

The Roosevelt Island Community Garden is intended to be an oasis amidst the fast-paced life of New York City. Our garden rules and regulations have been created for the following reasons:

- To ensure that that we use our garden to grow plants
- To ensure that our community garden is a safe and pleasant place to be and to look at -- for gardeners, neighbors and the general public
- To establish fairness and equality among our gardeners
- To prevent damage to the land and environment
- To protect the future of community gardening on Roosevelt Island

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1. **ENJOY** the sights and smells of our gardens.
 2. **RESPECT YOUR NEIGHBOR'S PROPERTY.** Do not enter another's garden plot, weed, water, plant, or harvest in any plot other than your own unless invited by that gardener. **Do not pick flowers, fruits or vegetables** that you did not grow yourself. It is expected that all gardeners and visitors will conduct themselves in a respectful and courteous manner.
 3. Gardeners may not add, remove or prune plants in community areas without permission.
 4. **TOOLS** are provided for the use of all club members within the confines of the Garden Club area. Do not leave tools outside after use. Scrape tools clean of dirt outside the tool shed and then return them to their proper place within the tool shed. Do not leave personal property in the tool shed other than within your own locker. Wheelbarrows are to be stored on end.
 5. **COMPOST:** All organic material **MUST** be composted. This can be done in your plot and in the communal compost bins.
 6. Any major work involving **CONSTRUCTION** must be cleared through the Board before work begins.
 7. Anyone working in a garden plot or common area must have a **REQUIRED LIABILITY WAIVER** on file with the RIGC Secretary.
 8. All **ASSOCIATES** must be registered with the RIGC Secretary and approved by the Board.
 9. **PETS** on a leash and **CHILDREN** are welcome and must be accompanied by an adult. Do not let children wander around the gardens alone. Members should make their children aware of the rules, and it is the member who will be held responsible for their child's conduct. Riding bikes, scooters, skateboards, or skates is not allowed in the gardens.
 10. **DRINKING** alcohol and **SMOKING** are not allowed in the Garden Club. **BARBECUING** or fires are not allowed.
 11. **TRASH DISPOSAL** is the responsibility of the individual gardener and guests. Take out what you bring in. Plastic, metal and glass should be recycled and kept out of the compost bins. Due to limited trash removal, we ask members who are able, to take their bags to the AVAC area behind Motorgate.
 12. Since this is a Community Garden, all members are required to **PERFORM DUTIES** outside of their garden area. A minimum of three hours per year of community service is required of the member themselves.
 13. **LOCK** the gates at the allotted times and keep the tool shed locked at all times.
 14. All members are required to attend **March or October General Membership Meetings**.
 15. **FORFEIT OF MEMBERSHIP** may result from any of the following:
 - Failure to pay dues (due date: February 28) and fees if applicable.
 - **Theft, vandalism, or illegal behavior of any kind** – such as drinking alcohol, or violating curfew hours – involving the issuing of summonses or other legally binding notices by Public Safety or other public authority and may lead to **immediate** termination of membership upon a RIGC Board majority vote.
 - Non-compliance with the **Standards Committee Guidelines (see pp 2-3) or Guidelines for Associate-Member or Member-Member Assistance (see p 4):** 3 letters of Violation in one year or 4 within a two-year period
 - **Your primary residence is no longer on Roosevelt Island.**
 - Violation of the above mentioned Rules and Regulations.
 - Intention to appeal termination of membership must be communicated to the Secretary in writing by email or letter at least two weeks prior to the next general membership meeting; otherwise, the opportunity for appeal is rescinded.

