



**TOWN OF MOUNTAIN VILLAGE HOUSING AUTHORITY**  
**VILLAGE COURT APARTMENTS**  
415 Mountain Village Blvd. Suite 1  
Mountain Village, CO 81435  
970-728-9117 Pho  
970-728-1318 Fax

## Michael Ruterbories Community Garden 2023

Dear Residents of Mountain Village,

It is almost time to take out the trowels and start planting some seeds. For the 2023 gardening season, we plan on having a garden committee that will run the garden's administration. In the meantime, VCA office staff will start this process while the committee is being formed. We plan to have the committee up and running around the end of May. Once the committee is formed and organized, all the administrative tasks will be handed off to the committee. While VCA is managing the garden, we will need our tenants to be patient as VCA staff still have their full-time workload and will manage the garden to the best of their ability.

VCA has a rough estimate of what plots were taken last year. If you had a plot that corresponds with what we have on file, you can keep one of your garden plots. VCA made a new garden application that every gardener must complete before using the community garden. Once the application has been submitted and the gardener has dropped off a check made out to the Town of Mountain Village, VCA office staff will assign you your plot. Every gardener will be allowed to have one plot, until all the plots are reserved. If more plots are available after June 1<sup>st</sup>, gardeners can submit another application and pay for another plot. These will be assigned on a first-come, first-serve basis. This is being done to allow new gardeners the opportunity to receive plots and join the garden.

VCA staff will be doing a garden cleanup throughout May. The garden shed is only to be used for garden tools. No personal items are to be stored, and any personal items, not gardening tools will be taken to the VCA maintenance shop and held for 30 days. As per garden rules, no personal items will be left outside a garden plot. Gardeners cannot extend plots by adding pots or other gardening tools outside their assigned plot.

Last season, VCA staff heard about harassment and sabotage happening in the garden. This behavior is unacceptable, and if any behavior of this kind is reported, the parties will lose access to the garden.

If any garden rules are broken, the gardener will forfeit their garden plot and must remove all their personal gardening items within 24 hours. VCA staff and the garden committee will be ensuring that this happens.

The rules for the garden are as follows:

1. The garden is only open daylight hours
2. Children under 12 must be accompanied by an adult
3. No dogs allowed within the perimeter of the garden



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4. Each gardener is responsible for the maintenance and upkeep of their garden plot and the pathways around it
5. No personal items are allowed outside of the plot(s) that you are assigned. All tools should be stored in the shared garden shed. If any personal items are left in the garden, the maintenance team will take the items to the maintenance shop. If the items are not retrieved within 30 days, they will be discarded.
6. Garden plots must be cared for each week. If a gardener misses a week, please arrange for a friend to tend your garden
7. Trash must be removed from the community garden area
8. Plots should be kept free of weeds and invasive plants
9. No marijuana plants are allowed to be grown
10. Trellises and support should be kept at a reasonable height to avoid shading other garden plots. Plants should be kept from sprawling onto pathways and other garden plots.
11. Please do not water, weed, tend or take items from another person's garden without their consent
12. At the end of the season, plots are to be cleaned and cleared up by Oct. 31
13. Avoid wasteful use of water
14. Gardeners may pay for up to 1 plot each up until June 1st.
15. The garden shed is for all gardeners and should only be used for storing gardening tools. If any personal items are found in the shed, the maintenance team will remove them.
16. If any plots are still unoccupied after June 1st, current plot holders may pay for up to 2 additional plots. However, at the beginning of the following season, these additional plots will be thought of as vacant plots.
17. If you feel that someone is violating one of the terms of the garden agreement, please submit a complaint in writing to VCA Staff. Complaints will be reviewed, investigated and addressed by VCA staff on a case by case basis.
18. VCA has the right to revoke garden privileges at any time if they determine that the garden is being misused, or if one of the terms of this agreement is being violated.
19. If your garden privileges are revoked, you will be given 24 hours to remove any plants, personal items or gardening tools from the garden that you would like to keep. At that point you will lose all rights to your garden plot and anything located inside of it. If gardening privileges are revoked for violation of these terms, garden plot fees will not be refunded and you may not be allowed to use the community garden in the future.
20. Gardeners shall not harass, disrespect, denigrate, or verbally abuse any other gardeners or the admin.
21. If you have informally been planting in a garden plot and that plot is assigned to a new garden user, you must remove your garden items from the plot within 48 hours of notification otherwise your plantings are forfeit.



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These rules are subject to change by the garden committee. The Town of Mountain Village staff must approve the new regulations to ensure they align with how we want the garden to operate. Please report any instances of the garden rules being broken to VCA staff and the garden committee once formed. The committee will review complaints and rescind garden privileges if necessary.