



GARDENS RULES

Checks are payable to: **City of Mason City**

Return application and payment to: Recreation Dept., Southbridge Mall, 100 S. Federal Ave.,
Suite 201, Mason City, IA 50401

\$40 for 20' x 20' plot and \$60 for 20' x 40' plot

*ADDITIONAL FEES MAY APPLY

PAYMENT: To reserve a plot each year and begin working in a garden each gardener must fill out, sign and return the annual application and waiver agreement form along with payment. The fee is per plot and due in full before the garden season begins. Plots may be reserved for the following season by making payment and completing an updated application.

ASSIGNMENT OF PLOTS: Plots will be assigned on a first come first serve basis. Payment of plots to reserve for the following year may be done when the garden year application is available.

GUIDELINES:

Gardeners may only harvest vegetables and flowers from their garden. Perennial and unlawful plants are not allowed in garden plots. Designated perennial areas may be established at some locations and information will be shared with gardeners regarding these areas and guidelines surrounding usage.

*Each person is responsible for the maintenance and upkeep of assigned garden plot. Gardeners are responsible for tilling at their own expense. Watering, weeding, harvesting and any other garden related maintenance are all the responsibility of the gardener. If neglected, plots will be subject to reassignment, removal of plantings with no refund of payment, and **assessed a \$50 per hour clean up fee.**

ACCESS: Absolutely no vehicles are allowed in the gardens. Use garden paths only. Keep paths between gardens clear of all debris. Use designated location for waste.

All stakes must remain where placed and all fencing must remain within the staked garden plot area.

FENCING is allowed but must remain within staked plot. NO EXCEPTIONS. Netting material is not allowed for fencing. *Fencing may remain year to year IF payment is made and garden plot is MAINTAINED and kept clean.*

RAISED BEDS are allowed within garden plot. Upon cancellation of your garden you are responsible for removing raised beds or receiving approval to leave for future gardeners.

***WATER/TRACKING:** The City has agreed to provide water at no charge. This service is contingent upon tracking your garden harvest. Failure to track will result in assessing a water-usage fee of \$25. A scale and tracking document are located in the garden shed.

***KEYS** to the water source and shed will be issued to gardeners and must be turned in at the end of the growing season. Failure to return key will result in a \$7.50 fee.

CHEMICALS: Herbicide/pesticide community garden policy and additional information is found on next page. Herbicides and pesticides may be applied in powder or granular form and are limited to the approved list. Please adhere to label recommendations when applying.

END OF YEAR: Gardeners are responsible for clearing their plot of all plant material, and other plot materials. Plots need to be cleaned and all debris removed **by October 15** unless otherwise notified. **Stakes are to be left in the ground.**

***ABANDONED GARDEN FEE:** In any garden that is not cleaned up and left in garden ready condition will be assessed a \$50 per hour clean up fee.

The Recreation Department is responsible for ensuring that the rules are followed at all times. Forward any questions or concerns to: Brian Pauly 641-421-3673 or recreation@masoncity.net

HERBICIDE CHEMICAL USE POLICY FOR COMMUNITY GARDENS

Gardeners that choose to use pesticides need to apply as per the instructions on the containers and with clean water. Be careful not to over apply pesticides, herbicides, or fertilizers as any deviation from the labels could lead to environmental and safety impacts and is a violation of the law.

Round-up (non-selective use) herbicide can be used only prior to initial planting or until May 15. Only selective-use herbicides can be used after this date.

- All chemical usage is the responsibility and liability of the gardener.
- All chemicals must be applied by the purchaser
- Chemicals must be poured from the original container with the label/MSDS information available
- Gardener applies to his/her own garden only
- Do not apply any chemicals to common areas
- Do not store chemicals in the shed
- Do not dump excess chemical at the community garden site
- Do not tread through other gardens after application

Always read and follow label directions. Do not spray chemicals when wind speeds exceed 7 mph and/or temperatures exceed 85 degrees. Avoid applying chemicals when adjacent gardeners are in their plots.

Pesticide Chemical use policy for community gardens

Use of any pesticide should be selective in that pesticide selection is dependent upon the *identified* pest. The same basic rules apply to pesticide application as for herbicide application: (see above)

AVOID USING THESE CHEMICALS IN COMMUNITY GARDENS:

***Sevin* (is not allowed)**

Sevin is the trade name for a widely used synthetic insecticide containing the active ingredient carbaryl. Carbaryl belongs to the chemical class called carbamates. Although Sevin is only moderately toxic to mammals and is still widely used in gardens and landscapes, it is highly toxic to honey bees and many other beneficial insects and mites. Sevin is particularly hazardous to honey bees because the particles of insecticide resemble pollen and can be carried back to the hive.

Permethrin

Because it is a neurotoxin, Permethrin is NOT recommended for use in a community garden environment.

Avoid applying any chemicals for two weeks prior to the anticipated harvest dates. Contact your local extension office for specific information regarding herbicide and pesticide use and application.

All fertilizers and natural/organic pesticides must be applied in a manner that the other garden plots will not be affected.

Fertilizers: Gardeners may use compost, composted manure, and natural/organic fertilizers. Chemical fertilizers may not be used.

Weeds: Gardeners may apply decomposable mulches such as wood chips, clean straw, and lawn clippings; but they need to be removed at the end of the season. Hand pulling, hoeing, tilling, and natural/organic herbicides are permitted. Synthetic herbicides may not be used.

Diseases: Decomposable mulches and natural/organic fungicides are permitted. Synthetic fungicides may not be used.

Insects: Hand picking, row covers, trap crops, and natural/organic insecticides are permitted. Synthetic insecticides may not be used.