

**Long Beach Community Garden Association, Inc.**  
**Rules and Regulations**  
Revision as of 7-1-2010

**GENERAL**

Long Beach Community Garden Association, Inc. is a private, not for profit organization, which is located on land that is leased from the City of Long Beach. Due to our agreement with the City of Long Beach, it is necessary that LBCGA publish and maintain rules and regulations that conform to the city lease and to the all of the rules governing El Dorado Park. (For park rules please visit: <http://www.longbeach.gov/park/>)

Our goal is to provide a safe and attractive environment for those persons desiring a place to grow edible produce. The purpose of these Rules and Regulations is to maintain a neat and productive garden area and provide a pleasant environment for all persons in the garden.

The garden plots at LBCGA are to be **Kitchen Vegetable Gardens**, not ornamental gardens, decorative gardens, meditation gardens or flower gardens. These gardens are not an extension of your backyard, patios, flowerbeds or gardens. The primary point that distinguishes a kitchen vegetable garden from any other sort is that the garden vegetable plants are specifically selected, planted and grown, in order to be eaten. Any flowers that are planted in a garden are for the beneficial properties that they can contribute to the gardens. (I.E.: Flowers to attract bees for pollenosis, flowers to attract beneficial insects to combat unwanted pests, etc.)

Primary goals of our gardens are to save money, to provide you with a healthy source of fresh food, and to have some fun in the process. There's nothing quite as satisfying as seeing something you've grown with your own hands on your dinner table.

Please review and familiarize yourself with these rules and regulations.

**MEMBER ELIGIBILITY**

**A member is a person who (se):**

- Qualifies with a verifiable address of residency in the City of Long Beach. \*  
(Proof of which must be shown at the time of admittance and upon yearly renewal)  
Acceptable forms of verification are as follows:
  - California driver's license or California ID card  
plus
  - A current utility bill. Acceptable bills are:
    - a. Southern California Edison
    - b. City of Long Beach Services (Water, garbage, etc.)
    - c. Phone Bill

\*If a question of residency should arise the following may be used to support residency verification. (I.E.: Current property tax bill, current mortgage statement, or rental receipt showing claimed address.

- Associated garden fees and dues are current. Dues are payable on the announced and published schedule for the coming year. Current year membership expires for non-payment of dues at midnight June 30th. There is no grace period. *(Please see Dues and Fees section)*
- Is assigned a garden plot and who actively gardens said plot while abiding by the Rules and Regulations, and By-Laws of the LBCGA.
- Signs a LBCGA contract agreeing to abide by the current By-laws and Rules and Regulations.

## Special Notes Regarding Member Eligibility

- Plots may be assigned or reassigned at the discretion of the Board of Directors.
- One plot assignment per verified Long Beach residential address.
- Plots are assigned and cannot be transferred, exchanged or sublet to another person.
- Each member is to keep the First Vice President notified of your most current address and telephone number. Any correspondence mailed to the current address on file is considered delivered. **If a member moves out of the City of Long Beach, you must inform the First Vice President.**
- If a member dies, the spouse or significant other of the same address may take over the garden plot as a member in their own right.

## SEASONAL RULE

All tomatoes, peppers, and eggplant must be removed from all garden plots **PRIOR** to December 1<sup>st</sup> and not to be planted until **after March 1<sup>st</sup> of each year.**

## GENERAL MEMBER RESPONSIBILITIES

### All members will:

- Be aware of and follow the Rules and Regulations of LBCGA.
- Not sell or use garden produce for profit and affirm that produce is intended for home use only.
- Garden passes are required for entrance to the garden by all members and guest vehicles, whether driving a vehicle, bicycle or walking. Passes are to be visible at all times with the pass number showing. **Passes are valid for admission to the LBCGA gardens only and may not be used to gain admission to any other areas of El Dorado Park** or to the SPCA /Animal Control. If you are parked in this area please have business with that agency.
- Ensure that any guests follow the Rules and Regulations of LBCGA. You as a member are responsible for your guests' actions.
- Observe the **5 miles per hour** posted speed limit in the garden and drive one way (south) on the center road and one way (north) on the east and west roads.
- No skateboarding, bicycling or roller-skating, in the garden, except for passage to your garden plot.
- Supervise all children and stay with them at all times while in the garden. Please do not allow children to wander into your neighbor's gardens.
- Please do not bring any animals to the garden (including leaving pets in your cars) nor provide food or water for any wild animals.
- No consumption of alcoholic beverage, as per the rules of LBCGA and El Dorado Park.
- Properly use the equipment and tools of LBCGA and return them, **CLEAN**, to their proper place. Not destroying or damaging any property of LBCGA.
- Return wheelbarrows and carts, **EMPTY**, to the chip/manure areas and never leave one in a plot. **NEVER** leave one with trash/crops in it at the dumpsters.
- Only enter another member's garden with their written permission. **Removal of any item (crop, plant, tools, etc) that is not your own personal property will be considered theft and reported as so. If this action is discovered it will be cause for immediate expulsion from the garden and permanent loss of membership.**
- Read the bulletin board for current information upon entering the garden.
- Arrange for someone to take care of your plot if you are ill or on vacation. The association is not responsible for the upkeep of any plot. Give opener, car pass and copy of Rules and Regulations to person taking care of your plot.
- Attend two (2) work parties per year or give four (4) hours of service to any committee. Special work parties may be called as needed. Hours are pro-rated if member has joined garden after

January 1<sup>st</sup> for those new members only need to complete two (2) hours. Community Service Hours must be completed by the last work party of the Garden Year which is held the first weekend in June. **The Garden Year and Calendar Year are not the same.** There can be no carryover to or from previous or future Garden Years. There will be no grace period for these community hours.

