

Berkeley Community Gardens 2020 New Membership Agreement and Garden Plot Rules

The Berkeley Community Gardens is a member of the Trustees of Reservations (TOR). The Trustees owns and manages neighborhood gardens and open spaces – nearly 25,000 acres – for the benefit of the public throughout the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

A plot at the Berkeley Community Garden is a privilege enjoyed by Berkeley Garden Members who follow Garden Rules and practice Good Garden Citizenship. Members work together and volunteer time and financial resources to the best of our abilities to make the garden a clean, safe, and welcoming space for all. Rules will be strictly enforced. Members who do not follow Garden Rules and practice Good Garden Citizenship can be fined up to \$150 for each violation and/or forfeit membership and garden plot.

All Member Gardeners Agree to Practice Good Garden Citizenship and Follow the Berkeley Community Gardens Rules.

Gardeners are required to complete 12 hours of volunteer community time to the upkeep of the garden each calendar year. If you do not, you will be assessed an additional \$150.00 at the end of the year. Gardeners can participate in a number of ways: prearranged work times, the 2-hour spring/fall clean ups, snow removal in the winter, or complete special projects. Special projects include tasks like gate and fence maintenance and care of public plantings. You can log your Community Time with an email to cleanups@berkeleygardens.org include: name, plot number, number of hours, description of task, and picture if you have it.

All fees and assessments must be paid before membership may be renewed. Consider contributing more; plot fees are low so that all can afford to participate, but they do not cover all the garden's costs.

*1. **One garden plot per household.** Gardeners qualify for only one plot per household and must be residents of the City of Boston. Any gardener who has signed up for or is cultivating multiple plots as their own will lose all plots. Gardeners who were members prior to 1995 are exempt from this rule. If the owner of a garden leaves, the garden is given up and will be handed out in the next lottery (no passing on gardens to friends or family).*

*2. **All plots must be cultivated by June 1st - NO EXCEPTIONS.** Plots are in high demand. Any plot that is not cultivated by June 1st will be forfeited by the assigned plot holder and redistributed to the next gardener on the annual wait-list. All fees from the first gardener will be forfeited. This rule will be strictly enforced.*

*3. **All plots must be maintained during the growing season.** Gardens should be weeded, produce harvested, and tools, pails, buckets and other materials should only be kept in the garden if being used. **No storage is allowed (see rule 4).** Gardeners can lose their garden if not maintained.*

*4. **Plots must be neat, tidy and well maintained year-round. Redeemable cans and bottles or any other non-garden materials must not be stored in garden plots at any time. Gardeners found to be using their gardens for this purpose will lose their garden plot and be unable to return for one year.** To winterize your garden, all dead plants must be removed by the Fall Clean Up. This includes all vines must be removed from fences More detailed maintenance guidelines will be posted and must be honored.*

*5. **All garden waste must be bagged and brought home with your household trash.***

*6. **Gardeners are responsible for common areas directly outside their gardens.** You are responsible for the planters and areas outside your garden to be clean of trash and weeds, **including the removal of grass and weeds from the gravel path immediately outside your garden.***

7. **Gardeners will respect the public areas and other garden plots.** No gardener may enter or cultivate another plot without permission. Gardeners will not hang hoses on the outside of any plot and will cooperate with others in keeping the paths clear of plants, pots, tools and trellises or other structures. No gardener will prune, plant or remove any plants, flowers or produce from the Garden's public areas. Except as part of a Berkeley Community Garden improvement project. Gardeners will not plant outside their plot boundaries or otherwise extend their planting area, except by working in designated planters along the center path. **Plants growing in buckets or pots are not permitted in the walkways and will be removed without notice.** Gardeners will not allow their plants to grow into neighbor's gardens.

8. **Gardeners will conserve water and avoid the use of non-organic compounds.** Make sure all hoses are disconnected and faucets are turned off after each use. Mulch plants and avoid watering in the middle of the day to minimize evaporation. Please remember that your dues pay for the water we use. Berkeley Garden is an organic garden. Please do not use chemical fertilizer, insecticide, etc.

9. **Before you build any structures in your garden YOU MUST GET APPROVAL.** Berkeley Community Garden plots are to be divided and secured by simple post constructions with wire mesh between plots to allow all gardeners **access to sunlight, air circulation** and to maintain a sense of openness and community. NO new garden structure can be over 6' tall. These structures create shade causing neighboring gardens much distress. No garden can be covered by black plastic, wood, or any other opaque material. Anything built by a garden member including, but not limited to new gates, posts, permanent trellises, canopies, or wire mesh fencing, must be approved by garden leadership prior to construction must not be over 6' tall. Failure to secure prior approval will result in removal of structure or loss of garden plot.

10. *Dog policy* – For the general public we ask that no dogs be brought into the garden.

For Members – while many members own dogs we do understand many of you do bring them into your garden plot to stay with you while you work or harvest. Membership has requested the following of you if you are bringing your dog into the garden

Keep your dog on leash

Do not let your dog play in the common areas

Clean up after your dog

Privacy

Berkeley Community Garden does not share its information with anyone except our parent organization, the Trustees of Reservations (TOR). However, we do provide a list of all of our gardeners and their contact information to TOR each season. You may also be photographed in the course of regular garden activities and such photographs may be used in TOR promotional materials. If you do not wish your contact information to be included in any TOR directories or if you do not wish your photograph to be used in TOR materials, please contact info@berkeleygardens.org.

**Garden leadership will resolve all disputes between gardeners.
All leadership determinations are final.**