



## Rules for the Gardens and Greenhouse

1. All Members in good standing of the Potomac Shores Residential Association are eligible to use the greenhouse and rent a garden plot provided there is space available in the greenhouse and plots available. "Applications for a Raised Garden Bed" must be submitted to the Activities Director between January 1 and March 31 of the current year.
2. The annual fee is \$25 per plot. A check for this amount must accompany the "Application for a Raised Garden Bed" and it must be payable to the Potomac Shores Resident Association (PSRA). The year runs from April 1<sup>st</sup> to March 31<sup>st</sup> of the following year. Once a gardener has been awarded a plot, the check will be deposited into PSRA account and, at this point, the money is non-refundable. The fee is not refundable and is subject to change from year to year at the discretion of the Garden Committee and/or Board of Directors.
3. All plants in the greenhouse must be labeled in a manner that indicates who the owner of the plant is. Dead plants will be removed from the greenhouse without notice. Empty containers will be held by Management for an additional 90 days and then disposed of without further notice.
4. Gardeners are encouraged to plant year-round.
5. In order to ensure that the garden plots are being fully utilized, gardeners must begin planting by April 15 and have seeds sown or plants transplanted by May 15.
6. At the end of each growing season, gardeners should make sure their plot is cleared of debris and is weed free.
7. Gardeners should not allow their plants to encroach into the center aisle or into another plot. Plants can grow a few inches outside the bed area and into the grass as long as it does not interfere with another plot or with weeding expectations.
8. Gardeners are encouraged to use organic substances to fertilize their plants and organic methods to control pests and plant diseases. When spraying any organic liquids, gardeners should use a small spray bottle and spray only on days that are not windy in order to prevent the sprayed substance from "contaminating" another plot.
9. For safety reasons, fertilizers and commercial, chemical, or organic pesticides cannot be stored inside the greenhouse, tool shed, or garden area. Any such substances found will be removed without additional notice.
10. Simple, non-permanent garden covers are permitted. Neither solid walls nor roofs are permitted.

11. Poured concrete may not be used to anchor fence posts or other structures or for any other reason.
12. Drilling holes into, cutting or moving of the timber walls around the plots is prohibited.
13. Staples or tacks may be used to attach netting, or other temporary measures associated with gardening, to the timbers however these must be completely removed by no later than November 1<sup>st</sup> of each year.
14. Gardeners must weed their plots and a 12-inch area around their plot on a regular basis.
15. Gardeners should place any trash to include rotten fruits or vegetables, weeds, and dead insects in trash bags and then place the bags in the dumpster in the parking lot. If the dumpster is full, the debris should be taken home or to another trash location center. Trash bags are located in the tool shed.
16. Gardeners are encouraged to use organic mulches, such as compost, leaves, straw and shredded bark in order to conserve water and add nutrients to the soil. Non-biodegradable mulches, such as stone, carpet and artificial turf, are prohibited. Porous weed blocker covers are permitted but must be secured to the ground to prevent them from blowing away.
17. Composted manure is permitted but fresh manure is prohibited.
18. Gardeners may not give away or sublet their plot to anyone.
19. Gardeners cannot plant any illegal plants or any plants on the Virginia Invasive Plant List: [www.dcr.virginia.gov/natural\\_heritage/documents/invlist.pdf](http://www.dcr.virginia.gov/natural_heritage/documents/invlist.pdf) .
20. Gardeners must accompany guests inside the garden area and are responsible for their behavior. Children are encouraged to be a part of the whole gardening experience but parents must be especially mindful of their behavior and be aware of needed safety precautions.
21. Gardeners and their guests should not eat or harvest fruit or vegetables from other plots without permission from that gardener.
22. A variety of tools are available for gardeners to use. After use, the tools should be cleaned up and returned to their proper place. Gardeners may store personal garden tools in the tool shed provided they are labeled and there is enough space in the shed.
23. Gardeners agree that the Gardening Committee with assistance from the Activities Director is responsible for ensuring that the rules are followed at all times. A gardener found to be in violation of any of these rules may have their gardening privileges suspended for the remaining of the contract year and possibly for the next gardening year.