

# Helena Community Gardens 2017 Gardener Agreement

1. Name (primary plot holder): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

2. Name (other plot holder/s): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Garden: \_\_\_\_\_ Plot: \_\_\_\_\_

Fee: \_\_\_\_\_ Additional Donation: \_\_\_\_\_

**Payment must be submitted with signed Gardener Agreement.**

Payment Method: Cash [ ] Check [ ] Check # \_\_\_\_\_

I request a fee waiver due to financial hardship. [ ]

It is OK to share my contact information with other gardeners: Yes [ ] No [ ]

1. I will begin plot maintenance by May 25th and continue through the fall. I will clear my plot by October 25th, unless I have made a prior arrangement with the Garden Manager (GM).
2. I will be respectful to other gardeners, their guests, neighbors, residents, and visitors to the garden.
3. I will keep the lock combination secure, and will secure the garden when leaving if I am the last person there.
4. I will be responsible for pets, guests, and children that I bring to the garden.
5. I will keep weeds and debris to a minimum and maintain the areas adjacent to my plot including pathways and fence lines.
6. If I am unable to maintain my plot, I will notify the GM and make arrangements for someone else to maintain it.
7. I understand that if my plot becomes unkempt, is abused, or lays fallow, I will be contacted by the GM and given two weeks to remedy the situation. If the issue is not resolved within that time period, I understand that my plot will be reassigned or tilled in and no refund will be given.
8. I will not plant perennials (plants that live more than one year) unless approved by the GM. (Examples are horseradish, raspberries, Jerusalem artichoke, and mint.)
9. I agree to use water wisely by maintaining and closely monitoring my irrigation system to prevent waste

and growth of unwanted vegetation. I agree to utilize water conservation methods such as mulching, drip or soaker hoses, evening/morning watering, and hand watering. I will notify the GM of any water wastage I observe. I understand that **unattended** overhead sprinklers (including overhead sprinklers set on timers) are not allowed and will be shut off immediately by the GM, as will any type of irrigation system that is leaking or watering a neighboring plot without the permission of that plot holder (if the water is shut off the gardener will be notified). The GM makes the ultimate determination as to whether a type or style of irrigation is appropriate for the garden.

10. I understand that all gardens are to be organically maintained and operated. Synthetic pesticides, herbicides, and fertilizers are not allowed, and many non-synthetic substances are highly discouraged. Pest and weed control is to be achieved by organic means including crop rotation, mulching, weeding, mechanical cultivation, cover crop and/or co-cropping, trapping, and mowing. Soil fertility issues such as structure and chemical composition shall be addressed through composting, mulching, organic amendments, and cover and/or co-cropping. If I have any doubts or questions, I will contact the GM **before** implementing or applying any product, procedure, or substance.
11. I will participate in composting efforts at the garden, and comply with the posted composting guidelines.
12. As a member of this community, I agree to participate in volunteer activities and complete volunteer hours set by the GM at my garden. Completion of volunteer hours will be considered when reviewing applications for plots for the next season.
13. The GM for my garden will notify me if I am in violation of any parts of this agreement and will specify a time period for correction. If the violation is not corrected by the end of the specified time period, the GM may ask me to surrender my plot. I can appeal the GM's decision to the HCG Board by contacting the HCG Office.

I understand that Helena Community Gardens, the City of Helena, and/or other garden property owners are not responsible for my actions. I therefore agree to hold harmless the aforementioned entities for any liability, loss, damage, or claim that occurs with any use or product of the garden by me or my guests.

I have read and understand and agree to the rules, terms, and conditions stated above.

Gardener Signature/s (if plot is shared, all plot holders must sign agreement):

Primary plot holder: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Other plot holder/s: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Please return this Agreement with your payment to your Garden Manager or Mail to:  
Helena Community Gardens,  
PO Box 1222  
Helena, MT 59624

*Helena Community Gardens builds gardens, provides the tools and knowledge to grow food, and increases access to healthy and affordable food.*