COMMUNITY GARDEN RULES AND REGULATIONS

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The MCC Community Garden (MCC-CG) is operated by faculty and students of the MCC Urban Horticulture Program. Our continued use of this land depends on keeping the property well maintained and maintaining good relationships with the college and surrounding neighborhood(s). To promote the interest in gardening and to insure that the success of the project, MCC-CG requires all gardeners to read and abide by these rules.

1. **Agreement and Fee.** Your completed signed agreement and fee must be received by the date you start gardening.

2. The garden is open from dawn to dusk seven days a week. The combination for the lock will be given to members and will be changed annually or as needed.
   a. Gardeners must provide their own tools. MCCG will assist gardeners in tilling their plots with our rototillers. Rototillers must be reserved in advance.
   b. Keep the gates to the garden closed at all times.
   c. If vandalism or theft occurs notify the MCG staff immediately.
   d. Each member and guest must fill out a MCCD Liability Release Waiver
   e. Family members and friends are welcomed to the garden.
   f. Children are welcomed in the garden but children under the age of fourteen (14) must be supervised at all times.
   g. We encourage you to attend garden meetings and workshops throughout the year.

3. Plots are clearly marked. Do not remove the markers.

4. **Smoking and chewing tobacco is prohibited.** Woodchips used for paths are flammable and tobacco smoke is dangerous to all who breathe it. Tobacco also carries the mosaic virus, which is deadly to some plants.

5. **Alcohol and or illegal substances are not permitted anywhere on Mesa Community College property.**

6. **Service Commitment.** Gardeners understand that this is a community garden and in order for it to succeed gardener support is needed from everyone to: maintain the site; manage compost; keep equipment in good condition; make signs; plan and help keep site picked up from debris.
   a. All members must volunteer their time for general maintenance especially the outside perimeter and adjacent walkways to keep the garden site looking clean of weeds and debris. Use of the site is contingent on our ability to maintain it.
   b. Check the Bulletin Board for chores to be done.
c. Clean up days – There will be at a minimum six (6) clean up days each year and each member is required to participate in a minimum of three. Times and dates will be posted on bulletin board.

7. Dispose of weeds and plant material in the designated compost areas.
   
a. The application of herbicides (weed killers) to the garden plots is prohibited.
   b. You agree never to use unapproved pesticides or herbicides or other chemicals in the garden.
   c. Use of these substances is grounds for immediate forfeiture of privileges and your plot, no refund.

8. Gardening workshops will be held periodically throughout the year, however, it is the gardener's responsibility to research proper gardening techniques. The essence of community gardening is trial and error and sharing of knowledge. Numerous desert gardening books are available in stores and libraries, and the Maricopa Cooperative Extension offers a wealth of information.

9. Individual plot holders may establish their own layout of beds and paths within the dimensions of their assigned garden plots.
   
a. Beds may be raised a maximum of 18 inches from path height.
   b. No permanent structures are permitted (concrete, bricks and mortar)
   c. Support structures, if any, must be installed completely within the plot, not shade other plots, and be made of easily removable materials.
   d. All required materials and costs are the sole responsibility of the member.

10. Individual plot holders may harvest from their own garden whatever their family will eat and may trade their produce with other gardeners.
    
a. Garden plots not harvested in a timely manner (allowing the produce to over ripen) will be picked and donated to a local food bank.
   b. Any of the produce that is not taken home or traded will go to a local food bank.

11. Individual plot holders are responsible for the maintenance and upkeep of their garden plot.
    
a. Notify the Board if you are unable to tend to your plot and or you will be absent for a long period of time.
   b. Watering, weeding, harvesting and any other garden related maintenance are all the responsibility of the gardener.
   c. Gardeners may arrange for other gardeners to tend to and/or water their plots.
   d. Garbage and recycle bins are provided. Recycle all acceptable materials listed on the bulletin board.

12. Pets are not allowed in the garden with the exception of service animals.

13. Watering
a. Drip irrigation is strongly recommended for all plots. A water line is provided to all plots and is set on a timer. MCG staff will help you choose drip equipment hook up your drip system to this line.

b. Notify MCG staff if you find any leaks in the water line.

c. Faucets are provided for hand watering only. Make sure all water faucets are off when you leave the garden.

14. The bulletin board is a way for all of us to keep in touch, please use it for garden related purposes. No non-gardening solicitation.

15. If you have questions or feedback please put them in the suggestion box or email them to MCG staff.

The cooperation of all gardeners is needed to ensure that the MCG runs smoothly and that we can maintain our obligations to our leaseholder and neighbors. If a gardener violates the agreed-upon rules, the Board will address the violation as follows.

16. You must maintain your garden. It is the gardener’s responsibility to notify the Board if he or she is not able to care for their plot in any given week. If any plot remains unattended for more than three weeks that plot is subject to reassignment.

17. Immediate Plot Forfeiture. You will be notified, without prior warning that you have forfeited your plot if you:

a. Fail to comply with Rules No. 4, No. 5, and No. 7.

b. Transfer or sublet your plot without MCG staff approval.

c. Fail to remedy any violation by the deadline in a second notice

d. Exhibit a pattern of behavior that shows disregard for the MCG’s rules, such as chronic or repeated rule violations - even if remedied.

e. Act in a threatening or abusive manner to other gardeners. NO BULLYING!

18. Violation Procedures.

a. If a violation is noted, the Board sends the primary plot holder a first notice by USPS mail, indicating the problem and the deadline for correction: 10 days from the letter’s postmark date.

b. If the problem is not corrected by the first-notice deadline, the Board issues a second and final notice by USPS mail. It restates the problem and indicates both the deadline for correction (10 days from its postmark date) and the consequences of failing to correct the problem: immediate plot forfeiture.

19. Your compliance with the above rules will help everyone have an enjoyable and prosperous garden. Failure to comply with the rules may result in the loss of gardening privileges.

20. MCG staff is responsible for ensuring that the rules are followed at all times.

21. I understand that neither the Urban Horticulture Program nor Mesa Community College is responsible for my actions.
Community Garden Member Application

I THEREFORE AGREE TO HOLD HARMLESS THE URBAN HORTICULTURE PROGRAM AND MESA COMMUNITY COLLEGE FOR ANY LIABILITY, DAMAGE, LOSS OR CLAIM THAT OCCURS IN CONNECTION WITH USE OF THE GARDEN MY GUESTS OR MYSELF.

Name_________________________________________________________

Mailing Address________________________________________________________________

City, State, Zip Code________________________________________________________________

Home Phone Number _________________________ Cell Phone No.___________________

Email Address________________________________________________________________

I agree on this _________ day of ________________, 20___, to comply with these rules.

_________________________________  Parent or guardian if gardener is under 18

Signature

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