

South Winnipeg Garden Club (SWGC) Conditions and Regulations 2026

CONDITIONS OF MEMBERSHIP

- 1) All members of SWGC shall abide by these *Conditions and Regulations*.
- 2) All persons gardening at the SWGC gardens are required to have a membership. Family memberships are defined as members of the same household. A single membership is regarded as a family.
- 3) Members are required to pay an annual membership and plot rental fee, the amount of which is determined by the board of directors.
- 4) Members are required to pay a deposit on each new garden plot rented. The amount of the deposit will be reviewed on a yearly basis. Members will receive a clean and tilled garden plot and will receive their deposit back upon vacating the plot if it is returned in a clean and tilled condition.
- 5) The SWGC allows the member to use the assigned garden plot for the purpose of gardening and for no other purpose. Gardening consists of planting, weeding and harvesting vegetables and/or flowers for the entire gardening season. Garden plots are not intended to be for-profit ventures.
- 6) Members may share their assigned garden plot with another gardener provided such gardener also becomes a member of the SWGC and pays the applicable membership fee.
- 7) The SWGC recognizes the dignity and worth of every person and strives to create a climate of understanding and mutual respect. We believe in promoting a safe, healthy, respectful and positive environment for members of the club, the general public, club volunteers and the club executive. The Respectful Behaviour Statement is intended to align with Canadian and Provincial laws. Examples of unacceptable behaviours at SWGC include but are not limited to:
 - Harassment and bullying;
 - Discrimination based on gender, religion, ethnicity or sexual orientation;
 - Spreading malicious gossip or rumours;
 - Making aggressive or threatening gestures;
 - Engaging in targeted social isolation;
 - Theft of property;
 - Vandalism of any kind;
 - Consumption of alcohol, illegal drugs or other substances;
 - Use of profanity or obscene language.
- 8) Members are responsible for monitoring all garden club communications (emails) and to follow directions with regards to items such as registration, garden club deadlines, calls for volunteers and

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procedures for garden waste. Members are expected to respond promptly to emails directed to them from the executive.

- 9) The SWGC protects members' personal information and does not share or sell it. The membership administrator can be contacted to facilitate contact between members if required.
- 10) SWGC members will not make representation on behalf of the club on social media or otherwise.
- 11) Garden plots are allocated by the Membership Administrator(s).
 - a) A waiting list of existing gardeners who wish to change plots will be maintained based on date of application. These will be the first allocations for the new gardening year. These gardeners will be offered a choice of available plots from a map within a limited time frame.
 - b) A waiting list of new gardeners will be maintained based on date of application. New gardeners will be limited to a single plot.
 - c) A waiting list for existing gardeners wishing one additional plot will be maintained based on date of application. Requests will be granted if we have no new gardeners to fill the vacant plots. Gardeners must demonstrate an ability to maintain two plots.
 - d) The Membership Administrator(s) may reach out to people on the waiting list mid-season to find gardeners immediately available to take over abandoned plots or plots taken back by the club.
- 12) Garden plots assigned to the member by the SWGC shall not be transferred or re-assigned by the member. Resale of garden plots is not permitted.
- 13) Requests for temporary absences of garden plot rentals for up to a year shall be referred to the Membership Administrator. Members are responsible for ensuring the plot is maintained during their absence, except in extenuating circumstances.
- 14) Members giving up their garden plot will notify the membership administrator via email or in writing at their earliest convenience. Fall notification to the club is preferred.
- 15) The member agrees to pay operating expenses such as tillage and other costs associated with the personal use of the garden plot.
- 16) The member has no claim for losses, damages or compensation of any kind including loss of equipment and any plantings because of vandalism, pilfering, weather, or any other act.
- 17) The SWGC makes no representations or guarantees as to the suitability or condition of the garden plot.

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REGULATIONS OF USE

Member Garden Plots

The 111 garden plots at the SWGC are separated by paths to allow access to inside gardens. The following regulations permit everyone to have a positive and enjoyable gardening experience.

