



2025 GROW Gardener Pledge

Public Space Maintenance

All GROW sites are public spaces and must be kept tidy. Gardeners are required to weed around their boxes by June 1st. Any boxes that have not been maintained by this date will be considered for reassignment to participants on the waitlist. Gardeners will be notified and given 7 days to address the issue. If no action is taken within that time, the box will be reassigned.

Growing Guidelines

GROW is built on the goal of growing organic food sustainably.

- **All Boxes:** No chemical fertilizers, pesticides, weed repellents, or plastic mulches.
- **Greenhouse Boxes:** Use only seeds, plants, soils, and other materials supplied or approved by AWARE.
- **Outdoor Boxes:** Only organic, non-GMO seeds are to be used. Bear attractants are strictly prohibited.

GROW coordinators and ambassadors will treat greenhouse boxes with kelp twice during the season as a good source of micronutrients and trace minerals.

Bear Attractants and Other Restrictions

Bear attractants must be kept out of GROW boxes at all times.

- **All Boxes:** No fish fertilizer, bone meal, blood meal, or chicken manure. For more info, visit bearsmart.com/live/managing-attractants
 - **Greenhouse Boxes:** Only provided seeds to be planted.
 - **Outdoor Boxes:** No corn, carrots, fruits, berries, sunflowers, mint, or pumpkins.
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Composting

Please compost all organic garden material (weeds, pruning offcuts, etc.) in the compost bins on-site. Trim material to 3 inches or less to assist with faster decomposition. **Food scraps are prohibited** to avoid attracting bears.

Note: Clearing your box at the end of the season is a requirement of the program. If you cannot complete this, ask a fellow gardener for help or contact the Program Manager.

Plant Maintenance and Care

Keep plants from growing into walkways or into other plots. Plants that crowd or shade others may need to be trimmed back to ensure a positive experience for all gardeners.

Planting Structures

- Structures must be safe, with no sharp edges or protruding supports that could cause injury.
- Plastic netting is not permitted as it is dangerous to birds and other wildlife.

Cheakamus Gardeners: Structures will be permitted in the outdoor garden if they are within the GROW/municipal guidelines to allow everyone maximum sunshine:

- Open structures (e.g., trellises, growing frames) may not exceed 5 feet in height.
 - Closed structures (e.g., tunnels, windbreaks) may not exceed 3 feet in height.
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Waste and Garbage Management

- Pack out all garbage. Bear attractants and trash cannot be left on-site.
 - Pets must be leashed or tied at designated hitching posts.
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Additional Restrictions

- **No Smoking:** Smoking is prohibited in garden areas at any time. Smokers must wash their hands before gardening to limit the spread of tobacco virus, which is deadly to tomatoes.
 - **No Fires:** Fires, including camp stoves or any other type, are prohibited at all times on-site.
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Volunteer Commitment

All gardeners are required to volunteer a minimum of 4 hours per box each season. Volunteer opportunities and tracking forms will be provided in biweekly GROW emails.

Non-Volunteers:

Gardeners unable to volunteer are required to pay a \$30 contribution to the GROW maintenance fund at checkout. Gardeners who fail to volunteer or pay the maintenance contribution by the end of the season will not be allowed a space in the GROW program the following year.

AWARE reserves the right to amend the rules and regulations should an issue arise that affects the betterment of the program as a whole.