

The Roosevelt Island Garden Club (RIGC) is a diverse community of gardening enthusiasts who work together to beautify our Roosevelt Island home, to increase gardening knowledge, and to impart an appreciation for nature, and environmental stewardship among our members and our neighbors.

RIGC members and associates are volunteers, actively gardening side by side using organic gardening principles. Our community garden is open to the public on weekends April-October. The Roosevelt Island Garden Club is intended to be an oasis amidst the fast-paced life of New York City. Our community garden rules and regulations have been created for the following reasons:

- To ensure that we use our gardens actively to grow plants: flowers, vegetables, fruits, and herbs
- To prevent damage to the land and environment and to respect our shared earth.
- To establish fairness and harmony among our gardeners
- To protect the future of community gardening on Roosevelt Island
- To ensure that our community garden is a safe and pleasant place to visit and to experience for gardeners, RI neighbors and the general public

RIGC GENERAL RULES AND REGULATIONS (06/15/21)

I. Hours	<p>Hours for Members, Associates, and their guests seven days a week: March – October 6:00 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. November - February 6:30 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.</p> <p>Hours for General Public on Saturdays and Sundays: April 15 - October 15 from 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.</p> <p>During the rest of the year, guests must be accompanied by a member. Members will be held accountable for the behavior of their guests.</p> <p>Lock the gates at the allotted times and keep the tool shed locked at all times. No one should be in the garden after hours.</p>
II. Conduct	<p>All gardeners and visitors should enjoy the sights, smells, and sounds of the garden and should also conduct themselves in a respectful and courteous manner.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Gardeners are expected to actively garden. Members and Associates are encouraged to get to know garden neighbors. b. Respect your neighbor, and their gardening space. Consider the community garden as a whole area. We all share this space together. Be mindful of your plot from all sides and at the edges. c. Stay on the main pathways and in shared common areas. Do not enter another’s garden plot; nor should you weed, water, plant in any plot other than your own unless invited by that gardener to help temporarily. d. Harvest only from your plot. Do not harvest or pick flowers, fruits or vegetables from a plot that is not your own. e. Do not add, remove or prune plants in community areas without permission unless you are working with the Landscape Committee. f. Do not use your garden as a storage area for garden items that are not in active use (extra chairs, pots, etc.) or items not meant for gardening use. g. Work involving any major construction in a plot must be cleared through the Board before work begins. Email details to: rigardenclub@gmail.com

III. Liability Waiver	Anyone working in the gardens must have an RIGC liability waiver signed and submitted to the Secretary. This waiver must also be signed during registration as a Member, Associate, or Volunteer before working in the garden. All Associates must be registered with the RIGC Board.
IV. Community participation	<p>All members are required to participate by performing community service outside of their own plot.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. A minimum of three hours per year of community service is required of each member plot holder themselves to remain in good standing. b. Members are required to attend at least one Spring or Fall General Membership meeting each year. c. Notify the Board at rigardenclub@gmail.com if you must be away for any extended period. d. Notify the Board at rigardenclub@gmail.com and return your key if you are giving up your plot.
V. Committee Chairs	Standing Committee Chairs (Compost, Maintenance, Outreach and Publicity, Rose Garden, Standards) will be appointed by the RIGC Board in January or February. Every November, RIGC Members will have a chance to send in letters if interested to apply for an appointment to one of these positions. It is recommended that Members serve on varied committees to get to know the work and expertise needed for the committee.
VI. Compost	Compost all organic materials (dried and green cut plant materials.) This can be done in your plot and in our communal compost bins.
VII. Children	Children are welcome, but must be accompanied and supervised by an adult. 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. Be mindful of safety for all.
VIII. Pets	Pets must be on a leash and cannot enter any plot besides that of the plot holder. Always clean up after your pet.
IX. Alcohol & Smoking	Drinking alcohol and smoking are not allowed in the garden.
X. Fires	Barbecuing, fireworks, or fires are not allowed in the garden.
XI. Trash	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Take out what you bring in. b) Trash disposal is the responsibility of every gardener and every visitor. c) All plastic, metal and glass should be recycled and kept out of the compost bins. d) Do not leave any plastic bags in your garden unless they are neatly dried, folded, and hidden for reuse. Plastic bags empty or full gather water that can breed mosquitoes. Plastic is unsightly and does not biodegrade. It will remain in our soil/water for thousands of years. e) Due to limited trash removal, we ask all members to dispose of any small trash items in their own buildings, and all who are able to take any large trash items using the carts or wheelbarrows to the AVAC area north of Motorgate garage. If you need assistance, please send an email to rigardenclub@gmail.com.