- 1) Entry to other members' gardens should only be with member permission. The club executive reserves the right to enter gardens at any time for maintenance or inspection.
- 2) The garden plot shall be maintained in a neat and tidy condition. Loose debris, garbage and items not related to gardening must not be left in the garden plot, or on adjoining pathways.
- 3) Gardeners must be responsible for keeping the garden weed free and removing all weeds within the garden plot and within an 18-inch buffer zone surrounding the garden plot including fence lines and pathways on all sides. Members with problematic gardens will be given two warnings. Subsequently the garden club executive reserves the right to take back the garden and will ask the member to vacate the garden. Their garden deposit will be forfeited.
- 4) Changes or alterations to the garden plot size and shape shall not be made.
- 5) The garden plots must be cultivated in such a way that they can be easily restored to their original condition.
- 6) Structures for water barrels, compost bins and small garden tool storage are permitted. Water barrels must be secured with a childproof lid.
- 7) Vertical supports for plants such as pole beans, tomatoes, peas, etc. are permitted. Structures and supports shall not cast shade on neighbouring gardens.
- 8) Storage of straw bales or similar bulk items is not permitted. The use of non-compostable materials such as stones or rocks, asphalt shingles or wood chips is not permitted.
- 9) Raised garden structures such as wooden or metal boxes are not permitted.

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Wildlife Protection – Fences

Due to the persistent problems with deer eating produce, most members choose to have wildlife fencing surrounding their garden plot. The following regulations are to ensure consistency, fairness and safety. If members are unsure how to interpret these regulations, they should consult a member of the garden club executive.

The club recommends that wildlife fences be at least 6 feet high with posts installed securely and perpendicular – they should not be leaning. Depending on the type of fencing used, posts should be installed no more than 8 to 10 feet apart. Fences should be made of durable material such as steel fencing, chicken wire, or high-quality plastic deer fencing. Preferably only one type of material should be used per garden. Snow fencing is discouraged.

Members should carefully consider the width of gates if they plan to have custom tilling done. If you are on an outside plot, you will need at least a **36-inch wide opening** for one of our custom tillers to get in, if you are on one of the main N-S paths, or other interior path, you will need a **42-inch wide opening** at tilling time.

The following regulations apply to all wildlife fencing.

- 1) Fences need to be continually maintained so that the material is not loose and in no way obstructing pathways. The club recommends that all fences be rechecked for condition in spring prior to the start of gardening season.
- 2) For fences next to a pathway, the fence will be placed 18 inches from the middle of the existing paths. This applies to the main N-S paths and currently existing E-W paths. In other words, the paths should be 3 feet wide. Members will be asked to move fences or any items obstructing paths.
- 3) For fences with borders to other gardens in the N-S direction not on main path members may choose to have a shared fence evenly dividing that space between the gardens with no path in-between.
- 4) Members are responsible for weed control under fences. Fence lines shall remain clear of weeds. Commercial grade landscape ground cover (landscape fabric) placed under the fence about a foot wide is highly recommended. Herbicide shall not be used to control weeds at the fence line during growing season. Remember that these are shared garden spaces and your use of chemicals can affect your neighbours' gardens. If members are struggling to control weeds at their fence lines, the club recommends that the fences be installed 3 to 4 inches above that ground to make it possible to use a weed trimmer, hoe, or hand pull the weeds.
- 5) All fences shall be placed so there is easy access to all water taps.

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- 6) Group or collective fences are allowed, but the effects on pathways and access to water taps need to be carefully considered. All the affected gardeners need to be consulted, and group fences should be a consistent height (at least 6 feet), and gates also need to be 6 feet to protect the common area. The main N-S pathways shall not be blocked, and existing E-W pathways relied upon by gardeners in other sections shall not be blocked. Gardeners considering establishing a new group-fence shall consult with the garden club executive before proceeding.

The Common Garden Area

The South Winnipeg Garden Club is a community, and as such, we would like to ensure that our activities do not negatively affect our neighbourhood or the health of the surrounding environment.

