



RINGWOOD COMMUNITY GARDEN INC.

GUIDELINES AND RULES

Welcome to the Ringwood Community Garden Inc. Since the garden was established, some guidelines and rules have been adopted to assist economic operation and maximum enjoyment for members.

Payment of the garden fees is confirmation that the member agrees to accept and be bound by the rules and by-laws listed and varied from time to time by the Committee of Management or at the Annual General Meeting.

- 1) Each member is provided with a key to open and lock the gates to the garden. The key may not be duplicated without permission of the Committee and must be returned when a member does not renew their membership or resigns.
- 2) Each member receives the garden key and tap key on loan from the Club and, if not returned on termination of membership, a replacement fee will be charged.
- 3) Parking is not permitted within the garden area. Members may drop off garden supplies but, upon completion of that task, must remove their vehicle to outside the gates.
- 4) When leaving the garden and there are no other members present, please lock the gates.
- 5) Water rates are one of our biggest expenses. Please exercise prudence in water usage. Victorian water restrictions must be observed. Unattended watering is not allowed i.e., do not set sprinklers or drippers and leave with the intention of returning later.
- 6) Please turn the water off at the main valve, at the end of each water line, as well as at the tap, if you are last to leave. You are asked to check the main valve is "off" even if you did not use the water.
- 7) Exercise care when digging near water lines - which are plastic. Any break in a water line should be reported immediately to a committee member, after the main valve has been closed.
- 8) Due to the conditions of our public liability insurance members are not permitted to spray herbicides or insecticides. Members are encouraged to practice organic growing principles.
- 9) The maintenance of pathways between plots is the responsibility of plot holders. Share the task with adjacent members and ensure the paths are kept tidy.
- 10) Members are requested to mulch and compost their waste on their own plots; waste must not be deposited on pathways. Alternatively, use the rubbish skip provided or remove the waste from the garden.

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- 11) Noxious weeds, such as oxalis, must be removed from the garden for safe disposal. Avoid spreading such pests. Members must remove weeds from their plots and never allow them to "come to seed" and contaminate other plots.
- 12) Members who do not intend to cultivate their plots in the winter months are requested to either cover them with 'weed cloth' or grow a suitable 'green manure' crop to assist in the elimination or reduction in weed growth.
- 13) Plot holders whose plot & /or associated pathways have, in the opinion of at least three current committee members, not been adequately maintained will be contacted in writing and asked to remedy the situation within two weeks. At the end of this period, if adequate action has not been taken they will be contacted again and given a further two weeks to undertake work, after which, if the condition of their plot hasn't been rectified the plot holder will be notified that their membership is to be terminated. Should members have mitigating circumstances that prevent them from maintaining their plot and pathways they must advise a committee member or make alternate arrangements. If it is necessary to give such a warning a third time within a twelve month period the membership will be terminated immediately.
- 14) Unrestrained dogs must not be left to roam the garden. Any waste left by dogs must be removed.
- 15) Please take care to ensure your high growing crops do not shade neighbouring plots e.g.' bramble fruits', fruit trees etc.
- 16) All members are expected to contribute to the maintenance of the garden and to this end each member will be assigned to a maintenance group which will be led by a committee member. A roster is established in which each group is allocated a four week period during which they will carry out routine maintenance work in the garden as required. Should there be major work necessary a general working bee will be arranged for all members.
- 17) The club owns some mowers and tillers. These are kept locked in the shed and keys are obtainable from Committee members.
- 18) All mechanical equipment is inherently dangerous. Members are expected to possess the necessary skills to operate equipment safely prior to requesting its use. Members using Community Garden equipment do so at their own risk.

When using club equipment please observe the following rules:-

a. Check oil level of 4 stroke engines before use and "top up" if necessary.

Ensure fuel appropriate to the engine is used i.e. 2 stroke or 4 stroke. All fuel cans are appropriately marked as are the mowers and tillers.

b. The mowers are not to be used to mulch garden waste.

c. The tillers are not rotary hoes or cultivators. The soil must be dug and heavy weeds or plants removed before a tiller is used. The Committee member from whom you obtained the equipment will advise you whether the soil has been prepared sufficiently for mechanical tiller.

d. Members are not permitted to delegate the use of equipment to children.

Equipment is loaned to members on the basis that responsible use and management will be exercised.

e. All equipment must be cleaned after use, before returning to storage, and refuelled for the next user.

f. A Committee member has the right to rescind permission to use equipment if it is considered the use is to the detriment of the equipment.

- 19) Members using their own or Community Garden equipment are expected to operate the equipment with due care for the safety of other Community Garden members and the public.
- 20) The use of carpet as mulch is banned due to the backing not rotting quickly. The use of jute underlay is permitted subject to it being managed appropriately.
- 21) Members resigning or not renewing their membership are required to return their keys, tap handle and remove all stakes, mesh and other aids as well as any plantings such as bramble fruits etc.
- 22) The unauthorised removal of produce from the garden is not permitted. The Committee has the power to expel immediately members not observing this rule.
- 23) Members' attention is drawn to snail baits as these are scheduled poisons. It is recommended that members do not use baits with methiocarb (blue) or metaldehyde (green) and, if it is necessary to use snail bait, restrict your usage to iron-based (brown) snail baits.