



NEW GARDENER

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

7th Street Garden Reservation Request

Name _____

Phone Num. _____ Email _____

Mailing Address _____

In-ground Garden Plot; 10'x19' - \$20 _____ or Raised Bed 4'x 8', or 3'x8' - \$ 13 _____

Once your request is granted, the Garden Committee will provide you with invoice to be paid at City of Blaine offices*

USER AGREEMENT

Blaine 7th St. Community Garden strives to welcome as many community members as possible to participate in the joys of organic gardening.

- 1) Each plot is approximately 10' x 19". Smaller raised beds are also available. Fees are established each year, and will not be pro-rated at any time. The City of Blaine provides water service, hoses, compost bins, and various garden tools.
- 2) New gardeners should turn in their Reservation Request, no later than Feb. 15th. Plot assignments will be determined by Feb. 28 (or the next business day) and designated on a first come, first served basis. Payment for plots must be received by March 15th. Any remaining unassigned or unpaid for plots will be processed in the order in which they were received until all of the plots have been assigned. Any person may turn in a Reservation Request at any time to be added to a "wait list". Those persons on the wait list will be given priority should a plot come available at any time during the year.
- 3) After plot confirmation from the Garden Committee, full payment is to be made to the City of Blaine by March 15th.
- 4) Use of a garden plot does not create any property interest in the land; rather each gardener receives a license to use the plot for gardening purposes only during the designated growing season of March thru November.
- 5) To promote community, each gardener is encouraged to volunteer a minimum of 4 hours during the growing season. These hours go toward maintaining the common areas, garden projects, harvesting/watering the Giving Garden, and placement of full Sanitary Service Company (SSC) food-plus totes along G Street on a bi-weekly basis. Opportunities will be emailed regularly to community gardeners from the Garden Committee
- 6) Water conservation techniques are strongly encouraged. Therefore, do not water other garden plots without permission. Watering during morning and evening is encouraged. Hoses are shared, and use is limited to 30 minutes if others are waiting. Water is to be turned off at the spigot by pushing the handle all the way down.
- 7) Community gardens are for private citizen use only; they are not permitted to be used for commercial production. However, excess produce can be donated to the Blaine Food Bank.

- 8) Keep all paths and garden plots weed free. Garden plants should remain within the boundary of your plot and out of pathways. Place all weeds in the designated SSC totes. Paths are established. Gardeners are responsible for maintaining the path to the east and north of their plots. Please keep woodchips weed free and refreshed with new layers, as needed.
- 9) Organic gardening methods only. No synthetic chemical insecticides, herbicides, or fertilizers. Refer to IPM and OMRI in the Garden Maintenance Guide. Organic compost is delivered to the site, usually in March. There is a requested limit of two wheel barrows for each plot. Rototilling is available upon request.
- 10) Community courtesy: NO alcohol, smoking, drug use, loud radios or profane language. No dogs or other animals. Supervised children are encouraged to participate in gardening. Please respect plot boundaries.
- 11) No invasive plants such as comfrey, mint and Jerusalem artichokes. No GMO plants. No trees or permanent structures. No landscape cloth, please use cardboard which is biodegradable instead! No pressure treated wood or tires in garden plots.
- 12) Semi-permanent structures allowed include rock borders, raised beds, and benches. Any structures other than items listed must be pre-approved by the garden committee prior to installation. All structures must be removed when the gardener vacates the plot.
- 13) Remove all unused stakes, metal poles, netting, and yard art by November 30th.
- 14) Everyone is responsible for trash removal and general maintenance. Please remove your trash and any trash you see left by others. There are no facilities for litter or garbage. DO NOT use dumpsters near the hose spigot. Dumpsters are for use by the apartment units adjacent to the garden. Please take home and discard garbage and recyclables appropriately.
- 15) Harvesting your produce when ready will discourage waste and minimize pest problems. If you cannot harvest or use all your produce, please contact the garden committee for assistance in harvesting and/ or delivery to the Blaine Food Bank.
- 16) Abandoned or neglected plots will be reassigned or maintained. The produce will be donated to the Blaine Food Bank. A plot is considered abandoned or neglected if after two weeks it has not been weeded, watered, harvested or otherwise cared for AND the garden committee was not notified about the gardener's absence. If a gardener is having difficulty caring for their plot, help is available by contacting the garden committee to make arrangements.
- 17) If gardeners do not abide by the Garden Rules, the City of Blaine reserves the right to terminate the license of the offending user and reassign the plot. Before reassigning plots, the negligent gardeners will be contacted. They will be given seven (7) days to resolve any violations. If, at the end of that time period, the violations continue, the user's rights to the garden plot will be terminated. It is the responsibility of each gardener to update their contact information as needed. No refunds will be given.

Commitment: I have read and understand the application and the 7th St. Garden Maintenance Guidelines. I understand and accept all the rules, terms, and conditions stated in both documents for or my participation in Blaine's 7th Street Community Garden.

Signed _____ Date _____

Return this signed form to Kelle A. Sunter, P.O. Box 2177, Blaine, WA 98231

www.ci.blaine.wa.us

email: fruit@blaine-core.com

Let's work to keep the garden a happy, secure, and enjoyable place where all participants can garden and socialize peacefully in a neighborly manner.

