ripe crops, stake and tie up plants that are growing out of the bed, and remove weeds and fallen crops in and around the bed and pathway between bed. You will receive a preliminary warning with an action plan from a member of the Community Garden Committee. If you are not in compliance within 2 weeks of notification your plot will be forfeited for the season and your security deposit will not be returned.
4. Gardeners who are unable to tend their plot due to illness or vacation must notify the Garden Committee to make other arrangements.
5. Plants that are invasive in nature are not allowed. (See SACG Checklist of Prohibited Plants). Sightings of invasive plants will be reported to Community

Garden Committee and notification will be sent to gardener with corrective action plan.

6. Mulching with straw or hay is encouraged for beds.
7. Temporary plant supports that are no higher than 5 feet are permitted, e.g., tomato cages and trellises. All other structures must be approved by the Garden Committee. All cages/trellises **MUST** be removed from your plot and either cleaned and stored in shed or taken home at the end of season.
8. Garden plots must be completely cleared out (including seeds) and raked at the end of the garden season. All plant debris, weeds, plastic plant tags, and other objects must be removed from the plot and garden. Failure to do so will result in forfeiting security deposits and will jeopardize returning for the next season.
9. A Gardener must immediately notify SACG in writing if unable to maintain a plot. No application fee will be refunded.

BEFORE YOU LEAVE THE GARDEN:

1. Water spigots must be turned off.
2. Hoses should be returned to the spigot post and coiled.
3. The last gardener to leave must lock the gate; the gate must be locked when the garden is unattended.
4. Tools and equipment of the SACG may not be removed from the garden area and must be cleaned and properly stored in the shed after use. Items stored in the shed are for common use.

PLANT DISEASES AND PESTS:

1. Gardeners must monitor and immediately treat plant diseases and pests. Gardeners must also report diseases and pests to a Garden Committee member or by email to sacg@thesay.org.
2. In some cases, the Committee will provide specific instructions on treatment and may remove plants for pest and disease control.
3. Infected plants may not be composted and must be disposed of off-site.

COMPOSTING:

Composting discarded plants is encouraged to recycle nutrients. Follow these instructions:

1. Do not compost diseased plants, tomato seeds and fruits, weeds with seeds, straw, or hay.
2. Shred discarded plants into 3-inch pieces.
3. All non-compostable waste must be taken offsite.
4. *THERE IS NO WASTE DISPOSAL SERVICE AT THE GARDEN.*

GOOD GARDEN ETIQUETTE:

All Gardeners must always maintain good conduct and civil behavior. Please refrain from:

1. Entering, watering, and taking items from another Gardener's plot, unless given explicit permission to do so.
2. Verbally or physically abusive behavior.
3. The use of amplified devices and noise.
4. Smoking.

5. Bringing pets to the Garden.
6. Growing or using marijuana or illegal substances (this will result in immediate expulsion and revocation of the garden plot).
7. Upon notice, the food pantry team reserves the right to harvest ripe vegetables from a gardener's bed. Such harvesting is not considered to take the place of maintaining one's bed.

Failure to comply with the Operating Rules may result in forfeiture of the plot, garden fee, and the security deposit. Gardeners who fail to comply with the Operating Rules may not be eligible for a plot in future garden seasons.

GRIEVANCES:

Gardeners should try to resolve any grievances with fellow Gardeners. If a Gardener is unable to resolve a grievance with a fellow Gardener, he/she may ask the Garden Committee for a resolution.

ABOUT THE SUMMIT AREA YMCA

Since 1886, the Summit Area YMCA has strengthened the communities of Berkeley Heights, Gillette, Millburn, New Providence, Short Hills, Springfield, Stirling, and Summit through programs that promote youth development, healthy living, and social responsibility. Each year, more than 17,000 individuals engage with the Y's mission-driven services, made accessible to all through financial assistance and community support.

To learn more and get involved with the Summit Area YMCA, please visit www.theSAY.org