



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.

About 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 57 plots.

Downtown CAN Grow Main & Jr. 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 Downtown Plots will be available until October 15th, 2021. At which time Squamish CAN will renegotiate the agreement. Continuation past this date may not be possible.

- The garden at the corner of Cleveland Ave. & Main St. is called the Main Garden and hosts 52 plots.
- 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.

Bailey Street Gardens (New)

Squamish CAN has entered into an agreement with the District of Squamish to build new community gardens off Bailey Street (near the dog park). The land is currently undergoing development towards this purpose and seeking funding to begin building the plots. We are excited to launch into the endeavour in 2021.



Community Garden Spirit

- Requests for volunteers may be sent out over 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. Cooperative and generous volunteer efforts make the garden great. The efforts that our members and the community have invested are very much appreciated.
- 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. We encourage gardeners to donate a portion of their bountiful harvest to this cause.

What Upkeep is Expected of Plot Holders?

- **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). Noxious weeds must be put in the garbage or other specified containers, and must not be put into the compost.
- **Ongoing Upkeep.** Garden Manager will issue warnings for unattended plots. If issues persist, the Manager may cancel the plot holders membership.
- **Harvest.** Please harvest veggies as they ripen to avoid attracting pests, including rats. Please donate the excess to Under One Roof, or other gardeners.
- **End of Year.** All plot holders are required to clean up their plot at the end of the growing season. This may include clean up and removal of organic waste, mulching, or cover cropping.

What Can I Plant?

- **Edible plants are emphasized.** Companion flowers, healing herbs, and pollinator-friendly flowers are also encouraged.
- **No Fruit.** Due to the hazards of attracting wildlife. This includes strawberries.
- **No 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.
- **No Excessive Shade.** 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.
- **No Cannabis.** Although legal in Canada, the community gardens do not allow growing cannabis plants within the grounds.
- **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. There is a \$5 membership fee to join this group.



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. For now, continue to add your green waste to the bins. Using the completed compost is a great way to save on soil amendments, but please be advised it often contains excessive weed seeds (as it doesn't get hot enough in the current system).
- 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.

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.
 - **Shed codes available upon request for plot holders.**

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