<p>XI. Waitlists</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Available gardens are offered to individuals on the internal waitlist before being offered to individuals on the external waitlist. b) There is a separate internal waitlist for the E plots. c) Members can only transfer from E to A-D plots by signing up for the external A-D waitlist. d) Members can transfer from A-D to E with proof of handicap status and by signing up for the external E waitlist. e) After being a member for one year, members in good standing can request placement onto the internal transfer list and can remain on the internal transfer list for 2 years or until they transfer. They can reapply after 1 year. f) After any transfer members must wait 2 years before getting back on the internal transfer list.
<p>XII. Letter of Violation (LOV)</p>	<p>Letter of Violation LOV may result from any violation of the rules and regulations including the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Failure to maintain your plot as per Plot Standards Guidelines. (D grade=LOV and 3 grades of C in one year will result in one LOV sent). b) Leaving wheelbarrows full of organic matter and unattended for others to handle. c) Leaving gates open, unlocked, and unattended during hours of closure. d) Drinking or smoking within the garden. e) The use of toxic and non-organic insecticides or herbicides (e.g.: Roundup) f) Unacceptable behavior that causes conflict or harm to people or the club.
<p>XIII. Forfeit of membership</p>	<p>FORFEIT OF MEMBERSHIP may result from any of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Your primary residence is no longer on Roosevelt Island. b) Failure to pay annual registration dues on time (due date: February 28). c) 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 may lead to immediate termination of membership upon a RIGC Board majority vote. d) Non-compliance with the Standards Committee Guidelines or Guidelines for Associate-Member or Member-Member Assistance: e) Three Letters of Violation within a one-year period. Three letters across a two-year period. Four letters over a three-year period.
<p>XIV. Appeal of Termination</p>	<p>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. There can be no guarantee that a terminated member will be able to keep their prior plot until the appeal is made.</p>

RIGC PLOT STANDARDS

PLANTS & PLANTING	
I. 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>At least 75% 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. In the spirit of active gardening, try to maximize your planting.</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. 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>
II. Plants	<p>Your plot must be actively used and maintained throughout the season. Plots must be worked or planting begun (weather dependent) by May 1. 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>
III. 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 (2.4 meters). All trees and bushes must fit the landscape, be pruned regularly and not cause hardship or shade to your neighbors. A very few existing trees as of 11/07/13 are grandfathered. Any and all grandfathered trees must be kept at a maximum height of 8 feet -10 feet (2.4 -3 meters) Mulberry, Curly Willow and Tree of Heaven are all fast-growing trees and must be kept out of RIGC plots. Rose of Sharon and Lilacs are bushes and should be kept at 6 - 8 feet (1.8- 2.4 meters).</p>
IV. 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 aggressively through vining, seed dispersion, or underground roots, such as, but not limited to: vinca, English ivy, chocolate vine, porcelain vine, purple loosestrife, mugwort; lesser celandine, some day lilies, fennel, mint, raspberries, blackberries, houttuynia and bamboo.</p>
V. Marijuana	<p>Growing of marijuana is not allowed.</p>
VI. Weeds	<p>Weed your garden regularly and never let weeds go to seed. Gardeners are responsible for weeding the pathways surrounding their plot.</p>

