



**Community of Christ
Grateful Gardens**

**990 Meridian Ave
San Jose, CA. 95126
(928)273-4544
gratefulgardenssj@gmail.com**

2019/2020 Rules and Regulations

I. Overview

Our vision is to provide a garden space for members of the community to restore their soul, build relationships, and fulfill their unique potential.

Our mission is to provide a space for the community to gather around sustainable agriculture as restorative and meditative practices.

These rules and regulations have been designed for the following reasons:

- To ensure safety
- To ensure that the garden is a pleasant place to be for gardeners, neighbors and the general public
- To establish fairness and equity among community gardeners
- To responsibly care for the earth and prevent damage to the land and groundwater
- To protect the future of Community of Christ Grateful Gardens

The Rules and Regulations are reviewed and revised annually in an ongoing effort to improve and keep them relevant to changing conditions. You must abide by these rules and regulations as they are currently written. Failure to do so may result in the termination of gardening privileges.

II. Who can rent a box in the Community of Christ Grateful Gardens?

Anyone age 18 or older may rent a box in the Community of Christ Grateful Gardens.

One or more boxes may be reserved for educational use and/or garden and church programs.

III. Box Allocation, Registration and Deposit

The Community of Christ Grateful Gardens uses the following guidelines.

1. One garden box per residence available during rental sign up period Oct. 1 through Oct. 31 for the new year beginning November 1. Additional boxes can be rented if available.
2. An annual fee of \$ 50.00 will be assessed to all box holders. A one-time refundable deposit of \$100.00 is required. Deposit is returned when the box is relinquished and cleaned out by the boxholder to the satisfaction of the Garden Coordinator.
3. Boxes are issued on a first-come first-served basis. If additional boxes are available after rental sign up period, they will be rented on a first-come first-served basis.
4. Garden boxes are issued on a year-to-year basis from November 1 – October 31.
5. The person whose signature appears as the primary gardener on the registration form is ultimately responsible for the maintenance of the entire garden box and for payment of all fees and charges.
6. The box holder is required to inform the Garden Coordinator of any changes to his/her contact information, including home address and telephone number. Failure to provide current contact information may result in termination of contract.
7. Box holders desiring to continue using the box are required to complete the Community of Christ Grateful Gardens Registration and Agreement Form and pay their annual registration fee by the registration deadline of November 1. Those who do not meet the registration/agreement deadline will automatically lose the assigned box and the assigned box will be reassigned to a new gardener.
8. If there are no vacant garden boxes, prospective gardeners may add their name to the waiting list.
9. Box holders do not have any ownership interest in the boxes and may not transfer a box to anyone else, including a family member.
10. New box holders are required to complete the Community Garden Registration and Agreement Form and pay the total annual registration fee and deposit before they can begin gardening.
11. Full payment of the annual registration fee is to be made by check or money order, payable to Community of Christ. **Cash is not accepted.**
12. The annual registration fee includes access to water and a garden box with existing soil.
13. The annual deposit fee is refundable only if the garden box is completely cleaned, including all personal items and garden structures, by October 31.
14. Annual registration fees are not refundable.
15. Additional containers inside the boxes are not allowed.

IV. Gardening Guidelines

A. ORGANIC GARDENING

The Community of Christ Grateful Gardens adheres strictly to the gardening principles, concepts, and practices popularly called “organic.” Products simply labeled “organic” or “natural” are not allowed unless they meet **USDA or OMRI approval (Organic Materials Research Institute)**. The use of pesticides, herbicides, chemical fertilizers, or other such substances or practices inconsistent with organic gardening are prohibited. The use of fertilizer material or tillage methods harmful to the soil’s structure, fertility or microorganisms is prohibited. The use of materials or products harmful to humans is prohibited. (Reference: CRF 205 subparts A, B, C)

B. PLANTING SCHEDULE

1. Garden boxes must be planted and maintained year-round.
2. Summer gardens must be planted by May 31st.
3. Remains of summer gardens must be removed by October 31 if vacating the box or December 1st if continuing to rent the box.
4. Box holders who do not actively garden during the winter must plant a cover crop consisting of legumes and grasses such as oats and barley or add organic compost to keep the dirt level with the top of the box.

C. PLANTING GUIDELINES

1. Box holders may grow vegetables, herbs, flowers, strawberries, and blueberries in their box.
2. Box holders must utilize at least 75% of the box for planting vegetables, herbs flowers, strawberries or blueberries. Boxes are not to be used to store materials/tools not associated with gardening.
3. The box soil must be maintained in an aerated state, and no modification or amendment to the soil shall impede the future use of the box. No more than 20 pounds of salt free sand will be allowed as an amendment to the soil.
4. Cannabis plants are strictly prohibited and will be removed immediately and the gardener will forfeit their box.
5. The following water-intensive crops are prohibited: Taro, rice, sugar cane.
6. Crops should be rotated.
7. Crops must be harvested and not left on the ground to rot and attract above- and below-ground pests.
8. Box holders should grow a variety of plants and it is advised to not grow less than two types of plants at any one time.
9. Respect the need of your neighbors’ plants for sunlight. Do not plant tall crops in a way that will cause excessive shading to nearby boxes.
10. All plants and trellises must be placed and contained inside box perimeter. The Garden Coordinator has the right to trim excess plants growing into the walkway without prior notification.
11. All tires, including but not limited to car and truck tires, are prohibited for use in any capacity in an individual garden box. However, the Garden Coordinator may use them in the common areas for gardening purposes.
12. Trellises or arbors may not be more than 6 feet high, may not shade neighbors’ box and may not be installed permanently. All trellises must be cleaned of all non-producing annuals at time of final harvest.
13. Fencing around the perimeter of garden boxes is not allowed.
14. Cement may not be used in a garden box, under any circumstances. Any wood, metal or Iron posts, including rods, may not be driven into the ground such that they compromise the gopher wire at the bottom of the box and cannot penetrate the soil more than 18 inches in depth from the top of the box. Pressure treated wood in the box is prohibited.
15. The garden coordinator has the right to notify any gardener that their crop will be removed in no less than 48 hours if there is evidence of rust, aphid infestation, powdery mildew, or other pathogens or pests which may affect the health of the garden.

