Welcome to the South Whidbey Tilth Community Garden. The Community Garden is located on the campus of the South Whidbey Tilth Association, a nonprofit educational and research organization with a mission to support and promote biologically sound and socially equitable agriculture.

**Plot Fees and Size:** $35 for Tilth members and $60 for non-members for plots measuring approximately 400 square feet. Fees for plots greater or less than 400 square feet will be assessed on a case-by-case basis.

Community Garden fees are due March 31, 2020, for the one-year period of April 1, 2020 – March 31, 2021. If your fee and garden contract are not received by March 31, your plot may be made available to those on the waitlist.

**Contacts:** The main contact for the community garden is the Tilth Land Steward, currently Ida Gianopulos. Ida can be reached at landsteward@southwhidbeytilth.org.

**Resources Available:**

There are two garden sheds with gardening tools, rototiller, pH meter, and DR mower. Hoses and irrigation spigots are available throughout the garden.

Finished compost, to the right of the three-bin composting facility, is available to all gardeners.

Worm casting compost is harvested periodically from the worm bins behind the pavilion (kitchen building) and is available in containers near the worm bins.

Gardeners will be notified as other materials become available.

**Tilth Membership:**

South Whidbey Tilth is a member supported nonprofit organization, and we encourage all gardeners to join and support the work we do. In addition to receiving a discount on community garden plot fees, members pay a reduced rate at Tilth classes. A single household membership is $25 per year, and $10 per each additional adult household member who wishes to join.

**Community Garden Requirements:**

1) Use only organic growing methods and materials. This means using only inputs that are listed by the Organic Materials Review Institute (OMRI), and untreated/non-GMO seeds. Look for the
OMRI logo on product labels or check the OMRI website for a list of approved products: omri.org.

2) Maintain your garden throughout the year. Maintenance means: 1. keeping weeds under control—remove weeds before they go to seed; 2. cleaning up trash and unused pots, fencing, and other materials from your plot and surrounding areas (also see items 3-5).

If your plot is unmaintained and/or not used for growing vegetables, flowers, herbs, fruits, etc. for one growing season, it will be made available to someone on the waitlist. If you are unable to maintain your plot due to injury, family emergency, or other extenuating circumstances, please contact the Land Steward as soon as possible for help.

3) Keep your plot and surrounding areas free of invasive and noxious weeds, such as Canada thistle and Himalayan blackberry. All Canada thistle must be bagged and taken offsite for disposal in the garbage. Please do not put Canada thistle in the communal compost pile.

4) Help keep the vole problem under control by keeping garden plot and surrounding paths clear of materials that voles will build nests under (debris piles, lumber, cardboard, tarps, etc.). Garden paths and communal areas are not to be used for storage. Please keep a minimum two-foot path around your plot, especially next to fences, so that paths can be mowed.

5) “Pack it in, pack it out”: Gardeners are responsible for removing and disposing of all garbage, old fencing, plastic pots, etc. that they are no longer using in their plots. DO NOT leave used materials by the tool sheds or in common areas. Tilth does not have the capacity to dispose of gardeners’ personal garbage and used personal items.

6) Use water conservation methods as much as possible. During the heat of summer, the best times to water are early morning and late evening. If necessary, you will be asked to participate in a watering schedule, if water pressure drops when too many gardeners are using the system.

7) Clean and return community tools to the garden shed after use.

8) Keep gates to community garden closed at all times.

9) Check with the Land Steward before installing a greenhouse, hoophouse, or other structure on your plot, to ensure that placement of your structure will not shade other gardeners’ plots.

10) All gardeners who wish to use the TroyBilt rototiller or the DR mower must receive an orientation on how to use these machines. Contact the Land Steward to set up an orientation.

11) When using the TroyBilt rototiller, note the date and for how long you used it on the clipboard in the equipment shed. If any issues are encountered, contact the Land Steward immediately.

12) Keep all dogs on leash or under voice control at all times while in the garden. If you do not have full voice control of your pet, you will be asked to keep them on a leash at all times.
13) For on-site composting of garden waste, place garden waste in the green waste pile outside the east garden gate. Please break up large pieces of material and shake off dirt clumps. Woody debris and large stalks that are too tough to compost must be placed in a separate debris pile outside the east garden gate.

14) All gardeners are required to attend at least 3 community garden work parties per year, maintaining common areas of the community garden. Work parties will be scheduled monthly from April through October. If you are unable to attend at least three of the scheduled work parties, please contact the Land Steward for a list of tasks that can be completed independently. All independent work hours must be reported to the Land Steward to make sure they count toward your required volunteer hours.

15) Gardeners who do not plan on continuing with the community garden must clean up their plot and leave it free of weeds, structures, debris, garbage, and personal items by the next growing season’s garden agreement deadline of March 31.
Please fill out this page and return it with your payment.
I agree to follow the requirements listed in this agreement.

Name ______________________________
Signature __________________________

Plot rates:
20’x20’ (approx.) plot fee - $60
Tilth member discount plot fee - $35
Plot Payment $__________ Check #____________ Date ________________
Additional Membership payment of $________ Total Payment $_________
Address________________________________ City__________ Zip__________
Phone ______________________ Email ________________________________

_____ I wish to join or renew my South Whidbey Tilth membership. There are ____ additional adult
household members who wish to join.
We wish to receive our newsletter by ___ US mail, ___ email;
We would like to get email updates from Tilth ____ yes _____ no

Do you have any particular knowledge or skills you would like to share with the community?

Please mail this page of your contract with your check, payable to South Whidbey Tilth (Membership
dues may be included with community garden plot payment).

South Whidbey Tilth
Re: Tilth Community Garden
PO Box 252
Langley WA 98260