

Connecticut Friendship Garden Orientation

1. **Garden Security.**

The front gate has an electronic keypad, and the side gate and tool shed have combination locks. You're responsible for securing the garden if you're the last to leave.

If a lock is missing, there may be an extra in the tool shed. If no lock is available, contact the coordinator immediately.

2. **Personal Safety.** Confidently enjoy your space, aware that theft and robbery has occurred on the path outside the garden as recently as the summer of 2018. Be alert and responsive to any unusual activity.

3. **Non-Gardeners.** Do not share the gate codes with non-gardeners. If your fellow gardeners agree to leave the gate propped open while you are gardening, and non-gardeners want to tour the garden, explain that we appreciate their interest and encourage them to enjoy the garden, but to keep "hands off" and not pick anything.

4. **Shed.** Please clean and return all tools you use back to the tool shed before you leave. There is a first aid kit in the tool shed, including an epipen in the event of a bee-sting.

5. **Plots.** Each person's plot is "off-limits" to others. Do not plant anything, pull weeds or water in a plot that isn't yours. Confine vegetation to inside your plot, and perennials over 6' and trees of any kind are not allowed in individual plots (Section 8.3 and Section 5.7 [Community Garden City Policy](#)). Please be mindful of the shade you may cast on other's plots.

6. **Active Gardening.** Everyone actively garden year-round, no exceptions. Active gardening includes maintaining plants in your plot (i.e. watering, staking, harvesting, removing dead plants), keeping it weed free, and growing plants throughout the year (i.e. not just for one season). It also includes taking care of the area around your plot.

7. **Special Circumstances.** Whatever the reason, if you are going to be absent from the garden for 1 month or more you must notify the garden coordinator. You need not disclose the reason for your absence, but you **MUST** provide the garden coordinator with a plan for how your garden will be maintained in your absence, an approximate date of your return, and what your gardening plan is when you return.
8. **Organic Practices.** This is an organic garden. No chemical insecticides or herbicides are allowed. You may use Sluggo and other organic-based controls for diseases and pests. Do not plant genetically altered seeds. To reduce the possible introduction of disease do not plant garlic, potatoes, etc. not specifically labeled for gardening. Opt for natural fertilizers such as fish oil, compost, and manure rather than using chemicals.
9. **Common areas.** All gardeners share the common areas, such as the paths. Be mindful to carefully wind up hoses and keep paths clear at all times. As a community, we all have to do our part to keep the areas maintained.
10. **Workdays/Meetings.** As outlined in the plot agreement you must attend a minimum of 2 workdays/meetings per year.
11. **Resources.** This garden is in a unique micro-climate. Talk to your fellow gardeners about their successful crops and their gardening practices. The Potrero Branch Library at 1616 - 20th Street has a seed-lending program: borrow and plant the seeds; after harvesting, save the seeds from the heartiest and healthiest of the harvest and return them to the library. These seeds are best suited to our microclimate because they have grown to full fruition, responding to our local soil and climate. The San Francisco Water Dept. offers a very informative gardening calendar free to each San Francisco resident on request. FlowerCraft on Bayshore offers a 10% discount to members of community gardens.