



**LICA**  
ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDS

## Bonnyville Community Garden and Compost Gardener Guidelines

These guidelines are intended to communicate with garden members that the Bonnyville Community Garden and Compost (BCGC) recognizes our collective obligation to conduct gardening activities in a responsible manner and to maintain healthy, safe and respectful conditions in the community garden. For the purposes of this document, any reference to the Bonnyville Community Garden and Compost, BCGC, "the garden" or "the garden site" means the general boundaries of the garden.

Gardeners must always adhere to the guidelines while using their plot or community garden resources. LICA reserves the right to add, remove or modify any guideline at any time. Gardeners will be notified if changes are made.

### **My Plot**

- I understand I am responsible for my plot unless it is reassigned.
- I understand plots are non-transferable.
- I understand if I give up my plot, then ask for a plot later, I will be placed on a first-come/first-served waiting list.
- I understand there are no refunds, even if I give up my plot before planting it.
- I will not modify the size/dimensions of plot assigned to me. Plot size varies from 4' x 4' to 4' x 16' and are either single- or double-height (10" or 20").
- I will leave the number stapled to my plot where it has been placed so each plot is identifiable.
- I understand the number of plots I can sign up for is limited to:
  - Two plot reservation limit per household (if there is no waiting list).
- I will attend an orientation meeting hosted by LICA prior to beginning work on my plot. If I cannot attend the group meeting, I will contact the Garden Coordinator and schedule an individual orientation meeting prior to working in my plot.
- I will remove debris and weeds and begin planting by June 1<sup>st</sup>.
- I agree if I am unable to care for my plot for an extended period of time, I will arrange for someone to care for my plot.
- I will notify the Garden Coordinator if I am unable to harvest or care for my plot for the remainder of the season. LICA reserves the right to reassign the plots.

- I will prepare my plot for winter by the last Work Day as designated by the Garden Coordinator, including removal of diseased or rotting plants to discourage the spread of plant diseases and pests. The last Work Day will be chosen by the first week in September.

### **Planting and Gardening**

- I agree to use organic gardening methods and will not use chemical fertilizers, herbicides, pesticides, or fungicides.
- I agree that I may only grow fruits, vegetables, or flowers in my garden. I will not plant noxious weeds or invasive plants. I will not plant cannabis, tobacco, or other drug/medicinal plants.
- I will not shade neighboring plots with my plants or structures. This includes trellises, stakes, fencing, branches or other structures that can block sun from another's plot.
- I will not harvest produce from plots other than my own.
- I will place dead plant material in the composting facilities on site and follow the compost guidelines.

### **Common Areas and Communal Resources**

- You are welcome to keep your personal gardening tools in the community shed on site. Please clearly mark your tools with your name. The Garden Coordinator and LICA are not responsible for any lost or missing tools.
- I will not use tools that are not mine without first obtaining the consent of the owner.
- I will share woodchips, water, soil and any other communal garden materials fairly.
- I will water my plot in a responsible way and conserve water when possible. I will never leave a hose unattended.
- I will not take community tools or garden materials out of the garden for personal use.
- I will care for community tools by cleaning and returning them to the shed when I am finished using them. Please turn wheelbarrows upside down to prevent water from pooling.
- I will keep trash and litter picked up in my plot and adjacent areas, and deposit it in the proper receptacles. No organic matter in the trash, and no trash in the compost.
- I agree to volunteer for four hours total over the planting season doing general garden maintenance in the common areas, either at organized Work Days or by communicating with the Garden Coordinator and completing assigned tasks on my own time. The Garden Coordinator will send an email and create a Facebook Event page to notify plot holders of garden Work Days. Work Days will be hosted once a month from May to September.

- I will not obstruct walkways with fencing, unwound hoses, or plants, including vines.
- I will not give the gate/shed lock combination to anyone or share/duplicate any keys that I am assigned for the garden.
- I understand that if I have multiple plots, I will maintain the pathways between adjacent plots.

### **Community Principles**

- I will help keep the garden site looking respectable.
- I will use appropriate language and respectful behavior towards LICA staff, gardeners & visitors.
- I will notify the Garden Coordinator promptly of vandalism, theft, inappropriate behavior, disputes with other garden members, or other questions or concerns.
- I will receive permission before entering the other gardeners' plots (except for retrieving community tools).
- I will keep pets outside of the garden plots and leashed.
- I will be responsible for my guests, my children and my pets at the community gardens.
- I understand I cannot reserve my plot for commercial activity and I will contact the Garden Coordinator for availability after reservations are fulfilled.
- There is no smoking, alcohol or drug use in the community garden.

LICA absolves full responsibility of crop health, prosperity, and the quality of produce.

### **Definitions**

- **Unkempt:** Examples of an unkempt plot include weeds taking over, unsafe pathways, debris not removed, rotting produce or any other concern, nuisance or liability that is caused by a lack of care for your plot.
- **Weeds:** Any plants not purposely planted or desired by the plot's gardener. Examples of common weeds are thistles, dandelions, plantain, or grasses not planted or desired by the gardener of a particular plot. What is a weed to one gardener may be a decorative plant to another; weeds become weeds when they are unwanted by the gardener tending the plot.
- **Organic:** Materials derived from 100% all-natural sources which do not contain synthetic chemicals. Composting and integrated pest management are typically organic methods. Miracle-Gro and Raid are not.