

SIEMPRE VERDE GARDEN

MEMBERSHIP AGREEMENT

A hard copy of this Agreement is provided each year to gardeners. All applicants must sign this agreement to receive an individual plot, to participate in a community plot, or for general membership in Siempre Verde Community Garden. This agreement pertains to your entire plot, community plot, and garden, and those who work on it.

By signing below I agree I have attended an orientation session and understand the membership packet, including the Siempre Verde Garden Rules of Conduct (Rules) and Obligations of Gardeners (Obligations). I understand that if I do not follow the Rules, Obligations, and information outlined on this page I may lose membership in Siempre Verde Garden. I further understand:

- We operate on a democratic process of regular meetings of the garden membership in which decisions are passed by a simple majority vote.
 - Individual members receive one vote, Family members receive two votes, and Commercial members receive one vote.
 - All gardeners must attend at least two membership meetings a year.
 - All members have the right to express views and vote at meetings.
- I agree to fulfill my required 4-hours per month of volunteer time which can include administrative work and outreach, in addition to time spent tending my plot or community plot. I understand that opening and closing of the garden for the Public Hours will be shared and scheduled amongst members.
- The Rules and Obligations have been created by the garden members. Changes in the Rules and Obligations made by the garden members may affect my plot or public space. I am encouraged to participate in the garden's decision and rule-making process.
- I am expected to follow any changes in the Rules and Obligations made throughout the year.
- Siempre Verde Community Garden exists on New York City property. Being a garden member and participating in the communal upkeep of the garden does not in any way entitle me to property rights of my plot, or any part of the garden.
- I may not sublet, sell, or gift my plot to anyone.
- All tools and materials in the communal shed are supplied as garden-wide tools and should be put back after you or replaced if needed.
- Membership renewal occurs on an annual basis on January 1st of each year. New members pay pro-rated dues (pro-rating may be by quarter) as per the dues schedule.
- GreenThumb encourages the cultivation of edible plants in raised bed plots. (Siempre Verde is a registered GreenThumb garden.)

Dispute Resolution

If you fail in these obligations consistently, your plot, or participation in a community plot, can be assigned to another gardener. You are also required to respect all general rules of conduct for the garden. You will receive no more than two warnings regarding violations of the membership or bylaw agreement before being required to either attend mediation or forfeit your membership. The intent here is to encourage fair use of the garden space and create community participation, and to only invoke these rules as seen as necessary by a majority of the members.

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES AND SUGGESTED DUES

There are three categories of membership in the Siempre Verde Garden. Suggested membership dues are sliding scale. No one will be turned away for inability to pay.

1. Individual: suggested annual donation - \$25.
2. Family: suggested annual donation - \$40.
3. Commercial: suggested annual donation - \$75.00

Each Active Member will have a key to the garden and the tool shed. Keys cannot be transferred to other parties.

OBLIGATIONS OF GARDENERS

1. Plot Maintenance. If you have taken responsibility for a plot, or participate in a community plot, you must control invasive weeds, pests, and plant disease in your plot. Weeds should be pulled, and should not be allowed to go to seed, nor simply be added to compost piles. If your bed has nothing apparent in it by July 1, and you don't respond to emails, your box can be given to new members. Due to mosquito breeding, uncovered standing water is not permitted in the garden. Uncovered standing water on your plot can be drained or emptied without your consent.
2. Poison Free. Do not use chemical pesticides (including synthetic insecticides, herbicides, larvicides, and fungicides) in the garden.
3. No Permanent Structures Without a Permit or approval from GreenThumb's Director of Operations. You may not build a structure with a solid, inflexible roof. You may not build a structure that is enclosed on more than three sides. You may not build a structure taller than nine feet high.*
4. Litter. Volunteers must spend at least an hour every month bagging litter in the garden, and taking the bags to the curb outside the Attorney Street entrance. If you see large amounts of garbage on the adjacent sidewalk, it must be collected and moved to the area directly outside of and to the right of the Attorney Street gate. This includes sweeping the sidewalk for litter (and in winter, shoveling snow). Leaves and other plant debris can be placed in the appropriate areas that are set aside for them in the garden.
5. Monitor Duties. You must commit to a single 4 hour block of time per month when you can host the garden during open hours. If open hours are completely unworkable with your schedule, than you and the site coordinator must find agreement on a monthly 4 hour block for you to do other community duties such as litter pick up or composting.
6. Forbidden Plants. Do not cultivate dangerous or illegal plants (i.e., tobacco, poison ivy, poison mushrooms, etc.).
7. Contact Information. The garden must have your address, telephone number and email address in order to facilitate communication. If your contact information changes, email the garden.*
8. Orientation. It is required for gardeners to attend the spring orientation. Watering orientation sessions will also be provided from time to time since gardeners are encouraged to water common garden areas as needed as well as their own plots.

RULES OF CONDUCT IN THE GARDEN

1. Do Not Touch A Plot Without the Express Permission of its Owner unless this has been approved through a membership meeting. If you see a problem with somebody else's maintenance, contact them. Do not make alterations to any of the common areas without clearly expressed permission. See Plot Use, Code of Conduct

and other relevant sections in the garden's Bylaws.

2. A Non-threatening Environment. Anyone who makes a threat against another person's physical well-being can be banned from the garden, as per our bylaws.
3. Respect Supplies and Equipment. Do not remove supplies or plantings from the garden, unless they are yours. Tools must be returned to the storage area, area, cleaned off and dry, before you leave the garden.
4. Dogs must be leashed and curbed before entering.
5. No Smoking Is Permitted in the Garden.*
6. No Alcoholic Beverages May Be Consumed in the Garden (there is no legally permitted alcohol use). Members and garden visitors are not allowed to be under the influence of alcohol to the degree that anyone may endanger himself or herself, other persons or property, or unreasonably annoy persons in his or her vicinity. *
7. Children under 14 must be supervised by an adult.
8. No Paid Advertising or commercial use is permitted to be displayed in the garden.
9. No Gambling is permitted in the garden.*
10. Take any refuse with you when you leave.
11. When a gardener believes a rule has been violated and cannot amicably resolve the issue with another gardener, this should be brought to the membership meeting to review the dispute. If warranted, the garden will issue a warning to the gardener. This warning will be made public to the entire membership of the garden.

The garden will attempt to resolve all disputes (including through the possible use of a third-party mediator and additional meetings), but if there is a third warning the gardener will lose his or her plot **and** membership in Siempre Verde Community Garden **permanently**. See Code of Conduct and other relevant sections in the garden's Bylaws

*** An asterisk represents Rules of Green Thumb as per NYC Department of Parks & Recreation.**

Name(s): _____

Address, Zip: _____

Telephone Number: Days _____ Evenings _____ Email: _____

Preference: individual plot shared plot community plot general work

Check the appropriate items:

I am physically disabled.

I have gardened before at _____ for _____

(name) _____

(where) (how long) _____

comments and special skills _____

I have Facebook

I have read and agree to abide by the Siempre Verde Garden By-Laws

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Approved by for SVG:

Signature: _____

Date: _____