

Bluffdale Independence Community Garden Policies 2026

By registering and paying the fee of \$30, you agree to maintain your assigned plot throughout the season (from April to October), fulfill your assigned community garden duties, to use organic gardening methods and to abide by the following policies:

Reserving and Renewing Your Plot

- Plots are filled on a first-come, first-served basis. Only second-year or more gardeners in good standing are allowed to reserve a second box.
- Annual registration through the City of Bluffdale is required. A \$30 fee per box must be paid.
- Gardeners who fulfill policy requirements, including plot maintenance, meeting attendance and community behavior expectations, may reapply for the same plot each year, or for another plot, as available. Registration will open on March 18 and returning gardeners who register through March 25 will have priority.

Community Garden Involvement

- In addition to tending personal plots, gardeners are expected to complete a community job that will be signed up for during registration.
- New gardeners must attend a New Gardener Orientation.
- All gardeners must join the Garden GroupMe. A link will be sent with the box assignment. The Bluffdale Community Garden Facebook page is also used for official notifications and garden-related discussions. Notices will also be posted at the garden.

Garden Management

- The City of Bluffdale has provided this garden with a 20-year land lease agreement with the Jordan Valley Water District.
- Decisions are made at Board Meetings.
- Maintenance of the garden is the collective responsibility of all gardeners, who volunteer for a committee.

Gardening Organically

- Our goal is to nurture healthy soil and environment. Chemical herbicides, pesticides, and fertilizers are not allowed. Certified organic seeds and seedlings are encouraged.
- Please read our Organic Standards for more information on organic restrictions and recommendations.

Water Use and Drip Irrigation

- The automatic drip irrigation system will be on from late April – October, weather permitting. Gardeners should not alter the system in any way. Gardeners should report problems to the Community Garden Board first, and then to Bluffdale City.
- Each gardener is responsible to check and adjust their irrigation.
- Natural mulch (straw, leaves, burlap, etc.) is recommended between seasons to conserve soil moisture, and to reduce weeds.

Plot Maintenance

- Plots must be cleared of weeds by May 15, and planted end-to-end by June 1.
- Gardeners must control the weeds and trash in their own plots and adjacent pathways during the season. All weeds must be removed. Gardeners must maintain a minimum of 3" of mulch in the 2' of paths around their box.
- Weeds that have gone to seed, or weeds that reproduce from cuttings (eg. bindweed), are not permitted in compost piles, and should be deposited in trash or brown waste bins. Any plants added to compost bins must be chopped to 9 inches.
- Gardeners must harvest their ripe produce regularly, to reduce garden pests and vandalism.
- Gardeners must maintain their plot in a safe condition.
- Perennial plantings or permanent improvements are not allowed without permission.
- Plots are inspected the week of the 15th of each month. Gardeners of plots that do not meet maintenance requirements will be notified and flagged. Failure to remedy the situation within 14 days will result in plot forfeiture.
- If a gardener is unable to tend their plot, it is their responsibility to ask someone else to temporarily tend their plot. Long-term proxy gardening is not permitted.
- Green flags will be provided to share produce. Please place flags next to the plant that you would like to share. If it is clear the box is being neglected, green flags may be placed next to plants by Board Members to reduce waste.
- Boxes must be cleared by October 17, 2026. The Fall Cleanup Day is October 24, 2026 at 9 am. All boxes must be cleared of debris and trellising, and, for those returning, covered completely in mulch and/or cover crop. Trellising that is too large to transport off site may be stored on the plot in a tidy fashion. Drip tape should be laid out straight in the bed, below mulch.

Community Behavior and Non-Discrimination

- Disrespectful or abusive language, harassment, discrimination, illegal activities, activities that endanger others, or destructive behavior (including vandalism and theft) may result in the immediate loss of all gardening privileges, and forfeiture of crops.
- Gardeners may be required to meet with Bluffdale City Staff to address conflict, or other garden-related issues.

Community Garden Tips

The best fertilizer is the gardener's shadow

A community garden plot is a commitment of time and persistent effort over 6 months of the year. The more time and attention you invest in your rental plot, the greater the likely outcome. Below you will find an estimate of the time an average rental plot requires **per week**:

Garden Task	Spring	Summer	Fall
Weeding/Soil Prep	2 hours	1 hour	1 hour

Pest Management	1 hour	1 hour	1 hour
Planting	1.5 hours	0 hours	.5 hours
Harvesting	0 hours	.5 hours	1 hour
Cooking & Preserving	0 hours	1 hour	2 hours
Community Gardening Involvement	.5 hours	.5 hours	.5 hours
TOTAL hours/week	5 hours	4 hours	6 hours

Organic Pest Control

While some degree of pest presence is normal, prompt diagnosis at the first sign of infestation is important to catch pest issues before they get out of control. We highly recommend using the Utah State University (USU) Extension's Plant Diagnostic Hotline at (385) 468-4828. If immediate organic measures are needed, the best practices below can be an effective strategy against a variety of pests, and are safest to use. However, many organic products can still be highly toxic to you, beneficial insects, or some plants. Take precautions and follow directions.

Pest Issues	Recommendations	Organic Standards	Not Allowed
Aphids	Spray with jets of water, introduce ladybugs, praying mantis, etc.	Neem Oil	Bifenthrin (Bug B Gon)
Earwigs or Slugs	Traps (beer for slugs, cardboard rolls for earwigs); diatomaceous earth	Phosphate for slugs	Metaldehyde (Slug and Snail Bait)
Spider Mites or Flea Beetles	Spray with water; homemade garlic-oil-pepper sprays; insecticidal soap spray	Nicotine for spider mites; Spinosad for flea beetles	Acetamiprid, Permethrin
Squash Bugs	Regularly hand-pick eggs and adults; trap crops; floating row covers	Pyrethrins	Imidacloprid (Alias), Carbaryl (Sevin)
Powdery Mildew	Remove infected leaves; increase air circulation by stake and not overcrowding	Neem oil; preventative applications of sulfur	Penthiopyrad, Quinoxifen
Weeds	Hand-weeding; thick mulch; allelopathic cover crops	Solarization; vinegar spray; asetic acid concentrate	Trilluralin (Preen'n Green), Glyphosate (Roundup), etc.

