 **COMMUNITY GARDEN**

**GENERAL RULES**

***With Agreement***

***2024 Season***

*The following general rules for the Community Garden are for participating gardeners and may be subject to change.  A copy of the Columbia Community Garden Rules for the current season will be given to each registered gardener. These rules do not relieve Gardeners in any way from the need to comply with all other applicable federal and state laws, the Town of Columbia, and Szegda Farm Ordinances.*

**As part of pest management strategies in 2024, all varieties of cucumbers, squash, pumpkin, melon and gourd plants will not be transplanted or planted into the garden until Memorial Day.**

Garden plots are for horticultural use only for annual plantings. *Current exceptions are perennial strawberry plants and herbs which must be neatly maintained during the off season.*

Pets are not permitted in the garden area.

All work must be performed during daylight hours. Szegda Farm closes at dusk.

Gardens and the paths around them must be kept clean and free of weeds.

At least a one-foot perimeter path covered with wood chips must be maintained along all four sides of each garden plot.

The use of weed killers (herbicides) is prohibited.

The use of pesticides and chemical fertilizers is strictly prohibited in the organic garden.

No illegal plants are permitted to be planted or brought to the community garden. This includes medical marijuana.

Potatoes (which present an insect control problem) may not be planted in garden plots.

Trees and bushes are not allowed to be planted in garden plots.

The removal of topsoil when harvesting crops is prohibited.

Garden wastes shall be placed into the composter or into the weed dump area provided.

All paper, landscape fabric, plastic containers, pots and other non-plant waste must be carried off-site.

If a plot has not been maintained for a three-week period and there has been no communication with the garden coordinator or the Rec. Dept, the gardener may forfeit their gardening privileges.

Limit of two plots per household.

Each gardener is expected to clean up their plot to maintain eligibility at the end of each season, including the removal of plant materials and garden debris. Failure to complete the end of season cleanup will result in a security deposit required for continued participation equal to their plot registration fee. This is intended to ensure cleanup, and the deposit will be refunded upon inspection by the garden coordinator. The current deadline for cleanup is 11/15/2024, and for those plots requiring a security deposit, by 10/31/2024. (Cleanup for cold weather crops may be extended upon approval by the garden steward)

*The Town of Columbia and its agents are not responsible for the theft of plants, vegetables, garden fixtures, apparatus, materials, and tools left on the premises.* ***Gardeners will be required to lock entry gates (if they are the last to leave the area) after exiting.***

 I have received and read the Community Garden General Rules and hereby

agree to the rules and regulations for the Community Garden at Szegda Farm. I

understand if my plot(s) has not been maintained for a three-week period and

there has been no communication with the garden coordinator or the Rec. Dept, I may forfeit gardening privileges. *(Please check box confirming you have received, read, and will abide by the rules of the community garden.)*

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**Signature of Participant Date**

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**Printed Name**