

The Squamish CAN Grow Community Garden Guidelines and Information



The CAN Grow Community Gardens seek to offer individuals a place to grow food for their own consumption. We seek to foster a space for education, inspiration and actualization of urban food production.

As the adoptee of a garden plot, you have space to design, create, foster and consume. Enjoy the garden experience, and all of the fun and learning that it entails.

Squamish CAN

The Squamish CAN (Climate Action Network) manages the gardens. It is a local group dedicated to bettering the environmental sustainability of our region. We work on Food, Energy, and Waste initiatives. More information is available at www.squamishcan.net.

Garibaldi CAN Grow Garden

This garden was established by the Rotary Club of Squamish in 2005 at the corner of Mamquam Road and Highway 99. Squamish CAN took over management of the garden in 2014. The garden hosts about 60 plots.

Downtown CAN Grow Junior Gardens

Squamish CAN built these gardens in 2012. Peter and Ginger, the owners of August Jack, have generously donated 2 plots of their land for our use. The garden at the corner of Cleveland Ave. & Main St. is called the Main Garden and hosts 52 plots (closed). The garden at 2nd Ave. & Main St. is called the Junior Garden and hosts 43 plots. The boulevard in front of both the Main and Junior gardens is also a growing space and has 20 plots. ***The Downtown Main Garden is now closed as of spring 2023, though the Junior Garden remains open.***

Plots

- The garden beds are adopted on an annual basis and upon maintaining good standing in plot upkeep, may be renewed each spring by re-submitting an application/renewal form.
- Plots are adopted as half plots at \$30 or full plots at \$60 in the Downtown gardens, \$55 for a full plot at the Garibaldi garden, and \$40 for full plots at the Bailey St garden. Half plots are not available in the Garibaldi or Bailey St gardens.
- The Downtown Junior garden plots are 20' x 4' in size. The Bailey St garden has some high plots that are prioritized for individuals that will benefit physically from working in a higher plot. Please contact the garden manager if you require one of these higher plots. At Garibaldi, plot sizes vary, with no 30" plots available.
- Plots are adopted between March 1st and February 28th of the following year.
- Applications will be made available for the following season by the first week of January. Applications and fees will be due on February 1st, and gardens will be available to new adoptees on March 1st. ***In 2023, applications and fees are due March 1st and gardens will be available to new adoptees on March 15th.***
 - Renewal fees are expected with the application
 - Gardeners who wish to change locations or expand their half plot to a full plot must indicate this clearly, and will be given priority over new garden applications.
- Plots may not be transferred from one gardener to another—they go to the next person on the waiting list.

What Upkeep is Expected?

- **Weeds.** Try to keep weeds down in your plot to avoid spreading seeds to the rest of the garden. Please ensure that that ground space surrounding your plot is free of litter and weeds – especially noxious weeds (horsetail, Japanese knotweed, crab grass, and buttercup). These weeds must be put in the garbage or other specified containers, and must not be put into the compost.
- **Harvesting.** Please ensure produce is harvested promptly to avoid attracting pests.
- **Keep it Beautiful.** Along with the edible benefits, we hope to foster a nurturing and inspiring community space. Please take care of your bed as well as the surrounding area. We appreciate your help in keeping the site well kept and litter free.

What Can I Plant?

- **Edible plants** are emphasized. Companion flowers, healing herbs, and pollinator-friendly flowers are also encouraged.

- **Please do not plant fruit** due to the hazards of attracting wildlife. This includes strawberries.
- **Please do not plant invasive perennials** (e.g. mints, lemon balm, oregano, etc.) as they are difficult to remove when plots change hands. Garden members are welcomed to harvest the herbs that are grown in the common gardens.
- **Seeds.** You are encouraged to order seeds that are bred for the rainy West Coast. West Coast Seeds in Ladner offers a great variety and can be ordered online. Squamish CAN also runs a seed library within Squamish Public Library that offers locally harvested seeds. Contact marie-eve@squamishcan.net for more information.
- **Plant placement within your plot.** When planning your garden, consider the height of plants to ensure that you are not shading a neighbour's plot. As plants grow and become larger, please ensure that plants are staked and large plants stay within your plots' perimeters, as to not infringe on your neighbours' space.

Community Garden Spirit

- Cooperative and generous volunteer efforts make the garden great. The efforts that our members and the community have invested are very much appreciated.
- Work parties will be established on a regular basis throughout the season. The purpose of these work parties will be to work together to maintain common garden space as well as an opportunity to meet the other gardeners. It will be a time to share gardening knowledge, gardening horror stories and the odd joke or two.

Community Space

- The sheds at all of the gardens contain various tools for shared use. Please ensure that tools are returned, and the shed is locked upon leaving the site. The individual who opens the shed is responsible for closing it or designating the task to another on-site gardener.
 - **The combo for the Junior shed is 22-28-34**
 - **The combo for the Garibaldi Garden shed is 02-16-22**
- The CAN Grow community garden seeks to foster a space of trust, inspiration and abundance for the community. We share our abundance with Helping Hands and the Food Bank. Those in need of food can be redirected there.
- If there is any theft of plants or produce, please let the garden manager know so it can be addressed.
- There are designated tie-up posts for dogs. Please do not allow dogs to roam freely around the garden.

Soil Amendments

- Gardeners are encouraged to amend their garden plots with only organic amendments. If you are not sure which amendments are organic or how to recognize an organic product, please check with the garden manager.
- **NO chemical pesticides or fertilizers** (e.g. Roundup or Miracle Grow) may be used onsite.
- **YES** to organic fertilizers, manure, compost and egg shells to support the growth of your garden.

Watering System

- Please be mindful of overwatering your plants. Roots are often 10cm in length in their second week, so do a finger check for the moisture at 10cm before watering if you're not sure. This helps with water conservation and strong root development. Mulching around the base of your plants helps the soil retain the water longer.
- Please return hoses and watering cans to their original location. Thanks for keeping our gardens neat!

Composting at the Garden

- Our intention with the onsite composts is to encourage, and set an example for, effective composting in the Sea to Sky Corridor that reduces waste, produces compost, and is non-attractive to wildlife.
- The compost system now in place needs a bit of reinvention. This will be done over the course of the season. For now, continue to add your green waste to the bins. Using the completed compost is not recommended, as it is full of unwelcomed seeds. Stay tuned for exciting compost updates.
- It is essential that noxious weeds and tomatoes with blight are never added to the compost. Please bring these home with you to put in the garbage so they do not spread in our gardens. We will also offer an invasive species bin this year, where gardeners can dispose of their invasive and noxious weeds without compromising compost quality.

If you have any questions or comments, please contact the Garden Manager, Gabriela Lech, at cangrowgarden@gmail.com.

Thank you for your support in developing this community project as a living example of practical skills and inspiration for a sustainable food system. Be proud of your commitment and enjoy its bounty!