

# Mid-Sun Community Garden 2020 Frequently Asked Questions

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## Who Can Apply For A Plot In The Mid-Sun Community Garden?

Residents of all communities are welcome to apply for a plot. No previous connection with our garden is required. In order to be assigned a plot, gardeners must be registered with the Mid-Sun Community Association. See <https://www.midsun.org/mid-sun-community-garden/>

## How Much Does It Cost To Register?

Registration typical opens in early November for renewing gardeners in good standing and in early December for new gardeners. Garden Plot rental for all gardeners is \$20 per plot for the season. Gardeners who are residents of Midnapore or Sundance are required to be members of the Mid-Sun Community Association at the time of registration. Community Association membership is \$20 per year, renewable each 01-July. Gardeners not residents of Midnapore or Sundance are required to pay a Support Fee of \$20 for the season at the time of registration.

## How Many Plots Can A Gardener Have?

Registration is for one plot per household. Renewing gardeners in good standing may ask to be placed on a waitlist for a second plot should any be available after the Open registration period ends in mid- May. Second plots revert to the available pool at the end of the season.

## What Does A Gardener Get When Assigned A Plot?

- One 4' x 8' plot for your use during the season.
- Each plot is sprayed with Living Soil Solution's 'Compost Tea' once per season
- Shared common tools in the shed.
- Access to compost
- Access to rain barrel water and to city water from the Community Association building.
- Access to limited amounts of Raspberries, wild Strawberries, and Saskatoon berries.
- Access to limited amounts of fresh herbs from our shared herb bed.
- Reduced costs to speaker events such as Dr. Ken Fry from Olds College sharing his wealth of knowledge on entomology.
- Free education events by our own gardeners. In 2019 we had a garden orientation and a tomato seminar.
- Social events sponsored by our active Social Butterfly team during the season for sharing knowledge and creating friendships.
- Our annual plant share and plant sale in the spring with access to 'compost tea' and other products by Mike Dorion (See <https://livingsoil.ca/>)

## What Are The Responsibilities Of Each Gardener?

- Being a good neighbor.
- Understand the rules. Maintaining their plot, including seeding, planting, weeding, watering, harvesting, and end of season clean up in a timely manner.
- Weed and prepare their plot for planting by 15-May and plant it by 15-Jun. If a plot has not been worked on by 15-May it will be assumed to be abandoned and the gardener will be notified via email. If the plot has still not been attended to within seven days of notification it will revert to the available pool for reassignment.
- Weeding the area immediately around your plot, including the mulched path.
- Performing **5 hours** of voluntary service **per plot** during the season (This does not include maintenance of their own plot). There is a list of Volunteer Positions and/or teams that gardeners can sign up for. Persons who don't have the time for 5 hours of volunteering, basically an hour a month during the season, won't have enough time to maintain their plot. Gardeners who fail to fulfill their 5 hours of volunteer work have to sit out one season to be eligible to register again.

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## What If You Don't Know How To Garden?

Don't let lack of experience prevent involvement. The best way to learn, and to have fun, is to work with and learn from other gardeners. The most important thing is to ask for help and suggestions from fellow gardeners. Experienced gardeners are usually quite glad to share their knowledge and skills with gardening novices. Experienced gardeners learn too!

## What Plants Are Not Allowed In Our Garden?

- No invasive, prohibited or noxious plants. Google '*prohibited noxious plants in Alberta*'
- No Cannabis is permitted to be planted in our garden as public access is not controlled..

## What About Deer, Rabbits, ...?

We do have deer and rabbits that will gladly eat almost anything that grows if it is not protected by a barrier to restrict their access. The only items the deer tend to leave alone most years are garlic, potatoes, and tomatoes. Most gardeners attach netting or some other type of covering to a light frame. These barriers are also a deterrent to thieves and vandals.

## Theft And Vandalism?

Theft and vandalism happen and are crimes. Keeping our garden well maintained helps to prevent vandalism. The Community Association does have security cameras monitoring the garden.

## How Much Time Does A Plot Require Each Week?

It varies on weather, seed starting, etc. Generally, if a gardener doesn't think they can tend to a plot twice a week they should consider sharing with someone else. If a plot is not maintained, it won't be productive and will tend to attract disease and pests to the entire garden. If a gardener is going to be away for any length of time, they usually speak with a garden neighbor about watering their plot when they water theirs. There is also a whiteboard on the shed where gardeners can post a plot number and dates they will be away so other members can water their plot.

## Is Our Garden Organic?

We produce our own compost to use as available. Commercial compost from Peak Compost (see <http://peakcompost.ca/benefits/>) is also provided to supplement our own. Organic fertilizers are encouraged. If there are questions about a particular product email Garden Administration.

## What Can Be Put In The Compost?

**Anything that has not gone to seed, is not diseased and is not a weed root.** Compost materials have to be cut to six inches or less. We use a three stage bin system. The left bin, marked **STAGE 1**, is for fresh material. Our system does not reach high enough temperatures to properly sterilize pathogens, viable seeds and weed roots.

## The Veterans Food Bank?

Our garden maintains a few plots for providing fresh produce to the Veterans Food Bank. These plots may be sponsored for a cost of \$20 per plot for season. Sponsors do not have to be gardeners or members of the Community Association and do not incur the responsibilities of gardeners. Garden members will plant and maintain the plots as part of their volunteer time.

## WHAT ARE THE RULES?

This document and a Garden Plot Rental Agreement are emailed when a gardener registers with the Community Association. The Rental Agreement contains a summary of the rules. When the Agreement is signed a Welcome To The Garden document with more information is emailed.

## Questions?

Email Garden Administration [midsungarden@gmail.com](mailto:midsungarden@gmail.com)  
Check out our FaceBook page [Mid-Sun Community Garden](#)