



2017/2018

## Garden Individual & Communal Membership Rules

Valid through September 30, 2018

### Individual Plot Membership Rules

1. I will pay the fee for an Individual Plot or inclusion in the Communal Plot(s) & Food Forest Areas to help cover annual garden expenses (fee is non-refundable). Membership is from Oct. 1- Sept. 30.
2. I will attend the annual **Garden Orientation** prior to planting in the garden, or schedule a convenient time with a Garden Executive Committee member.
3. I will begin planting by late October and keep my plot planted at least through April 30th, though year-round gardening is strongly encouraged.
4. If I must abandon my plot I will notify the garden Executive Committee and/or communal membership committee(s) so they can redistribute the plot. "Abandon" means plot is left untended for four weeks. Before the plot is redistributed the member will receive a notice and have an opportunity to respond.
5. I will keep weeds down and maintain the areas immediately surrounding my plot. If left dormant in the summer, I will "summerize" by planting a cover crop, or solarize my plot to prevent weed growth.
6. I will place weeds and other organic matter in designated compost bins (as long as weeds have no seeds and/or disease) or designated disposal containers.
7. I understand that the community garden is a "pack in/pack out" zone and any trash I bring into the garden I will also remove when I leave the garden. And, I also agree to help remove any trash found in the garden that is not my own. *Nobody likes trash, so lets keep the garden tidy!*
8. **I WILL NOT PURCHASE ANY NIGHTSHADE VEGGIES** (peppers, tomatoes or eggplants) FROM HOME DEPOT or any "big box" retail or commercial supplier (i.e. Kmart, Sears), due to leaf curl and other diseases from these sources. SEE ADDENDUM below re: TOMATOES.
9. I will use only organic pest control methods and organic, non-chemical fertilizers. I pledge to use mostly organic, non-genetically modified seeds in the garden.
10. I will not use pressure treated wood or other toxic materials in the garden.
11. I will keep **tall crops**; beans, tomatoes and eggplants, to heights that will not shade neighboring plots.
12. **New!** I understand that "**trees**" and tree-like plants, such as citrus, papaya, bananas, moringa, katuk, etc., are to be grown in the Food Forest area or kept to 4 ft. max. height. The garden's Executive Committee welcomes your help to cultivate an abundant Food Forest with sufficient bounty for all.
13. **New!** I understand that all garden members are required to volunteer in the Common Areas (walkways, outer perimeter, tool shed, composting areas) cleaning and or maintenance at least **3 hours per month** from October thru April, for a total of 21 total hours for the season. And, "Common Areas" are not "Communal" area/beds. If a member will be out of town for a whole month arrangements can be made to double up on hours in the proceeding month or returning month. There is no option to "opt out" of Common Area work hour requirements during the Oct. thru April season. Garden maintenance is too large a task for a few, and also a precursor to accomplishing larger garden projects. During the hot summer months we will be paying someone to maintain the upkeep of the garden.

**Please Note:** To facilitate members' busy and varying schedules there will be at least 6 opportunities a month to fulfill your 3 hour Common Area work requirements. We are scheduling a work day every Saturday and at least two weekday evenings each month. Members will be expected to log their volunteer hours on a sign-in sheet that will be available during work days. Members who miss two months' work days (that's 12 opportunities), either consecutively or non-consecutively, without prior arrangement will forfeit their fees and membership in the garden. If they have an individual plot it will be returned to the pool for new members.

14. On my regular visits to the garden I will continually help to maintain the general cleanliness, safety, and accessibility of all areas of the Garden by sweeping walk ways, pulling weeds, removing debris, turning compost, tidying tool sheds, and other tasks for the common good of the Garden.
15. I will not harvest from anyone else's individual plot without their permission, nor will I harvest from Communal Plots/Beds or the Food Forest unless I have helped water and maintain those areas.

16. I pledge to conserve water by ensuring that all spigots are turned off after watering, and I will use hand watering only for irrigating my designated plot or common areas. I WILL USE CISTERN WATER, and/or WELL WATER FIRST, then school tap water; whenever possible.
17. I understand that dogs are not permitted in the garden.
18. I understand that smoking is not permitted in the garden or surrounding areas.
19. **New!** All members are welcome to volunteer time to cultivate and maintain the Food Forest and or "Communal" area beds. Other than herbs and tree greens (chaya) harvesting of communal beds will be reserved for those members who actually volunteer time maintaining the food forest or serving on one of the communal bed committees.

Additionally, harvesting of large items in the communal beds or the food forest will be on work Saturdays only. This includes, but may not be limited to, bananas, pumpkins, papayas, dragon fruit, and pineapples. Harvesting of smaller items, tomatoes, peppers, greens, herbs, eggplants, etc. will continue to be on a daily basis with judicious consideration for other gardeners.

20. I will help keep the tool shed organized.
21. **New!** Lastly, I agree to bring issues or grievances to the garden's Executive Committee. Don't take matters into your own hands, if something is bothering you, bring it to the Executive Committee's attention.

### **Communal Plots/Beds & Food Forest Specifics**

**Please Note:** It is understood that the rules for Individual Plots (particularly the 3 hour/month garden "Common Area" maintenance obligation, Item #19 above) also apply to Communal Plots/Beds and the Food Forest area, so we will not repeat them below.

1. I will actively participate in at least one communal plot area, and I understand that by doing so I can judiciously harvest from all communal areas, including the Food Forest, subject Item #19 above.
2. I will communicate with the other garden communal plot and Food Forest members before making changes that might disrupt the work of others, including planting new crops and removing plants. Communication is key for success of the communal plots & Food Forest areas.

**New! What's the plan?** *We hope all garden members will work together to embrace a new approach. We'd like to have open discussion about what "core/bountiful" crops should grow where, and then determine which gardeners are interested in participation in those areas to help them flourish. Simple!*

### **2017/2018 Addendum**

We are continuing to phase out plastic, toxic and problematic materials from the garden as much as possible, in favor of natural, organic, safer, and more efficient materials. Preferred materials will be purchased by the garden upon request and within reason.

1. PVC PIPE. Use of PVC pipe will no longer be allowed for any new construction projects. Those who currently have PVC in their plots are not required to remove them, however, are strongly encouraged to replace them. Bamboo poles will be purchased by the garden.
2. WOOD PLOTS that need repair should be replaced by concrete block, supplied by the garden.
3. **New!** Round cone-shaped TOMATO CAGES made of wire are no longer allowed in the garden. This style of tomato caging is simply dangerous! The garden will purchase acceptable alternatives upon request.
4. REUSING MATERIALS. While we fully encourage the use of recycled/re-purposed materials in the garden, please be very selective about items that are brought to the garden without an immediate purpose or not in working order. We aim to keep the garden as tidy as possible.

Signature of Member #1 \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Signature of Member #2 \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Signature of Member #3 \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Please return signed forms with cash or check made payable to:  
 Community Garden Key West (CGKW), PO Box 2946, Key West, FL 33040  
[www.communitygardenkeywest.com](http://www.communitygardenkeywest.com)