

Gardener & Gardening Rules

1. Mission Statement The Division Street Community Garden (DSCG) is dedicated to the support of recreational community gardening for residents to grow produce using the best gardening practices. Benefits include the provision of quality produce for personal and charitable usages in addition to the sharing of information on gardening techniques in a friendly, collaborative environment. The DSCG also provides an educational forum for the members to expand their horticultural knowledge through cross-cultural and inter-generational connections and fosters pride in a community-wide organization.

2. Description The Division Street Community Garden is operated by Brookdale Community College's The Innovation Network(TIN) and Environmental Science Club in cooperation with Neptune Township. Members who purchase a plot agree to abide by the rules delineated below.

3. Application Process Those who'd like to apply for a plot may do so through the Brookdale website or may do so by emailing garden@brookdalecc.edu

Each participant must provide the required personal information and pay the annual fee of \$20 for a 4 X 4-foot plot (a divided 4 x 8), \$15 for senior citizen residents who are at least 65 years of age, and \$25 for non-residents. No refunds will be offered.

4. Garden Operations The DSCG will be open daily from dawn until dusk.

Gardeners are expected to assist with weed control and other general needs of the garden. Every member is required to perform at least one volunteer service for the garden. Opportunities to volunteer will be published via the garden website & via e-mail.

5. Garden Plots To remain in good standing, a gardener is expected to regularly maintain his/her plot and its perimeter. Plot maintenance is defined as follows: plants are watered as needed, produce is harvested regularly, plots are free of weeds, trash, diseased or insect-infested plants, and plants that have reached the end of their productive life are removed. In addition, each member is responsible for tending the community produce plot to which they are assigned in a similar manner.

All plots must be planted by June 15 and cleaned out by November 30, with the exception of cool weather or wintering-over plants, such as garlic, leeks, etc. During fall clean-up, gardeners will remove any past-ripe produce, unproductive plants, roots, stakes, trellising, tomato cages, netting or other garden accessories or supports both in and around the plot. A thoroughly clean and weeded plot is a condition for membership in future seasons. The DSCG reserves the right to remove and discard accessories not removed on a timely basis.

Gardeners are not permitted to erect permanent structures in plots or common areas. Basic temporary plant supports such as tomato cages, stakes, or trellises that do not exceed eight (8)

feet in height are allowed.

Gardeners must notify the DSCG liaison in the event of his/her inability to initiate or maintain a plot. In such cases, the plot will be surrendered and re-assigned. If a garden plot is not maintained, warnings will be issued. If the gardener receives multiple warnings within a growing season, the issue will be brought to the DSCG board for disposition of the plot.

Four garden plots will be managed by volunteers or a civic group for the purpose of supporting specified food pantries.

6. Planting Etiquette Tall and dense crops should not be planted so that they shade a neighbor's garden. Spreading plants may not obstruct the pathways. The DSCG reserves the right to remove plants that obstruct the pathways. Ripe fruit that falls onto the pathways should be removed in order to upkeep the garden's appearance.

7. Garden Conduct Gardeners will be respectful of other gardeners and their plots at all times when on the community garden grounds. Gardeners are not permitted to pick produce from plots other than their own without permission. Those who wish to have their produce harvested for a food pantry should notify the garden liaison. Participants may not damage other plots or garden property, smoke, use illegal drugs or cultivate illegal plants on DSCG grounds.

Gardeners are encouraged to form relationships with their neighbors. This facilitates watering and harvesting assistance due to time spent away from the garden for vacations or other family needs.

Gardeners will abide by any additional rules and regulations posted by the DSCG.

8. Surrogate Gardeners and/or Visitors Gardeners agree to supervise any visitor brought into the DSCG. If a gardener has someone taking care of her/his plot during an absence, she/he is responsible for the behavior of the surrogate. Surrogates may only enter with the permission and knowledge of a member gardener.

Children under 15 must be accompanied by a parent or guardian and young children should be monitored at all times. Please instruct your children that when they accompany you to the garden they are coming to *work with you*, not to *wait for you*.

9. Hold-Harmless Agreement A Hold Harmless Agreement releasing the Township of Neptune from legal responsibilities associated with activities within the garden must be signed by each gardener and witnessed by a member of other appropriate Township official.

10. Agreement to Abide by These Rules Submission of payment indicates the willingness to abide by the above rules and regulations.