16. **NOTIFY** the Board if you are giving up your plot, and return your key. Notify the Board if you will be away for an extended period and arrange for someone to manage your plot.
17. **PLOT TRANSFER LIST:** After one year of Membership, A-D plot holders may request a transfer to another A-D plot, and H plot holders to another H plot by writing to the RIGC Secretary. Available plots are shown in turn to each person on the transfer list, and then offered to the first person on the RIGC Waitlist. Members move between A-D and H plots by way of the A-D and H Waitlists. A transferred member must wait two years before re-applying to be on the transfer list again.
18. **DAILY HOURS FOR MEMBERS:** The Garden Club is open from 6:00 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. (March 20th – Sept. 22ⁿ) and from 6:30 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. (Sept. 23rd – March 19th). No one should be in the Garden after hours.
19. **NOTE:** The RIGC Gardens are open to the public on weekends between April 15th to October 15th, from 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Visitors on weekdays April 15th to October 15th and at all times from October 16th to April 14th must be accompanied by a member who will be held responsible for their visitor's conduct.

RIGC Standards Committee Guidelines (4/10/2016)

PLANTS	
Plantable Areas:	<p>Our Licensee agreement with RIOC states that the Roosevelt Island Garden Club “shall design and install a plant garden and shall thereafter maintain such garden and all plants and structures contained therein (including, but not limited to, all fences, raised plant beds, planters, tables, benches, and other ornamental items) in a safe and orderly condition. Licensee shall neither cause nor permit the construction of any permanent structures on the Premises.”</p> <p>The majority of each plot must be plantable space. Plantable space is defined as areas of soil, either natural or covered in biodegradable materials such as woodchips, straw, grass clippings, or compost, in which plants can be grown. Plantable space is also defined as any container, pot or raised bed containing soil in which plants are maintained throughout the growing season.</p> <p>Any non-plantable area of a garden plot may be any combination of the following: pathways, composters, small garden furniture, supplies, or décor. In no case should brick, tile, gravel, slate or similar materials create a patio or area greater than 25% of the plot.</p> <p>We encourage materials for all pathways and seating areas that promote and enhance the health of the soil and provide for water permeability. Concrete, plastic, carpeting, artificial grasses and rubber mulches are prohibited.</p>
Plants:	<p>Your plot must be actively used and maintained throughout the season. Plots must be worked or planting begun (weather dependent) by May 1st. Gardeners are encouraged to weed and plant earlier, as weather permits. Plants along the edges of a garden should not extend more than 8 inches into the path. Plants with thorns should not extend at all.</p>
Trees:	<p>New trees are permitted only if approved by the Board and they must be containerized and kept under a height of 8 feet. All trees must fit the landscape, be pruned regularly and not cause hardship or shade to your neighbors. Existing trees as of 11/07/13 are grandfathered. Rose of Sharon, Mulberry, Curly Willow and Tree of Heaven are all fast growing bushes and trees that should be kept out of RIGC beds and if currently grown should be kept at a maximum height of 8 feet.</p>
Invasive plants:	<p>Invasive plants should be kept away from your neighbor's plot and away from common areas. Invasive plants are any plant that spreads through vining, seed dispersion, or underground roots, such as, but not limited to: vinca, English ivy, chocolate vine, porcelain vine, some day lilies, mint, raspberries, blackberries, houttuynia and bamboo.</p>

