



Buninyong Sustainability
PO Box 701
Buninyong VIC 3357

COMMUNITY GARDEN RULES AND GUIDELINES

1. MEMBERSHIP

Any member of the community (individual or family/group), who becomes a member of **Buninyong Sustainability**, is eligible to take up a plot, provided that they adhere to the rules and guidelines in this document.

2. FEES

Buninyong Sustainability membership:	free
Community Garden Plot fee	\$40-00
Bond for key (refunded when returned)	\$10-00

Fees are paid annually, and should be paid at the Buninyong Sustainability Annual General Meeting (usually July/August each year), or to the Treasurer at:
Buninyong Sustainability, PO Box 701, Buninyong, VIC 3357

New members will be charged on a pro-rata basis (eg a member taking up a plot in December will only be charged half the plot fee)

(Money collected from fees will be used for garden tools and supplies, maintenance, social gatherings for the gardeners and other community garden costs as agreed by the Buninyong Sustainability committee)

All Fees will be reviewed by The Buninyong Sustainability committee on an annual basis

3. APPLYING FOR A PLOT

An application form must be completed and signed. The form is a written agreement to abide by these Rules and Guidelines



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4. ALLOCATION OF PLOTS

Allocation of plots will be based upon a 'First come, First served basis'. If no plots are available at the time of application, the applicants name will go on a waiting list and they will be advised when a plot becomes available. Allocation of plots will also be on a 'One plot per membership basis'.

Plot sizes are normally 4 x 3 metres (200mm high) for individuals, but other sizes can be built for groups or gardeners with special needs.

Plots are allocated to the member named on the application form. Plots are not transferable without the permission of the **Buninyong Sustainability Inc.** committee. Members cannot give their plot to another individual/family or group. If a member no longer wishes to maintain their plot, they must advise the **Buninyong Sustainability Inc.** committee in writing and return their key (and their bond money will be refunded). Plot fees cannot be refunded. The plot will then be reallocated to someone on the waiting list.

5. KEYS

Community Garden members will be given a key (on receipt of the bond money) for access to the building and tank water supply. You must not give the key to another person, or have the key copied (without permission from the **Buninyong Sustainability Inc.** committee). If a member loses their key, the **Buninyong Sustainability Inc.** committee must be informed immediately, and you might be asked pay for a replacement.

6. RESPONSIBILITIES OF GARDENERS FOR THEIR PLOTS

6.1 General maintenance of plots

Gardeners are responsible for the care and maintenance of their individual plots throughout the year, and should ensure that the area around their plot is free from weeds, rubbish and any items which may be obstructing the pathways.

Mulching of garden plots (to control weed growth), and composting of green waste is strongly encouraged.

If a gardener is unable to maintain a plot due to illness or other exceptional circumstances, they must discuss their situation with the **Buninyong Sustainability Inc.** committee.

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6.2 Attendance at working bees

As a member of the Community Garden, plot holders are expected to join in with working bees (to help maintain the communal areas) and other social events whenever possible.

6.3 Plot boundary fences

Gardeners who want a boundary fence around their plot may do so using wire mesh to a height of no more than one (1) metre. Solid fences which may shade adjacent plots are not allowed.

6.4 Building and other materials

Permanent structures must not be built on garden plots, without consultation with the **Buninyong Sustainability Inc.** committee. We encourage 'individual expression', through artworks etc, but it must be sanctioned by the committee (who have the right to discuss any *reasonable* objections with other plot holders).

6.5 Types of plants

Community Garden plots are for growing vegetables, small fruits, herbs and flowers. Trees and large permanent shrubs are not suitable for garden plots because they can block light to other plots. The committee reserves the right to ban plants that may be invasive or are potential weeds.

6.6 Climbing plants

Climbing plants (beans, peas, tomatoes etc) should be grown using stakes, with consideration for adjacent gardeners.

6.7 Soil

Gardeners are responsible for improving the condition of the soil in their plot. It is important that the nutrients are put back into the soil after every season as plants use up nutrients in the soil as they grow. This can be done by adding compost, manure and mulch. Soil must not be removed from the plots.



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7. CONTROL OF GARDEN PESTS

Members must not use any chemicals or sprays to control pests. Virtually all Community gardens throughout the world use alternative (organic) methods. Chemicals can contaminate a neighbours plot, and could be a serious health risk to them. The **Buninyong Sustainability Inc.** committee can provide advice on the safe control of garden pests.

8. ANIMALS

Dogs, cats and other pets must be kept away from the Community Garden area. This is primarily a food growing area, and such animals can be a health risk. We appreciate that the area is not fenced (at present), but we must discourage pet owners from bringing their animals into garden area.

9. WATER MANAGEMENT

The hose provided by the Community Garden can be shared and used by plot holders.

During Drought: Gardeners are required to adhere to any water restrictions that are currently in place.

Water will normally be available from the tank(s) next to the Community Garden. Watering should be done with the watering cans provided. Gardeners must accept that we cannot guarantee water supply (rainfall and damage to infrastructure is beyond our control). Water supply should be distributed equally and fairly between plot holders (and will be monitored by the committee).

10. TOOLS

Tools, wheelbarrows and watering cans are provided for use by members of the Community Garden. These must always be returned to the store after use, and must not be removed from the Community Garden.

11. SALE OF PRODUCE

Garden plots are available for personal use only, and the produce should be for the members and their families and friends. The use of garden plots for growing plants commercially is not permitted.

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12. GENERAL CONDUCT

The general rule is to be considerate to other gardeners and respect their plots and way of gardening, and welcoming to visitors to the garden.

Children are welcome in the Community Garden, but should behave responsibly and be supervised by adults.

Gardeners and visitors must not remove any plants or equipment from another gardener's plot without permission. Likewise, plants and equipment must not be removed from other areas in the Community Garden without the approval of the **Buninyong Sustainability Inc.** committee.

13. DEALING WITH ANY PROBLEMS OR CONCERNS

Dealing with garden related issues is the responsibility of the **Buninyong Sustainability Inc.** committee. If members have any concerns about the garden or other gardeners, they should contact the **Buninyong Sustainability Inc.** committee.

The committee reserves the right to review terms of membership at any stage.

14. SECURITY

The Community Garden is unfenced, and the **Buninyong Sustainability Inc.** committee cannot be held responsible for any theft, damage or other illegal activity to the garden plots.

Please report any such activity to the **Buninyong Sustainability Inc.** committee (and police if a serious incident) immediately.

A note on fencing.

Since its inception, our garden has had no vandalism and minimal pilfering. Some plot holders are happy to share excess food, and could choose to indicate a shared area via a sign. If food is taken/stolen, a charitable, community minded view is that *the person was in need of some free fresh food, and we were happy to help them.*

Over at our sister group, the Ballarat Community Garden, a huge fence exists, and it has not stopped theft of tools or theft of produce, unfortunately.