

## **SZCGA GUIDANCE & POLICIES**

All South Zone Community Garden members have acknowledged and agreed to the following Guidelines & Policies when signing the 2021 Registration Form.

### **SZCGA GARDEN AGREEMENTS**

#### **As a South Zone Community Gardener, I agree:**

- To restrict my planting and plant growth within the boundary of the assigned garden plot as delineated by the garden stakes.
- To assure that none of my plants spill over into a walkway.
- To maintain my half of any garden path that separates my garden from my neighbour's garden.
- To assure that all dirt clumps, garden tools, sticks, boards etc. are kept within my garden boundaries. Grass and garden paths are not within garden boundaries
- To take measures to keep grass from growing into my garden and to remove any grass that has crept into the garden's edge.
- To be in attendance when my garden is being watered.
- To assure my watering does not overlap a neighbour's garden.
- To keep my garden free of weeds including dandelions, thistles, and quack grass throughout the entire season from April 15 to October 15.
- To take home all garbage materials I bring into the gardens during the course of the year.
- To neatly store all garden materials within the confines of my plot.
- Dispose of all plants suspect of disease in my at home garbage.
- To use only biological/physical controls and organic pesticides to control weeds and insects, avoiding all synthetic pesticides including glyphosate
- To read and follow the guidelines of the Perennial Garden Policy.
- To carefully read all emails containing garden information forwarded from SZCGA
- Attend to garden before June 10\*

**\*If you do not tend to your garden before June 10, we will consider it abandoned and will re-assign it.**

## **REVISED POLICY - Regulations for Perennial or "No-Till" Plots**

The South Zone Community Garden Association (SZCGA) decided to discontinue the practice of contracting and paying for the tilling of garden plots effective 2021. Gardeners may till their rental plots, at their own expense, if they so wish. All garden plots are now considered "no-till" plots, meaning that the SZCGA will no longer arrange or pay for tilling. As all plots are now no-till, gardeners may plant some perennials if they wish.

In order to manage the use and care of no-till plots, the Board has determined that the following regulations will apply:

- Trees are not permitted;
- Perennial plants, such as (but not limited to) raspberries, strawberries, asparagus, rhubarb are permitted on all plots;
- Bushes or shrubs are permitted, subject to the following provisions:
  - Bushes or shrubs must not exceed six feet in height;
  - Suckering bushes and shrubs must be set back from adjoining garden plots at least four feet.
- Structures (such as greenhouses, storage sheds, raised beds, fences or compost bins) are permitted, subject to the following provisions:
  - Structures must be set back from all adjoining garden plots by a distance equal to or greater than the height of the structure, unless the adjoining plot is rented by the same person or a member of his/her immediate family;
  - Structures, including any braces or supports, must be entirely contained within the boundaries of the rented garden plot;
  - fences between plots must not exceed four feet in height;
  - fences that permit light and air to pass through are not subject to the structure setback requirement;
  - Structures must be maintained in good condition;
  - Structures must be removed when the renter decides to discontinue renting the plot.
- All garden plots are subject to the weed/grass control provisions as set out in the agreed terms in the registration form and the guidance, policies, and direction provided on the SZCGA website;
- With respect to SZCG perennial plots which were established prior to January 1, 2017:
  - Occupants of record as of December 31, 2016 are not subject to this policy, except:

- this policy will apply to all new structures and plantings which occur on or after June 19, 2017 (the date on which the previous perennial plot policy was approved by the Board);
- Provisions of this policy will take effect when the plots change hands.

Approved by the Board on November 30, 2020

## **SZCG Association is Committed to Healthy Horticultural Practises Promoting Healthy Horticultural Practises**

### **Mission**

**We commit to administer, organize and foster a community of *gardeners working together to develop healthy horticultural practices for a sustainable future.***

SZCG association is committed to encouraging healthy horticultural practises amongst its members. SZCG supports individual gardeners growing crops and horticultural techniques which they prefer, provided those practices do not impact the ability of other gardeners, present and future, to have healthy gardens.

Use of herbicides and insecticides, failure to control weeds and other inappropriate practices not only endanger the health of neighbouring gardens and gardeners but also the viability of that garden for future renters. SZCG policies, support to gardeners and enforcement of policies is intended to ensure all gardeners have the opportunity to enjoy productive and healthy gardens.

- In the interest of all gardeners SZCG association accepts the responsibility for checking all gardens on a regular basis to ensure SZCG policies, including control of weeds, are followed.
- Should a garden be deemed in need of maintenance the registered owner will be contacted. The gardener will be given a timeline in which to take full corrective action.
- Failure to take full corrective action within the stated timeline can result in the gardener losing "Gardener in Good Standing" status and all associated privileges\*.

Should there be extenuating circumstances that prevent the gardener from taking timely corrective action the gardener should communicate such to SZCG immediately upon receiving notice).

Gardeners in Good Standing may: retain their previous year plot, request a move, and designate who will take over their plot provided their registration form and fees are submitted by Feb. 5, 2021.