

Welcome to the Teaching Garden!

About the Garden: Santa Clara Adult Education Classes are held on Saturdays from 9 to 12. These classes include lectures, hands on demonstrations, field trips and class projects appropriate to the seasons. Many diverse groups use the garden. There is an Enabling Garden for developmentally challenged adults who are part of the Independence Network program. On Friday mornings, during the school year, district school children (2nd graders) visit the garden under the care of the Generation Connection Program. The garden classroom is the property of Santa Clara Unified School District and Santa Clara Adult Education. It is not public property.

Fees: Space in the garden is at a premium. Fees change over time. Maintain your class registration in good standing by following our rules and recommendations that follow.

There are 10 weeks per term; participation in **5 classes per term is required in order for you to be able to register for the next term.** Participation in one term does not automatically guarantee participation in the next term. In order to register for subsequent terms, please stay in good standing with the garden, complete the required number of classes and follow all plot and garden rules. If you are not sure about your status, please see the instructor. Registration closes the Thursday before the first class.

Garden Plots: Each registered student is given a garden space for hands-on-learning. The instructor will assign this space (plot) to you. This is your plot and it is your responsibility to keep it neat, tidy and weed-free. Also, keep pathways near you plot weed-free, mulched and free of hazards. Anything you decide to bring into the garden must stay in your plot when not in use. You may not leave any items outside your plot when you leave. Be considerate of other students and their plots. Do not shade your neighbor's plot with structures, tall plants, no trees. Plant only vegetables, herbs and flowers please! If you are in doubt about what is appropriate to plant or put in your plot, please ask the instructor **before** planting. The use of a plot may be revoked for non- maintenance, not attending classes, or misuse of the plot and/or the property surrounding it. If you would like to change your plot location, or plan to give up your plot, please inform the instructor by the end of the current quarter. Priority for plot reassignments will be given to those with seniority, good class attendance. who have well-kept paths and good growing garden.

Garden Class: Contribute as much as you can to preserve the overall beauty and function of the garden. Emptying trash cans, spreading mulch, weeding pathways and communal areas, and tidying the garden class are **all shared responsibilities.** Get to know the other gardeners near your plot and weed the pathways together. We focus on the shared areas of the garden, rather than individual plots. Each term ends with a work party and potluck lunch. Please plan on attending the Garden Work Party on the last day of class. Everyone participates. Ideas for improvements and special projects are welcome. Bring them to the attention of the instructor.

Online Community: For class emails, please add jcarey@scusd.net to your email contact list. For Facebook, use <https://www.facebook.com/groups/SantaClaraTeachingGarden/> and ask to join. Postings sent to the group should be relevant to the class. Personal emails should be between individuals, not the whole group.

Greenhouse: There are both shared and individual projects in the greenhouse. **Label your plants clearly with your name to avoid confusion.** Personal plants stay on the back table of the greenhouse. Follow posted greenhouse guidelines. Water gently when you see plants are dry, unless they are labeled "Do not Water".

Tool Shed: There are tools available in the shed for student use. Please keep the shed orderly. Clean tools before putting them away. There is a white bucket of oily sand in front of the shed. Remove mud or major dirt first, then swipe the tool into the oily sand to prevent rust. Hang the tool up where it belongs in the shed. Lock the shed door before leaving the garden. Students are welcome to bring their own tools, however, there is no storage for personal items. What you bring in will have to be brought back out when you leave. The school is not responsible for any lost or missing personal property.

Organic vs. chemical pest and weed controls: While the garden is not 100% strictly organic, the goal is to be as close to organic as possible. Do not use herbicides. Only use organic fertilizers. "Feed the soil, not the plants" by adding fish emulsion, manure, green manure cover crops, compost and worm castings. Use a variety of Earth-friendly pest control

techniques like hand picking snails, Sluggo, oil traps for earwigs. Certain infestations might require stronger intervention. Ask the instructor before spraying anything other than earth-friendly products. Please do not use poison for rats or other critters. We do not want to poison our local hawks and owls or neighborhood cats.

Special note: Santa Clara Adult Ed reserves the right to remove any plant or material from plots that is harmful or inappropriate to the garden classroom. This includes plants infested with insects, invasive seed-bearing weeds and plants, and other types of plants or objects that pose a threat to the garden classroom. Bermuda grass and seedy weeds need to be disposed of in the dumpster (do not put them into compost bins). No alcohol, drugs, or cigarettes allowed in the garden. If you are a smoker or handle tobacco, please wash your hands before entering the garden to prevent bringing Tobacco Mosaic Virus into the garden.

Compost: Place your disease free garden trimmings and non-seed bearing weeds by using a garbage can into the compost bins. (No Bindweed/ Common Fumitory/ Bermuda grass!) The Compost Maestro leaves notes as to which bins to fill. Finished compost is available to garden members to use in their plots. Take only what you need.

Garbage Cans: Garbage cans need to be returned to the gate to the dumpster. Empty your cans into the dumpster regularly. Please do not fill cans more than $\frac{3}{4}$ full. Do your share to keep cans available for everyone by dumping your trash and compost. Our Sanitation Engineer helps only those who can't lift a can into the dumpster.

Picking: Garden theft results in immediate and permanent termination from the class: theft is taking from student plot(s) without permission, or taking more than a one-time, a handful from any of the fruit trees unless the tree is opened for harvesting.

Hoses: Keep the hoses neatly coiled and out of the way.

Gates and locks: There are 3 locked gates to the garden classroom. There is an East Gate and a West Gate, which are marked as such, and there is a gate between the garden and the dumpster area. All gates use a common combination lock, which is given to all registered students. Keyed locks are on the tool shed and greenhouse. **Relock the gate once you are inside the garden.** This is for your own safety and for that of the garden. **When leaving the garden be sure that all gates are locked.** All participants in the various garden programs have their own access to the garden; **you should not unlock the gate for anyone else. Please refer anyone who wants access to the main office.**

Pets: No pets in the garden classroom.

People: Only registered students are allowed in the garden. If you see any suspicious activity in the garden please call the front office at 423-3500.

Vandalism: The garden has been vandalized in the past. Please put the tools away and lock the shed, greenhouse, and garden gate when you leave. Notify the garden instructor if you notice anything out of order or missing in the garden, or call our main office 423-3500.

Contact information:

Instructor: Jan Carey jcarey@scusd.net Phone (408) 723-7977 *No calls after 7 pm!

Address: Santa Clara Adult Ed 1840 Benton St., Santa Clara, CA 95050 Phone: (408) 423-3500

Web site: www.SantaClaraAdultEd.org

I have read both sides of the rules of the Teaching Garden and agree to follow the rules and regulations as written.

Name: _____ Date: _____

Signature: _____ Plot # _____