

Diamond Valley Community Gardens Guidelines

General Information on Volunteering

The Diamond Valley Community Gardens are run entirely by our gardeners who volunteer to make this project work as smoothly as possible. As well as looking after our own beds and surroundings, all members are invited to participate in helping to maintain the Community Garden itself, getting to know our neighbours, learning more about gardening and sharing the bounty of our crops among ourselves and with the Oilfields Food Bank.

Gardeners choose to volunteer in any one or more of the following areas, with the expectation that each of us will contribute. Spring garden preparation and Fall cleanup are collective annual events that take place each season and are weather dependent.

To contact either one of the Garden Managers with questions or concerns, please use our e-mail: dvcgardens24@gmail.com

Your Garden Manager sits on the Society Board and contributes to decisions affecting their own Garden. The Garden Manager will contact you regarding group events and volunteering.

Here are the various volunteering opportunities available. Please sign up for any of interest when you register:

- **Watering - keep totes filled, water rhubarb or new trees in the Garden**
- **Planting, looking after and harvesting Food Bank beds**
- **Weeding, clipping and mulching selected sections of the paths and communal garden spaces**
- **Participation as a Society Committee member**
- **Bed Repair and maintaining order in the Garden shed**
- **Looking after compost in each garden**
- **Special projects such as our annual fund-raising Plant Sale, Garden Talks at the Library and our Fall Harvest Wind-up and AGM in October**

Garden Guidelines

- New members will attend an orientation tour by the Garden Manager to find out where their bed is, how composting and watering are managed in each garden and how the sheds and the garden are locked. Garden key and code will be given at that time.
- Community Garden beds are rented on an annual basis from March to late fall with returning gardeners having prior access to their former bed.
- Gardening season extends from March 1st until late fall when beds must be cleared of weeds and covered with either leaves, straw or landscape material to protect the soil from wind erosion and from drying out. Actively growing winter crops or bulbs such as garlic may be planted in the bed if the member is returning the following year.

- Both Community Gardens have access to Town water, a garden shed with tools, hoses and wheelbarrows. Both gardens have an 8' perimeter fence and a locked gate to keep deer and other pests out. Please be sure to lock the gate when you leave.
- Any beds that are not prepared for planting by June 1st will be turned back to the Community Garden waiting list. If there is a problem we can help with, please contact your Garden Manager through our email: dvcgardens24@gmail.com
- Children are encouraged to come, learn and enjoy a small free plot allotted to them. Please supervise children.
- Please leave your pets in your vehicle or leashed in the shade outside the garden.
- The Community Gardens are organic gardens. The use of pesticides, herbicides and fungicides to poison pests or weeds is prohibited in favour of organic methods to control weeds in our pathways and beds. If in doubt as to what organic methods might be useful, contact the Garden Manager.
- To conserve water as much as possible, avoid watering during the heat of the day.
- Watering deeply several times of week leads to better plant outcomes rather than sprinkling your plants every day. Using a timer is helpful to avoid over/under watering.
- Mulch bare soil on top of your bed and around your plants with mowed green grass, straw or leaves to reduce moisture loss during the growing season.
- Check that taps to both hoses as well as the tap inside the water shed are turned off when you leave the Garden.
- Upkeep of your garden bed and and surrounding the bed during the growing season, is the responsibility of the gardener or group assigned to the plot. If the plot is not maintained and weeds around the bed are spreading seeds, the gardener will be contacted about neglect to find out if help is needed.
- Due to the invasive nature of many perennials, the following may not be planted in the raised beds: raspberries, horse radish, mint, chives or rhubarb.
- To maintain good relations with our neighbours, please be aware that local children may be playing on the street and drive slowly.
- Hours at the Gardens are from dawn until dusk.
- Follow us on Facebook @ DiamondValleyCommunityGardens.

By signing the Gardening Agreement, you are acknowledging that you accept responsibility for contributing to the maintenance and upkeep of the community gardens and that failure to meet these expectations may result in the termination of your membership.

Diamond Valley Community Gardens 2025 Events Calendar

Feb 8th Gardening **Workshop - Seedy Saturday** takes place at Sheep River Library. This is an opportunity to pick up seeds that have been successfully grown by local garden members and local seed Company Co-Creative. A number of seed catalogues will be available as well as a chance to hear Calgary community gardener and writer Sheryl Normandeau. Edie Pujo will speak about starting seeds indoors to get a jump on our short season.

March 1st **Registration Day** 1-3 pm at the Sheep River Library - Registration Packages will be available or you may contact our Registrar at: dvcgardens24@gmail.com to have one e-mailed to you.

March 1st Garden Talks 3-5 pm at the Sheep River Library

Growing Mushrooms, Wheatgrass inside, Group Discussion – Looking Forward with Lessons Learned

April 5th Garden Talks 3-5pm at Sheep River Library Topics TBA

April 26th Opening and Cleanup – weather dependent

May 3rd Garden Talks 3-5pm at the Sheep River Library Topics TBA

June 7th Fundraising **Plant Sale** at Millenium Park in Turner Valley beginning at 11:00 a.m. This event raises awareness about our community garden as well as funds for projects such as bed replacement

October 4th Harvest Wind-up at the Sheep River Library 2–5 pm

There will be demonstrations on how our garden produce can be preserved for winter with recipes available.

October Put the garden to bed for the winter, time and date to be announced, depending on the season.

October 28th **Society's Annual General Meeting** at the Sheep River Library Review of past season with successes and recommendations for next season as well as election of Society Officers and Directors.

The funding and labor required for the construction of the garden beds, soil preparation, and fencing have been fully donated by community members, local businesses, and organizations. Their contributions have been instrumental in making our Gardens a successful community project.

We would like to acknowledge recent support from Millarville Hort Club, Foothills Energy Co-op, Youth with a Mission and Diamond Valley FCSS.