

# ARAPAHOE ESTATES COMMUNITY GARDEN AND GARDEN CLUB GARDEN MEMBER GUIDELINES AND REQUIREMENTS



Congratulations on becoming a member of The Arapahoe Estates Community Garden and Garden Club! The Community Garden is an Arapahoe Estates Association amenity and therefore must meet certain appearance and maintenance standards throughout the year. In addition, gardeners are responsible for meeting certain gardening standards and following best practices, as agreed upon by the collective members. Members are therefore obligated to follow the guidelines described below.

**Community Responsibility:** Everyone must take responsibility for maintaining, weeding, and removing trash in the common areas of the garden such as the compost and storage areas, flower beds, the garden entry, pathways and common areas. Please plan to spend extra time each week caring for the common areas.

**Garden Plot Maintenance:** Each plot must be kept clear of weeds, spent plants, debris and trash. It is important to recognize all gardeners have a significant role and responsibility regarding the sustainability of the garden. Until there is a tool shed, gardeners must not leave personal items in the garden area, such as chairs and individual benches, shoes and clothes, unused wire cages, plastic plant pots, personal tools, piles of edging, water bottles, wheel barrows, wagons, bags of compost or leaves, buckets, plastic containers, pipe, hoses and nozzles. Unopened bags of topsoil, compost or manure are also not to be stored in the garden. Chop and spread these materials in your plot immediately. Plastic bags of spent plants, grass clippings and leaves are not allowed to be stored in your garden plot at any time.

**Organic Methods:** Arapahoe Estates Community Garden and Garden Club embraces an organic gardening philosophy. Organic gardening methods are recommended and encouraged. Members will be given information on organic methods. However, members are allowed to choose their own method of gardening – organic or conventional. Herbicides and pesticides should be used wisely, sparingly and with neighboring plots in mind. The Garden Committee has information about the most appropriate types to use based on the problem.

**Plot Boundaries:** Interior “boundary fences” around individual plots are not allowed except in the Children’s Garden; they can quickly make the overall garden unsightly. The preferred boundary is a weed-free edge between your plot and the adjacent path or neighbor. The garden committee, with input from all gardeners, will select a preferred edging material, which if everyone uses will contribute to the overall visual continuity of the garden.

**Planting:** Members must have something planted in their plots by the last weekend in May and must keep it planted throughout the growing season. Members must be aware of the effect their plants will have on surrounding plots. For example, tall plants can shade a neighbor’s plot. A vine plant can quickly grow across the path. Please be considerate.

**Vertical Structures:** Structures to encourage vertical growing including arbors, trellis, tree branch frames, fence sections, and cages are only allowed during the growing season if they are functional, orderly, safe and attractive. Vertical structures used for growing must appear in good condition and contribute to the garden's overall visual continuity. Tomato cages, bean poles, stakes or small trellis(s) must be made of approved materials and wire. All growing structures must be disassembled and removed during the off-season.

**Watering:** In this climate, it is critical to not waste water. Members are encouraged to adhere to Denver Water guidelines and water between 6 p.m. and 10:00 a.m. Proper watering techniques should be used. This includes applying only the water needed using soaker hoses or hand-watering. Less frequent, deep watering is encouraged once roots are established. Mulching is encouraged to retain moisture in the soil and discourage weed growth. Watering with a sprinkler is discouraged. The water must be fully turned off before leaving and the handle locked in the storage locker.

**Compost Area:** Members are encouraged to use and maintain the community compost area. All material used in compost bins must be chopped in one to two inch pieces before being added. Please do not add diseased plant material.

**Harvesting:** It is important to harvest in a timely way. This is important for the plant to continue producing food. It is also important so that food doesn't rot or go to seed, creating unfavorable conditions for other members. Finally, unharvested food can attract vandals.

**Fall Clean-Up:** Garden plots must be cleaned up for the winter by October 15<sup>th</sup>. All personal items are to be removed from the garden during the off-months.

**Helping Each Other:** Until the garden has an automated irrigation system, gardeners may need to help each other water, weed and harvest during such times as vacations and illnesses. Gardeners may call each other to ask for help.

**Pets:** Pets are not allowed in the garden.

**Children:** Children are welcome in the garden and encouraged to participate in the Children's Garden activities. Children must be supervised at all times in the garden and must follow General Conduct rules.

**General Conduct:** Neighborly polite conduct is expected in the garden. Obnoxious behavior can be reported to the garden committee. No one may walk in or take food from another member's plot. Members may bring in visitors, but the member is responsible for holding the visitor accountable for following garden rules.

**Subletting:** A member may NOT sublet a portion of his/her plot to another neighbor without permission from the garden committee.

**Violating Guidelines:** A member who violates the guidelines will be notified by the garden committee. When appropriate, a reasonable amount of time (e.g., a week) will be given to fix the problem. A warning shall be issued for a first offense. A fine will be issued for a second offense of the same nature. With a third offense of the same nature, the member will forfeit his/her plot, deposit and membership in the Garden Club.

**Liability Statement:** Each member understands that neither the garden group nor owners of the land are responsible for that member's actions. EACH MEMBER THEREFORE AGREES TO HOLD HARMLESS THE GARDEN GROUP AND OWNERS OF THE LAND FOR ANY LIABILITY, DAMAGE, LOSS OR CLAIM THAT OCCURS IN CONNECTION WITH USE OF THE GARDEN BY THAT INDIVIDUAL MEMBER OR ANY OF THAT MEMBER'S GUESTS.