



## 2026 Sturgis Community Garden Rules

1. Plot registration for current members is **March 3 - March 28**. All unclaimed plots after **March 28<sup>th</sup>** will become available for purchase for all members at the mandatory garden meeting. If more gardeners are interested than there are plots available, a lottery will be held for the remaining plots. All registrations and payment will be handled through the Public Works Office at 1057 Dudley Street. Hours are 6 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Thursday and 6 a.m. to 10 a.m. on Fridays.
2. The garden area is open from dawn until dusk, seven days a week.
3. Plots are clearly marked with stakes. Please do not remove these stakes during the season. Metal stakes throughout the site are permanent boundary markers and should not be moved.
4. We request that all members volunteer their time for general maintenance (especially adjacent walkways, it is your responsibility to keep the ½ of the path adjacent to your garden free of weeds) to keep the garden site looking good. The use of the site is contingent on our ability to maintain it. Check the bulletin board for chores that need to be done.
5. Please dispose of weeds and plant materials in designated compost areas.
6. Keep rocks out of pathways and borders. Put them in the designated area near the parking area.
7. Be **considerate** of your neighbors. Do not plant sprawling crops or tall ones that might interfere with others. Keep insects and weeds under control. Your neighbor has the right to prune any plant that encroaches on their plot. Harvest only from your garden plot.
8. Use of non-organic herbicides is prohibited. All herbicides and pesticides must be organic. For the consideration of the other gardeners, please do not spray anything on a breezy day. Fertilizers are allowed.
9. If vandalism or theft occurs, notify the Garden Committee immediately. Help us discourage losses by questioning unfamiliar faces.
10. Dogs, except those on a leash, are not allowed.
11. Family members are welcome to the garden site. Please advise guests not to go into or disturb other plots. Please supervise young children.
12. Individual fencing of plots is allowed. Please keep structures and tomato cages under 4 feet tall and neat. They should be removed before fall end date. Hail guard or climbing plant structures should be free standing and not attached to the chain link fence around the community garden.
13. Unattended watering is not allowed, and the consequence will be forfeiture of plot. **The water is metered by the City and only one warning will be given.** Notify the Garden Coordinator of any leaks in the water line. Make sure all hydrants are off, including the splitter valve when you leave the garden. Keep hoses neatly rolled up near the water riser.

14. No debris of any kind should be left at the site. Use trash receptacles available next to the gardens.
15. Notify Garden Board members if you are no longer able to tend your plot, if you will be absent for a long period of time, or if you have asked a friend to tend your garden for more than 1 week.
16. Please park only in designated areas. Do not drive vehicles over the lawn.
17. To assist with the conservation of water, mulch with leaves, grass clippings, or hay to reduce water evaporation.
18. Borrowed tools should be cleaned and returned to the storage area when done. **Tools are not to be taken home. Tools are for Community Garden Use only!**
19. Keep gates in the garden closed at all times.
20. The bulletin board is a way for all of us to stay in touch. Please use it for any garden-related purposes. Bulletin boards will be located in the tool sheds at each garden.
21. Each gardener must clear their plot of fencing, trellises, string, and all inorganic materials before fall end date unless approved by SCG Board. This will coincide with the date that the City turns the water off. The water shut off will vary depending upon the weather and temperatures. This will be determined by the City of Sturgis. If you have a year-round plot and are raising cold weather crops such as cabbage, broccoli, and root crops, turn under or remove vines and annual plant residues. Failure to do this will result in forfeiture of priority of plot the following year.
22. Your compliance with the above regulations will help everyone have an enjoyable and prosperous garden. Failure to comply with the above regulations result in a loss of future gardening privileges.
23. All garden plots should be maintained in a manner that guarantees that the gardens on either side are not interfered with or impeded. Plots should also be uncluttered and kept in an orderly condition. No collections of junk, unnecessary tools, containers, or lumber should take up space and detract from the appearance of the garden.
24. Violations resulting in forfeiture of a plot may be appealed to the Sturgis City Administrator within 14 days and final appeals may be made to the Sturgis City Council.
25. Abandoned gardens that have been left unattended and appear to be failing due to neglect shall be considered for reassignment. Reassignment and forfeiture will be managed by members of the Garden Board after notifying the plot renter of the intended action. The plot renter will have the option of appealing for 14 days after notice.
26. If you have a complaint with another gardener, please try to resolve it on your own. If a solution can't be reached between the two parties only then should you file a complaint in writing to all board members.

Please bring this sheet to the  
**MANDATORY** Spring Garden Meeting  
from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. on April 8 the  
Sturgis Community Center Theater

#### Community Garden Board Members

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