<u>SHARED ITEMS</u>	
Tools:	Do not leave tools outside after use. Clean them and return them to storage.
Hoses:	Hoses should be coiled after use (or kept neatly on the side of the path). Hoses must not be left on in a gardener's absence.
Paths:	All paths adjacent to your garden should be maintained and kept clean. If your garden borders a common area, you are responsible for the full width of the path. Do not throw clippings on the gravel paths and clean up any messes made by shedding plants, spilled soil and mulch with a plastic leaf rake. No obstructions are allowed
<u>MAINTENANCE</u>	
Weeds:	Weed your garden regularly and never let weeds go to seed.
Storage of Materials:	Gardeners must keep their plots free from garbage, broken garden items and unused materials. Excess supplies (more than can be used in the current growing season) may not be stored in the garden. Personal items (items not used to maintain the garden) may not be stored in the garden.
Standing Water:	Do not allow containers or garden materials to collect standing water that could allow mosquitoes to breed. All ponds and birdbaths must be treated in order to prevent mosquito breeding by using either Mosquito Dunk (or similar product) or fish that eat mosquito larvae. Water in ponds should be kept in motion.
Pesticides:	The use of pesticides, insecticides, fungicides, herbicides, or weed-killer is forbidden. Only natural, organic, and environmentally friendly treatments should be used.
End of Season:	Plots must be left clean, free of debris and dead plants at the end of the season. All unsightly items must be stored away and secured for the winter.
<u>STRUCTURES</u>	
Shading:	Opaque tarps or canopies may not be used on the tops or sides of garden structures. If you need shade, use roll up shade materials and roll them up when you are not using them. Patio umbrellas must be closed when not in use.
Fences:	Fence height is limited to 3 feet, as measured from the level of the path. Fences should be open so as not to impede the view of a neighboring garden, nor should they block light or air circulation, or interfere with your neighbor's garden. Fencing materials must be approved by the Board.
Raised Beds:	Raised beds are not to exceed 20 inches in height. We recommend using cedar or other untreated wood products and avoiding products such as treated wood and cinder blocks, which can leach chemicals into the soil.
Trellises:	Trellises and other structures should be open so as not to impede the view of a neighboring garden, nor should they block the light or air circulation, or interfere with your neighbor's garden.
Greenhouses:	Greenhouses are not allowed.
Cold Frames:	Cold Frames should be no more than 3 feet tall, as measured from the level of the plot.

1. What is the definition of an Associate?

A person who is not currently a Member and who--

- a. Assists a Member with gardening and maintenance consistent with RIGC garden standards and/or;
- b. May be assigned to assist RIGC Board members (officers, directors, and committee chairs) in their activities and responsibilities in the RIGC.

2. What are the requirements for becoming an Associate?

- a. Live on Roosevelt Island;
- b. Be on the RIGC waitlist;
- c. Register annually with the RIGC Secretary and be approved by the Board;
- c. Participate in community service as required by the Board of all Members.

3. What are the requirements for Members who request an Associate?

- a. Must be a Member in good standing;
- b. Must show evidence of significant health-related limitations or disability, or a temporary situation that makes gardening and meeting garden standards significantly challenging or impossible;
- c. Agree to be solely responsible for meeting the RIGC garden standards in the entire plot and to abide by the RIGC By-Laws and Rules & Regulations.

4. What is the RIGC Executive Board's oversight of Associates?

- a. The Board will select a Board Member(s) to manage communications with and oversee Associate activities, under the guidance of the Executive Board;
- b. The Board must approve all Associates annually;
- c. The Board may vote for good cause to not approve an Associate or revoke Associate status at any time and may also vote to discontinue an Associate working with a Member who is no longer eligible for an Associate.

5. What alternatives exist for Members besides having an Associate?

- a. The Legacy Gardener Associate is a role for those long-term members who wish to stay active in the RIGC while passing their garden plots onto a new generation of gardeners. Legacy Gardener Associates retain their keys, their ability to serve on all RIGC Committees, receive all RIGC mailings of activities and meetings, and do not pay dues in appreciation for their years of active membership in building and sustaining the RIGC. As Associates they also may work with plot holders who need help in maintaining their plots. Legacy Gardener Associates do not have the right to vote or hold office, and they may serve as non-voting participants on committees but may not chair a committee. Members who no longer wish to actively and independently garden—as evidenced by undertaking regular garden maintenance and by meeting RIGC garden standards—will be strongly encouraged to consider Legacy Associate status.

Guidelines for Member-Member Assistance

In general, the rule is that Members garden only in their assigned plots; however, we recognize and encourage Members helping other Members in their gardens. A Member can help another Member from time to time or on occasion; however, Members cannot garden for another Member for most of the garden season. Going beyond what is described above regarding Members helping Members in the gardens requires Board approval.