Blaine's 7th St. Community Garden - Maintenance Guide

IPM: Integrated Pest Management practices for a successful garden:

- Choose healthy plants that are resistant to pest and disease or considered tolerant varieties.
- Keep plants healthy by watering correctly, have good soil conditions, keep your garden weed free, dispose infected plant parts in Food Plus Toters and practice crop rotation.
- Identify the pests and monitor them to keep population at an acceptable level.
- ALWAYS use the least toxic method to control pests. Try mechanical controls such as handpick, spray off with water, use row covers, or biological controls such as ladybugs for aphids.
- Last option is the use of pesticides (which are not allowed in the Community Garden!)

OMRI: Organic Materials Review Institute is a national nonprofit organization that determines which products are allowed for use in organic food production. OMRI approved products are pesticides and must be used responsibly and according to directions. More is not better. Use only products that are OMRI approved at the 7th St. Community Garden. Follow directions for use carefully.

- BT NEEM, SLUGGO and Safer Soap are allowed. Use only as directed- MORE IS NOT BETTER
- Keep garden debris cleaned up. Sanitation is an effective and safe control for pest problems. Clean tools after using to prevent spreading disease.

WEEDS: knowing what weeds you are dealing with will help you use successful strategies to eliminate them. Removing weeds before they go to seed is an easy way to help limit their future potential!

- A continuous crop of weeds emerges all season long. Some are spring growers, some mid-summer growers, some show up in the fall. Many are annual and some perennial.
- Weeds create a seed bank in garden soils. Weeds that have gone to seed may sprout over a period of years.
- Weed your plot and surrounding pathways regularly. Weeds compete for water, nutrients, space and light. Regular weekly weeding keeps weeds under control. Remove all parts of the weed, including the roots, this is very important with perennial weeds.

WATERING: DO NOT water other garden plots without permission

- Be mindful when watering in the garden. Soak the soil deeply. Plants have difficulty developing deep roots if the only moisture available is on the surface of the soil. Shallow watering dries out more often creating stress on the plants and wasting water.
- Check your garden weekly for its watering needs. During periods of low humidity, whether hot or cold, plants need a deep watering more often. Avoid overhead watering and try to water in the mornings.
- Hoses cannot be attached to overhead watering systems or drip watering systems, unless prior arrangements have been made with Garden Committee.
- Hoses are shared with other gardeners. Limit usage to 30 minutes, if others are waiting.
- Wind up hoses neatly and carefully on the hose reel after use. Be sure water is turned off at the spigot; push the handle all the way down. If freezing temperatures are anticipated, please disconnect hoses and "Y" hose connector (or faucet expander) from the spigot.

FERTILIZING:

Use either an organic (alfalfa meal blood meal) or mineral (crushed stone) fertilizer. There are many premier "organic" fertilizers at local garden stores. Compost makes an excellent, slow release complete fertilizer. If you practice succession planting or intensive spacing, your soil may need an additional dressing of fertilizer or compost before planting the next crop.

COVER CROP: Why use Cover Crops?

Because they feed the soil, and the soil feeds us. As cover crops die back and are turned into the soil, they provide food and energy for the organisms that live and thrive in a healthy soil. Cover Crop seeds are planted in the fall and provide the following benefits:

- Suppress weeds
- Protect soil from rain or runoff
- Improve soil aggregate stability
- Reduce surface crusting
- Add active organic matter to soil
- Fix nitrogen as well as scavenge soil nitrogen
- Suppress soil diseases and pests

Add humus which holds nutrients for roots of next years' plants.

Spring Care for your Cover Crop:

Step 1: Cut Back Growth: Cut back your cover crop before it sets seed. If the tops are tall, cut the tops into small pieces, using shears or clippers. Spread over the bed and leave for a week. **DO NOT PUT IN COMPOST!** It stays in your garden bed to be turned under. If tops are not too tall, you can go immediately to Step 2 and turn cover crop under . . .

Step 2: Turn the cover crop under. Completely bury the green tops and roots so that all the vegetative part is covered with soil. Let the bed rest for 2-3 weeks. During this period the decomposition of the green material can tie up soil nitrogen and inhibit future seed germination,

Step 3: Plant your garden. There will still be some visible evidence of the decomposing cover crop, Not to worry! No need to dig again, simply smooth the soil a little and plant seeds or starts.

NOTE: The process of turning under the cover crop before you can start planting your seeds can take 3 or more weeks. If you want to start planting April 1, for example, you should turn under the cover crop by late February or early March -weather permitting and the soil is not too wet to dig.

Garden Tools Some tools are provided in the tool shed Please be careful when using tools. Clean and return garden, tools to the shed when finished and keep the shed locked-do not share combination with *anyone* who does not have a garden plot.

COMPOSTING: SSC – FOOD PLUS TOTERS:

Toters are provided by the City **for the use of the 7th St. Community Garden ONLY**. Any plant material (including diseased plants or noxious weeds, heavier plant materials and cardboard) can be placed in Toters. The Toters are NOT provided for household or yard waste generated by gardeners or surrounding property owners. If you see anyone depositing inappropriate materials in the toters or non-community garden materials please advise Garden Committee members.

GARDEN COMMITTEE- consists of paid members of the community garden. After plots have been paid for each year, there will be a meeting called to form a garden committee. It shall be the responsibility of the Garden Committee to establish work parties, keep plot owners advised of tasks required, oversee completion of projects and distribute information from the city.

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