**KEY SITE RULES**

**INDIVIDUAL PLOT MAINTENANCE AND COMPLIANCE**

**As of 1/1/2017**

**Condition of Plot**

* Plot must not be overrun with weeds, especially bindweed, Johnson grass, and Bermuda grass. (Rule I.D.1.b)
* Vegetables and/or fruits must be harvested regularly and plants should be removed at the end of their productive life. (Rules I.D.1.a and c)
* Members are expected to garden at all times of the year. Any exceptions must have Board approval. Gardens are not to be left neglected/unattended (unwatered and/or overrun with weeds) for more than two weeks without prior notice and/or arrangements with the Zone Coordinator or Board member. (Rule I.D.2)
* Plots are required to be actively gardened which is defined as:

1. Planting plot in vegetables and/or ornamentals.
2. Maintaining plants after planting by watering, weeding, etc.
3. Harvesting in a timely manner by picking vegetables when ripe, removing expired annuals and cutting, pruning, thinning or deadheading ornamentals, such as perennials and natives, as appropriate.
4. Not leaving plot unplanted in vegetables or ornamentals for extended periods with the exception of letting soil rest; resting soil must be covered with leaves, compost, etc. or planted with a cover crop such as clover, buckwheat, Elbon rye or similar.

(Rule VII, Active Gardening Pilot which expires at end of 2017 Fall Season [1/31/18])

**Boundaries and Borders**

* Sunshine Gardens’ collective space is divided into individual plots with shared borders which require being considerate of neighboring gardeners. Vegetables and ornamentals, including their trellises or similar supporting structures should not be planted/placed so close to plot boundaries that:

1. the plants cannot be cultivated or harvested without entering a neighboring plot,
2. a plant or structure casts excessive shade on a neighboring plot, or
3. a plant or structure otherwise encroaches on a neighboring plot

(Rule I.E.1)

* One-foot strip inside plot along common borders with adjoining plots must be kept free of weeds (Bermuda grass, bindweed, etc.). (Rule I.D.1.e)
* Gardener must maintain two feet into paths and common area beyond the surrounding border of plot. (Rule I.D.1.d)
* Plot must not encroach on paths identified and laid out as common paths by the board. Paths (other than common paths) between adjacent plots sharing a border shall be arranged by the gardeners of the two plots by mutual consent. (Rule I.E.6)

**Fertilizers, Soil Amendments, Etc.**

* Only organic soil amendments, nutrients, and pest controls can be used. When in doubt about a product or method, check with a Zone Coordinator or Board member. (Rule I.E.7)

**Trees, Structures, Wood Frames, Etc.**

* No trees, large cacti or illegal plants may be planted (Rule I.E.2)
* No permanent structures should be placed on the plot. Temporary structures should not shade a neighbor’s plot. (Rule I.E.6)
* The use of chemically treated wood is not allowed. These products contain toxic substances that may leach into the soil. (Rule I.E.9)

**Special Rules for New Gardeners (Rule I.C)**

* Within first 30 days of membership, new gardeners must:
  + Have plot cleared of all plant material other than healthy herbs, perennials or vegetables and prepared for future planting.
  + Complete and record their 1st service hour.
* Within 60 days, complete and record their 2nd service hour and the balance of required service hours by June 30 or December 31
  + Time spent clearing plot not cleared by the previous member may be counted as service hours up to one-half of the total service hours required.