- 1) Members need to be responsible for the clean-up of litter around the garden and clean-up of any wind-blown litter in their plot and help keep the whole area clean.
- 2) Personal vehicles, including delivery and personal trucks are not permitted in the gardens. Delivery of garden material (compost/mushroom compost/ manure, soil, sand, etc.) shall be made at the side of the garden area. Wheelbarrows or wagons shall be used to transport the material to the garden plot.
- 3) Members shall not shade adjacent plots and will keep their plants from spreading over paths and adjacent gardens.
- 4) Planting trees and shrubs is not permitted, and planting perennials is discouraged. Strawberries and asparagus are permitted provided the member keeps the area free of weeds. Raspberries are not permitted. Horseradish is not permitted. (exception: a couple of plots that have been grandfathered in 2025, when these regulations were updated). Other similar invasive species are not permitted.
- 5) Garbage shall not be left in the garden or at the compost bins and shall be removed from the SWGC garden area. Members who use public transportation, bicycles or walk, and do not have a means of transporting garbage should get friends, family or garden neighbours to help them remove it. If there is no other option, members should contact the Garden Administrator for assistance.
- 6) Dumping of any material on the riverbank or forest areas is strictly prohibited. The riverbank is part of the riparian zone and members shall not remove any growth, shrubs, or trees from the riverbank.
- 7) All gardening activities and parking shall be confined to the designated SWGC area, i.e. Within the

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existing ring road and adjacent to the pumphouse and toilet. The area to the west and northwest of the garden plots is restricted; there will be no trespassing.

- 8) Open flames, including barbeques in the garden area are prohibited.

Compost

- 1) Members must follow directions when leaving garden material at the SWGC composting area. All material shall be clean of plant ties, string or any other type of garbage. Vines shall be cut into small sections. Blooming weeds and flowers with seeds shall not be place in the compost; they can be bagged and taken home for municipal composting. Garden material must be placed in designated areas.
- 2) Soil on the roots of all plants destined for the compost or for in-garden shredding must be removed.
- 3) Members who leave their garden material at the compost bin are urged to also volunteer for shredding.

Chemical-Free Gardening

The SWGC encourages the use of organic gardening practices, including organically grown plants and seeds, natural fertilizer, and non-chemical pest and weed control. Incorporation of shredded garden plant material, compost, well-rotted manure, leaf mold and organic fertilizers is strongly encouraged.

- 1) All garden pests must be removed from plants so as not to spread into adjacent gardens or consider using OMRI (Organic Materials Review Institute) listed products where available. For example: To control insects like flea beetles, cabbage moths, corn borers, etc., consider using O.M.R.I. listed insect sprays.
- 2) Synthetic chemical herbicide (Roundup or similar herbicides) and insecticide use is discouraged by the SWGC. Herbicide to control weeds shall not be applied during the growing season, except by authorized SWGC volunteers in extreme situations. Physical and biological control methods (hoeing or hand digging) are strongly encouraged.

Garden Club Dates

- 1) The garden plot must be cleaned of garden material by the 15th of October each year and must be weeded and ready for planting no later than the 31st of May the following year, weather permitting. Some frost hardy vegetables may be left beyond the 15th of October at the choice of the member.

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Agreement and Penalties

- 1) Members having problems with garden plots beside them because of a breach of these Conditions and Regulations should refer the problem to a designated contact person as determined by the board.
- 2) Members not conforming to the Conditions and Regulations shall be given notices to correct the requested concerns. Those not adhering to these notices shall forfeit their membership, garden plot and garden deposit to the SWGC.
- 3) If a member surrenders their garden plot for any reason, they must leave the plot on or before the deadline set by the SWGC executive. All personal items and improvements placed in, on or about the garden plot must be removed. The garden must be returned in a weed-free state and tilled, or the garden deposit will be forfeited.
- 4) Members shall comply with any written notice received by the SWGC from St. Amant Inc. to restore the garden plot to its original condition or take a corrective action immediately. Should a member not comply with the notice, St. Amant may enter the garden plot and conduct the necessary action at the sole cost and expense of the member.