



2021 Rules and Regulations

The Community Garden program is a local food program of the High Country Conservation Center (HC3). The Rules and Regulations apply to ALL of our gardens including [Nancy's and Breckenridge](#).

Some gardens may have additional rules and requirements, so please check with individual garden Steering Committees.

PLOT FEES & REFUNDS

Garden plot fees go towards the overall maintenance of the community garden, water bills, and other garden expenses (community tools, liability insurance, garden coordination, and general operation). Plot fees DO NOT include the cost of seeds, organic soil amendments, approved organic fertilizers, or plant starts for your garden plot. Gardeners are responsible for the planting, pest control, and fertilization of their own plots. There is a strict NO REFUND policy once you have been assigned to a garden plot.

ALLOCATION OF GARDEN PLOTS

Garden plots are first allocated to plot holders returning to the same garden from the previous year and who completed their required volunteer time or garden shifts. The remaining plots are allocated to new plot holders based on application date and plot size availability.

GARDENER RESPONSIBILITIES

Volunteer Time and Garden Shifts: All the gardens have required volunteer time or garden shifts. Volunteer time is defined as HC3 approved projects or opportunities, above and beyond maintenance and care of individual plots. This includes but is not limited to HC3 Zero-Waste and fundraiser events, CSA volunteer days, Grow to Share logistics, and more. Nancy's garden shifts refer to greenhouse opening and closing shifts. Nancy's gardeners are required to attend an orientation to review garden shift duties.

Volunteer opportunities will be sent out beginning in May and then periodically throughout the season. Plot holders will be responsible for tracking volunteer time and reporting it directly to HC3's Community Programs Coordinator. Plot holders who do not complete their required volunteer time will forfeit their deposit and right of refusal for 2021.

Planting: Plots must be planted by Father's Day (weather permitting). Any plots unplanted by Father's Day will be forfeited. Gardeners may work and plant their plots as soon as payment is received; however, the date water is turned on varies based on weather. All gardeners will be notified by email about specific planting schedules and requirements.

Nancy's Garden Only – All seedlings must be inspected by the Greenhouse Caretaker before planting to make sure they are pest-free.

Mandatory Workdays: Throughout the season the gardens may schedule mandatory workdays as needed. These workdays do apply to the required volunteer time.

Cleanliness: It is the responsibility of all gardeners to maintain the common space as well as their own plot. Personal garden debris and trash must be removed from the garden area by gardeners. Please do not leave plastic pots, watering cans, jugs, stakes, or trash anywhere in the garden. Weeding, mulching, and trash removal of the common areas will be a community responsibility. Please help if you see that something needs to be done.

Season Extenders: Season extenders such as small hoop houses will be allowed in the garden only after materials have been APPROVED by Garden Steering Committees. Rules on the type of materials allowed for season extenders will apply. No unapproved plastic, signage, stakes, posts, garden art, or decorations will be allowed in the garden! Cost and maintenance of approved season extenders will be the responsibility of the plot holder. If gardeners use unapproved materials in the garden, HC3 staff and garden committee members may remove these materials at the expense of plot holders.

Harvesting Your Plot: We strongly encourage plot holders to not let food go to waste. If a plot holder is unable to harvest their plot or take advantage of the food they are growing, please contact your garden's Steering Committee to facilitate food donations to the Grow to Share program benefiting Summit County WIC and FIRC. You may also be contacted by garden Steering Committee members if your plot needs to be harvested.

Fertilizing and Pest Control: Synthetic and chemical fertilizers and pesticides are NOT allowed in the community gardens or greenhouses (i.e. NO Miracle Grow!). If you are unclear if your product is considered "organic", please contact your Steering Committee.

End of Season Cleaning: Includes removal of your plants and roots. Place plant and root debris in the designated compost bins. All plot holders are required to clean out plots at the end of the season – no exceptions! If plot holders fail to clean out their garden plot by the end of the season, plot holder may lose their deposit, be assessed a fee, and/or lose the garden plot for the following year.

GENERAL GUIDELINES

- Children are welcome in the garden. They must always be supervised by an adult.
- Be water-wise. Roll up hoses NEATLY and make sure water is turned off after use.
- Please help by pulling weeds in walkways and picking up trash in garden common areas.
- It is your responsibility to notify us of any address, phone, or email changes.

NOT ALLOWED

- Synthetic and chemical pesticides or herbicides are prohibited in the garden.
- Pets are prohibited in the gardens, leashed or unleashed.
- Any illegal activity or use of alcohol and/or tobacco is prohibited unless it is a sponsored event.
- Marijuana plants are not allowed.
- Weeding or harvesting from any plot that is not yours is prohibited unless it is a designated Grow to Share plot.
- Untidy gardens are not allowed. Debris and trash must be removed from the garden area by gardeners. All plots are to be kept free of weeds and harmful insects.

HC3 is NOT liable for failed garden crops due to soil, seeds, plants, pests, or weather.

Failure to comply with the above procedures may result in the plot being reassigned and forfeit of plot fees. The Garden Steering Committee will give one warning. If the problem has not been satisfactorily addressed within two weeks, the plot will be reassigned. Garden Steering Committees and the High Country Conservation Center are the final authority in all disputes.