SHARED TOOLS AND GARDENING ITEMS

VII. Tools, Shed, Wheelbarrows	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Tools are provided for the use of all club members within the confines of the community garden area. b) Keep the tool shed locked at all times. c) Do not leave tools outside after use. d) Scrape tools clean of dirt outside the tool shed and then return them to their proper place within the tool shed. e) Do not leave personal property in the tool sheds. f) Carts are always to be left empty after use. Wheelbarrows are to be stored on end (so water does not accumulate) and they must be left empty after use.
VIII. Water Hoses	<p>Water 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. Water should be turned off at the spigot and not the hose nozzle so that the hose is not left under pressure.</p> <p>Notify rigardenclub@gmail.com if you see any leaks.</p>
IX. Paths	<p>All paths adjacent to your garden should be maintained and kept clean. 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 in the pathways and common areas.</p>
MAINTENANCE	
X. Storage of Materials	<p>Gardeners must keep their plots free from visible plastic bags, garbage, broken garden items and unused materials. Excess supplies like tarps, buckets, or stakes not being used in the current growing season must not be stored in the plot. Cans of paint or any toxic or flammable liquids are not permitted to be stored in plots. Personal items (items not used to maintain the garden) may not be stored in the garden. Keep storage of extra items to a bare minimum.</p>
XI. Mosquitos & Standing Water	<p>No new ponds are currently being approved. Any containers or garden materials that collect standing water are not permitted because they allow mosquitoes to breed.</p> <p>Exceptions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) All birdbaths must be kept clean by changing the water every 2 days for bird health. b) Ponds must be treated by using either Mosquito Dunk (or similar product) every 3 weeks or fish that eat mosquito larvae. c) Water in ponds should be fully agitated and kept in motion.
XII. Pesticides	<p>The use of pesticides, insecticides, fungicides, herbicides, or weed-killer is strictly forbidden. Only non-toxic, organic, and environmentally friendly treatments should be used.</p>
XIII. End of Season	<p>Plots must be left clean and free of debris. Garden items must be stored away and secured at the end of the season and for the winter.</p>

STRUCTURES

XIV. 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.
XV. Fences	Fence height is limited to 3 feet (91 cm), 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. Fence post should not be imbedded into your neighbor's plot without their permission. Fences and other materials should not extend or lean into your neighbor's plot. Fencing materials must be approved by the Board before they are installed. New gates from 2021 on must open inward.
XVI. Raised Beds	Raised beds are not to exceed 20 inches (51 cm) in height above the garden bed. We recommend using cedar or other untreated wood products. Excessive use of products such as cinder blocks are not allowed due to chemicals leaching into the soil. Poorly or highly treated wood or plastic products made with toxic materials are discouraged. Reminder: any construction materials should be checked out with the RIGC Board.
XVII. 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. Please be mindful of neighbor's spaces and the whole garden.
XVIII. Cold Frames	Greenhouses are not allowed. Cold frames and beds with hoop coverings should be no more than 3 feet tall (91 cm), as measured from the level of the plot.
RIGC RULES FOR ASSISTANCE: ASSOCIATE-MEMBER & MEMBER-MEMBER	
XIX. An Associate defined	A person who is not currently a Member and who— <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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.
XX. Requirements for becoming and being an Associate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Live on Roosevelt Island and be on the RIGC waitlist b) Register annually with RIGC and be approved by the Board; c) Participate in community service as required of all Members.
XXI. Requirements for Members who request an Associate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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.

	<p>d) Member should inform their neighbors that an approved associate will be gardening in their plot to avoid confusion.</p>
<p>XXII.RIGC Executive Board's oversight of Associates</p>	<p>a) The Board will select a Board Member(s) to manage communications with and oversee Associate activities, under the guidance of the Executive Board;</p> <p>b) The Board must approve all Associates annually;</p> <p>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.</p>
<p>XX111. Alternatives exist for Members besides having an Associate</p>	<p>a) The Legacy Associate Gardener 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.</p> <p>b) Legacy 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.</p> <p>c) 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.</p> <p>Members who no longer 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.</p>
<p>XXIV. Members helping other members</p>	<p>2) 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, on a short-term basis 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. Members who choose this option should make their neighbors aware that another member gardener will be in their plot with permission.</p>

The Roosevelt Island Garden Club, Ltd is a not for-profit 501c3, volunteer organization for community gardening. The Roosevelt Island Garden Club does not and shall not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion (creed), gender, gender expression, age, national origin (ancestry), disability, marital status, sexual orientation, or military status, in any of its activities or operations.