V. Boxholder Responsibilities

1. Box holders are responsible for the year-round maintenance of their garden boxes and the surrounding pathways. Boxes and pathways must be kept free of weeds, trash and other debris at all times.
2. Common areas are maintained as a shared responsibility by all box holders. Such maintenance will occur at garden cleanups scheduled by the Garden Coordinator and/or on an ongoing basis.
3. Box holders are required to attend scheduled garden cleanups or make alternative arrangements with the Garden Coordinator to assist in the maintenance of the garden.
4. Box holders are required to attend at least two garden meetings per year if scheduled. If you are unable to attend a meeting, you are required to contact the Garden Coordinator.
5. Box holders must be involved in the hands-on cultivation of their boxes.
6. Box holders may not pay for someone else to garden their box.
7. Box holders may not charge a fee to other gardeners for the use of their personal tools and/or equipment.
8. In the event of a family emergency, illness or injury, vacation, or other unforeseen circumstance, the box holder may arrange for another gardener to tend the garden box but must notify the Garden Coordinator and provide the name of the other gardener.
9. Box holders and their guests must comply with all rules and regulations.
10. Box holders will be held accountable for the behavior of their guests.
11. Parking for vehicles must be on the asphalt parking lot.
12. Reminder: There is a rodent barrier level with the bottom of each box. Please be cautious when digging so the wire is not broken.

VI. Violations of Community of Christ Grateful Gardens Rules & Regulations

The management of Community of Christ Grateful Gardens may enforce these Rules and Regulations, and in doing so will take action, including termination of the agreement with any gardener who is in violation of these Rules and Regulations.

VIOLATIONS WARRANTING IMMEDIATE TERMINATION BY THE GARDEN:

1. Theft of tools and equipment.
2. Theft of produce and plants.
3. Vandalism of tools, equipment and garden property.
4. The use of foul language and offensive behavior including but not limited to threats, intimidation, violence, racial/ethnic slurs and sexual harassment.
5. The use of alcoholic beverages and illegal drugs of any kind, in any area of the Garden.
6. Smoking is prohibited.
7. Failure to pay registration fee by the deadline.

VII. Miscellaneous

1. Hours of Operation: Community of Christ Grateful Gardens are open from sunrise to sunset
2. Cars: Vehicles are not allowed in the garden, except in designated parking areas.
3. Bathroom: Bathroom facilities are not available. Urinating or defecating in the community garden is prohibited.
4. Garbage: You must take any garbage you generate with you to discard elsewhere. Discarding of garbage on the ground is prohibited. (Dumpster is for Community of Christ only)
5. Composting: Bins are available, please don't leave material on the ground
7. No selling: Produce from Community of Christ Grateful Gardens is primarily for family consumption. Excess food can be preserved for future use, shared with friends or neighbors, or donated to local food banks. You may not sell your produce.
13. Harvesting: Harvest only from your own box. The unauthorized taking of produce from another gardener's box will result in the immediate revocation of your garden box.
14. Water: The amount of water used determines future water fees. No unattended and/or uncontrolled watering allowed. All gardeners are authorized to turn water off if it has been left unattended. Leaky water hoses must be replaced or repaired. It is preferred that watering be done before 10am and after 5pm.
15. Excessive Watering/Watering Schedules: Excessive water use may be defined as the following; water allowed to leave the defined vegetable box/bed; water allowed to run off into the pathway; unattended water hoses left running for extended periods of time –maximum watering time is 20 minutes. Those gardeners not adhering to a watering schedule or who continue to use water in excess may be terminated from the Program.
16. Standing Water: To reduce the breeding of mosquitoes and the spreading of West Nile Virus, no stagnant/standing water allowed, including but not limited to water in containers and buckets.
17. Tools: Box holders need to provide their own tools and not to be stored in garden. The garden is not responsible for lost, damaged, or stolen tools. The Coordinator will leave some hand tools on a table or empty garden bed to be used by all.
18. Animals: Pets are not allowed in community gardens unless the animal is identified as a Service Animal. Please clean up after your pet.
19. Box rental fees do not include access to the bees and the chickens. Eggs and honey may be available at times for a small donation.
20. Social events are not to be held at Grateful Gardens. Visitors and guest may visit the garden only for the purpose of maintaining, harvesting, or planting. Any other activity will be seen as a violation and may warrant suspension of box privileges.

REGISTRATION and AGREEMENT FORM – 2019/2020

I have read the Community of Christ Grateful Gardens Rules and Regulations and agree to abide by its provisions.

Signed _____ Date _____

Printed name _____

Residence address _____

Phone number _____

Email _____

Box Number(s) _____

Amount Enclosed _____