



THE GLORY OF GARDENING

Hand in the dirt, head in the sun, heart with nature

The Department of Recreation Services is pleased to introduce a new monthly newsletter for our garden plot permit holders. It is our goal in 2019 and beyond to increase communications in an effort to enhance the gardening experience for everyone. When we work together and follow the same simple rules, the benefits of this truly unique place will bloom and flourish. As you nurture your garden, remember to follow three key principles:

“No occupation is as delightful to me as the culture of the earth, and no culture comparable to that of the garden.”—Thomas Jefferson

1. Grow Something!

Plant what you can grow successfully and will enjoy eating—without it overtaking your plot. If planting vegetables with climbing vines, take care to not overshadow or intrude upon on your neighbors' gardens. Avoid invasive species. Mint, for one, easily could overtake your plot and your neighbors' plots!

2. No Empty Plots

An unattended, overgrown or barren plot hinders the well-being of other plots and causes Garden Center Staff and neighbors to worry about your welfare. If you are unable to spend the time and energy necessary for plot upkeep, consider recruiting a “plot partner” or cancelling your plot membership. **Upkeep includes keeping your garden plot weed free.**

3. Respect Your Environment

Remember that whatever you do can affect your fellow gardeners and surroundings.



COMPLIANCE

BASIC RULES AND REGULATIONS

Every plot holder must meet compliance standards to ensure the gardens remain an enjoyable and relaxing place for all. As the spring gardening season looms closer, we share these reminders of the important rules and regulations all gardeners must follow:

- Be water wise and conservation minded; **do not overwater or leave water running unattended**
- Remove all weeds from each plot and adjacent paths
- Remove debris and trash
- Do not block pathways
- Keep woodpiles 8 inches off the ground
- Do not plant trees in garden plots
- Keep fencing in good repair
- Plot must show evidence that active gardening takes place at least once a month



Failure to follow these compliance rules (and other safety rules) could result in disciplinary action and revocation of your permit. We will increase compliance enforcement in 2019. Staff is available at all times to explain any compliance issues, as well to enforce all rules and regulations.

GENERAL PLOT GUIDELINES

- **Garden plots** are approximately 200 square feet.
 - **Permits** are issued on a first-come, first-served basis to Laguna Woods Village Residents only. Fees are paid once a year.
 - **Plots** are assigned by Staff only. Permit holders cannot “promise” plots to anyone.
 - **Permit holders** must do their own gardening and cannot sublease plots without Staff approval.
 - **Staff office hours** are generally 8 a.m. to noon Monday through Friday in Garden Center 2. Staff hours at Garden Center 1 vary. Call **949-597-4322** for more information. For emergencies, call Security at **949-580-1400**.
 - **Hours** in both centers are from sunrise to sunset every day.
 - **Mulch** outside of plots is prohibited.
 - **Gravel** is permitted only in pathways outside the plots.
 - **Pets** are not allowed.
 - **Pesticides** of any kind are prohibited.
 - **Gardeners** are obligated to plant fruits, vegetables and/or flowers. Seasonal gardeners must share their plots with other seasonal gardeners.
 - **Plants larger than the plot size** are not allowed. Selective invasive plants are not allowed (berries, bougainvillea, etc.).
 - **Keep tree plots** free of ground cover and weeds.
 - **Keep gardening essentials** stored in a neat and orderly manner, preferably in a locked cabinet
 - **Water** is available to every permit holder; however, the location must be accessible from outside the fence in the event of a leak.
- Copies of the Garden Center Operating Rules packet are available for free at the Garden Center 2 Staff office.**



BE A POLLINATOR PARENT

Did you know one-third of our food and three-fourths of our flowers depend on pollinators such as bees, butterflies and birds? From apples to avocados to tomatoes, many fruits and vegetables in our gardens rely on the gifts pollinators share.

Studies show that bee colony decline is a result of the use of pesticides containing neonicotinoid. Pesticides kill bad insects, but they also kill beneficial insects like bees, ladybugs and other garden pest predators.

In the future, Department of Recreation Services plans to create common-area gardens for pollinators as a way to welcome them and help our environment flourish. The department will plant various flowers and native plants, and install shallow watering stations and feeders to attract birds, bees, butterflies and many other beneficial insects.

Consider becoming a pollinator parent. Sign-up sheets are at both garden center offices.

ENJOY YOUR GARDEN!

The Garden Centers are GRF recreational facilities managed by Laguna Woods Village Staff. They are functioning farms that offer a relaxing, enjoyable environment for residents to plant, tend and harvest their own fruits and vegetables. Administration and management of this unique facility will focus on this goal to ensure you make the most of your garden plot investment. Please call **949-597-4322** if you have questions or concerns.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

VOLUNTEER DAYS

Last Saturday of every month

OPEN HOUSE

First Monday and Saturday of every month