



SPENCER COMMUNITY GARDENS POLICIES & RULES

Spencer Community Garden's Vision: To create a place for participants to garden in a happy, secure, and enjoyable place where all participants can garden and socialize peacefully in a neighborly manner.

Welcome to the Spencer Community Gardens! In order for the Spencer Community Gardens (SCG) to succeed, gardener support is needed to maintain individual garden plots and the surrounding areas. SCGs are proud to be located within county, city, and privately owned property. Participants are expected to follow the policies and rules identified here to ensure execution of the SCG's vision. SCG is a volunteer based community effort. Clay Co ISU Extension office supports SCG's vision. They graciously allow us to use their office support to answer or direct questions to the appropriate place.

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Watering

- Unattended watering is not permitted. Watering timers are not allowed.
- Be mindful of conserving water. Turn water off at faucet promptly after use. Be considerate of others waiting to water.
- It is the gardener's responsibility to provide their own hose/equipment to water. SCG will provide the hoses that are still in good working condition from previous years, however, SCG will not replace those hoses when they wear out. A 75 foot hose should reach each garden plot. Gardeners can store it inside their garden plot.
- Lay hoses provided by the SCG neatly in designated areas when finished watering. Notify the SCG of any leaks.
- Gardeners may arrange for other gardeners to water their plots.

Weeds, weeds...and MORE weeds!

- *Spencer Community Gardeners are **required** to follow the City Ordinance that state **weeds are not to exceed 8 inches.***
Gardens which have weeds exceeding 8 inches will be mowed down.
- Liquid weed control is not allowed. Retail grade herbicides, pesticides and fertilizers may be applied in powder and granular form only. professional grade is not allowed. Contact Gary Hoefling if you have questions if a product is allowed. Gardeners are responsible for keeping their plot & edges free of weeds, diseased plants, insect-infested plants and over-ripe vegetables. Disposal of pulled weeds & plant materials are the responsibility of the gardener & are expected to be removed from the garden site. These materials can be taken to the city's designated tree & leaf removal site.

Mulching

- Mulching is encouraged to reduce water evaporation & keep weeds under control. *A thick layer (4 inch) of grass clippings works well*
- Landscape fabric / newspaper is allowed - **BUT MUST BE REMOVED BY THE GARDENER AT THE END OF THE YEAR.**

What can I grow?

- Vegetables, herbs, flowers, and small fruit plants.
- No large structures, perennial plants, unlawful plants, or large collections of non-plant items.
- Do not expand your plot beyond this measurement or into paths or other plots.

Animal / Pest Deterrents

- Fencing is recommended, but not required (electric fencing is not allowed).
- Hanging plastic trash bags or ribbons on fencing is not allowed due to esthetic reasons.
- Windsocks and fan windmills are allowed. If you question if an item may be displayed to deter animals, contact the SCG before displaying.

Keep it clean

- Keep trash and litter cleaned from the garden area and adjacent pathways.
- At the end of the growing season, gardeners are responsible for clearing their plot off all non plant material (fencing, trellises, landscape fabric, etc.). Gardeners who do not clean up at the end of the year will not be allowed to return.
- Specific guidance from the SCG will be emailed nearing the end of the season.
- **Plots must be cleaned by October 31st; Earlier depending on weather. This is determined each year.**