



TUSTIN AREA SENIOR CENTER (TASC) COMMUNITY GARDEN GUIDELINES 200 South "C" Street, Tustin, CA 92780

Participants of the Tustin Area Senior Center are eager to grow wholesome food, meet their neighbors, and beautify our city. To help ensure that we have a safe and successful gardening experience, the following guidelines are established. All TASC Community Garden participants (Community Gardeners) and volunteers will work together to achieve these objectives.

Community Gardeners must agree to abide by the guidelines of the TASC Community Garden. The Tustin Area Senior Center Recreation Coordinator is the final arbiter of any disputes or violation of the Community Garden Guidelines.

Suggestions or questions about the TASC Community Garden Guidelines should be brought to the attention of TASC staff. The current guidelines are subject to change to allow for continuous growth and improvement of the garden.

ARTICLE I - Mission and Purpose

The mission of the TASC Community Garden is to offer an affordable and pollinator-friendly community garden in order to produce a healthy source of fresh food, strengthen the senior community, and provide a peaceful place of beauty for all to enjoy. The TASC Community Garden shall not carry on any other activities other than as described within.

ARTICLE II - Plot Reservation

Plot reservations are open to all Tustin Area Senior Center participants.

Plot Reservation: TASC participants can reserve a plot by submitting an application and payment of annual dues. Applications can be found online at www.tustinca.org/tasc or picked up at the Senior Center front desk.

1. Only one plot is permitted per participant.

2. Organizations may also apply for a plot reservation; two plots maximum (based on plot availability), one designee must be named on the application.
3. The reservation agreement between the TASC Community Garden and the Community Gardener is for one calendar year, ending December 31st.
4. Plot reservation applications are due by December 15th of the prior year.
5. Community Gardeners must comply with guidelines. **Any participant that does not maintain his or her plot in compliance to the Rules (Article IV) forfeits the right to his or her plot.**
6. Community Gardeners who have forfeited their plot for any reason may not reapply and are not eligible for prorated refunds of annual fee.

ARTICLE III - Plot Reservation Dues and Renewals

Plot reservation dues are reviewed on an annual basis and adjusted within a reasonable time as needed. Plot reservation dues and any special fees approved by TASC staff will be communicated to the member prior to the annual renewal.

1. Plot reservation is contingent on receipt of dues by January 31st of the current year.
2. Renewal for plot reservation is not automatic. Community Gardeners with one or more compliance violations are subject to review by TASC staff before a renewal statement is sent.
3. Renewal statements will be issued on October 15th of each year and due by November 15th.
4. If a Community Gardener chooses not to renew plot reservation, they must notify TASC staff and clear the plot of all vegetation and personal items by December 15th of that year.
5. The TASC Community Garden may also be accessed by Volunteer Gardeners, who are members of the general public. Volunteer Gardeners are non-paying participants who contribute time and provide support for garden projects or community events, therefore have a vested interest in the garden and our community.

ARTICLE IV - Community Garden Rules

1. Community Gardeners are required to plant year-round. Cover crops are considered planting.
2. Crops must be harvested in a timely manner to minimize disease and ensure the health of the garden. Crops left to fall to the ground or rot will be considered a violation as they may attract fungus, insects, and rodents.
3. Plants must be cleared when the following occurs: browning, drying, no new growth, dead vegetation, etc. as they attract unwanted fungus, insects, and rodents. Plots in these conditions not cleared out in a reasonable time will be considered a violation.
4. Plots must be maintained clear of weeds.
5. Community Gardeners may only plant in raised beds within their designated plot. It is not allowed to plant directly in the ground or in the common garden areas.
6. Community Gardeners may not erect permanent structure exceeding 36" in height, measured from the level path to the top of the structure.
 - a. A structure is defined as solid material including, but not limited to:
 - i. Wood
 - ii. Metal
 - iii. Plastic
 - iv. Rubber, etc.
 - b. A structure is permanent if it is affixed to the raised bed or secured in the native soil.
All existing structures are subject to review.
7. Community Gardeners are responsible for the watering and upkeep of plot. A hose will be provided; the hose must be kept on its designated rack and not removed from premises.
8. Storage or equipment, such as a hose, tools, trellises or stakes, wagons, etc. around common paths are not allowed. These are tripping and fire hazards.
9. Automatic irrigation systems are not permitted.
10. Any gardener who is overwatering and creating a "bloom" in the pathways surrounding their plot will be considered in violation.
11. All installations are subject to the final approval of TASC Staff.

12. New gardeners will be allowed 90 days to build and plant in their designated plots.
13. The following invasive species may not be planted:
 - a. Trees
 - b. Mint
 - c. Cane berries (genus *Rubus*)
 - d. Sweet potatoes
 - e. Bamboo
 - f. Ivy
 - g. Morning Glory
 - h. Cannabis
 - i. Sunflowers, taller than 5 foot (genus *Helianthus*)
14. Planting, decorating, and placing personal objects is limited to the gardener's assigned plot. Items placed outside of the assigned plot will be removed at the discretion of the TASC staff.
15. Community Gardeners may only pick crops from their own plot, unless given written permission by another gardener.
16. Use of Round Up® is not allowed. It is encouraged to use Integrated Pest Management (IPM) instead. IPM is the use of methods of controlling pests, weed control, and foliar diseases that provide long term prevention or suppression of pest problems with minimum impact on human health, the environment, and non-target organisms. When possible, gardeners should use OMRI-certified products.
17. No pets are allowed in the garden at any time.
18. Children under 16 must be supervised at all times.
19. All guests must be accompanied by a current Community Gardener.
20. Access to the garden is limited to Monday-Friday, 8am-5pm and Saturday, 8am- 12pm. Garden will be closed on observed holidays and maintenance days.
21. Community Gardeners may designate Guest Gardeners to act on their behalf while on vacation, medical leave, or other temporary absence. All Guest Gardeners are required to

sign a Waiver of Liability and submit it to the TASC staff before assuming Guest Gardener status. Guest Gardeners are limited to **60 days** and must be approved by the TASC staff.

22. No private parties are allowed at TASC Community Garden unless hosted by the TASC staff.
23. No alcohol, cannabis, or recreational drugs are allowed inside the garden.
24. Be mindful of other members and small children when in conversation; no cursing or use of foul language.
25. 'Compliance Violations' will be sent via email, followed by a courtesy phone call within two business days.
26. If a Community Gardener's plot becomes unkempt or the gardener has taken no action in 60 days (no clearing or planting has taken place), the gardener will be given a 'Compliance Violation' notice. The gardener has 15 days to rectify the violation. If the gardener hasn't complied within 15 days, a second 'Compliance Violation' notice will be issued. Again, the gardener has 15 days to rectify the violation. Failure to notify TASC staff or to comply within 15 days after the second violation, will result in the Community Gardener losing his or her plot.
27. Plot(s) in the Community Garden will be revoked upon the third non-compliance notification in one (1) calendar year.