- Admittance to the garden during work party hours is only for members attending the work party. There will be no personal gardening in your plot during these scheduled work parties.
- **Renewals must be completed on the set renewal dates unless a member calls or makes arrangements to renew at another time with the Membership Chairperson. Renewal is no longer open ended until June 30<sup>th</sup>. The renewal times will be limited to the first and second Saturday, the first and second Sunday, and the first Wednesdays in June. Please see information board at entrance to garden for exact dates or web site [www.lbcg.org](http://www.lbcg.org).**
- Will not remove anything (i.e. bags, produce or trays) from the food bank plots and/or from the produce collection table, as it will result in immediate and permanent loss of membership.
- Will not enter the orchard without permission. Will not water, remove, relocate, alter, modify or change any plants in the orchard nor climb the trees or pick the fruit, as it will result in immediate and permanent loss of membership.
- Notify the association Vice-President when giving up a membership.

## **MEMBER RESPONSIBILITIES REGARDING PLOTS**

### **All members will:**

- Keep garden plot completely planted, and harvested at all times with new vegetables of the season (token planting and cover crops are not allowed). Your garden must be planted with at least 80% of crop, thus allowing the remaining 20% of your plot for the inclusion of the following items:
  - Pathways
  - Storage container for tools and supplies
  - Two (2) approved garden chairs
  - Two (2) approved compost containers (3'x3'x3')*(Please see Compost section for more detailed information)*

If an item is being used as a support for a growing crop (I.E. bean pole, tomato cage, trellis for beans, etc.) these items are considered part of your planted crop, however crop must be planted and using supports. If cages, trellises, etc are not in use, these will be calculated as part of your 20% unplanted plot. *(Please see Allowed & Not Allowed Garden Items/Supports/Plants section for further information)*

- Plant no more than 10% of garden area in beneficial flowers and no more than 25% of garden area with any one crop. (I.E.: herbs, berries, tomatoes, mustard greens, squash etc.)
- Remove and/or trim all diseased and pest infested plants. (If not attended to these could drastically affect your neighbor's gardens.)
- Keep crop trimmed and out of pathways and understand that if crop extends into a pathway it will be cut back. Pathways are considered fire lanes by Lbfd.
- Keep plot free of **all weeds** (I.E.: Bermuda grass, morning glory, **spurge and nut grass**. *(visit [www.uci.edu](http://www.uci.edu) for types of weeds information)* If weeds are allowed to mature they could drastically affect your neighbor's gardens.)
- Stay with the hose when the water is turned on, only hand held watering is allowed. No drip system, oscillating sprinkler, no diffusers and no soaker hoses will be permitted in your plot. Please conserve water at all times.
- Do not use any type of pressure treated wood in garden.
- Perimeter Fence & Gate– You can install a perimeter fence around your plot. All fences/gates must be constructed as close to 2 feet in height as possible, and cannot be attached to the border boards. Due to the current proliferation of pests in the garden, fences should be constructed from materials that are designed for garden use only. Standard galvanized chicken wire is the recommended

fencing material. **Other materials such as plastic fencing and cloth nettings (I.E.: bird netting, ground cloth, etc.) (used as perimeter fencing only) will not be allowed as acceptable perimeter fencing material.**

- Not to build raised beds in their plot without first submitting plans with measurements to the Board Chair. Raised beds may not be built closer than 12 inches from the outside border boards and no more than 6 inches higher than the top of the border boards.
- Not raise the soil level in their garden plot more than 6 inches higher than the border boards.
- Not alter, attach to, replace or paint the borders of the plot and will keep them free of soil, chips and plants.
- Keep garden paths at their original width and keep the north and east paths around your plot free of weeds and chipped at all times. *All H and P plots must also weed/chip the west path. All plots numbered 19 (i.e. C19, D19, etc.) must weed/chip the south path. Plots A18 - H18 - I18 and P18 must weed and chip the south pathway with G19 and O19 the east, west, north and south pathway. Plot 001 and G01 the east, north and west pathway.*
- Keep the plot marker on the northeast side of their plot clear and readable, if missing report to the maintenance committee.
- Not have any trellises, supports, cages, **or any structure, including artwork**, in excess of six (6) feet in height.
- Will not let **anything** (plant, structure, etc.) shade any neighboring plots.
- Plant approved berries, asparagus, **rhubarb** and artichokes at least 4 feet from the plot borders and keep suckers dug up and out of other plots and pathways. Trim artichokes up off the ground.
- Bring only one storage container to the garden (no wood or metal), no taller than 42 inches (3 ½ feet) and not wider than 48 inches (4 feet). **Only use items made for a garden.** This includes buckets, pails, boxes or any other type of storage containers. *(Please see Allowed & Not Allowed Garden Items/Supports/Plants section for further information)*
- Place trash and refuse from your garden into any of the dumpsters provided. If dumpsters are full, keep trash in your plot until dumpsters are empty, and do not leave in a wheelbarrow, at a dumpster or in your plot. Do not bring trash/garbage from outside of the garden. Any wood to be thrown out must be cut to 4 foot lengths to fit into the dumpster. When finished emptying trash, please be courteous to the next gardener and **clean** up around the dumpster any crops/trash that have dropped.

## **Allowed & Not Allowed Garden Items/Supports/Plants**

The following lists have been compiled for your reference during your time at LBCGA. The gardens at LBCGA are to be **Kitchen Vegetable Gardens**, not ornamental gardens, decorative gardens, meditation gardens or flower gardens. These gardens are not an extension of your backyard, patios, flowerbeds or gardens. The primary point that distinguishes a kitchen vegetable garden from any other sort is that the garden vegetable plants are specifically selected, planted and grown, in order to be eaten.

The following Garden Items/Supports are **ALLOWED** for use in your garden plots.

- Only ONE storage container for tools and supplies. Must be manufactured from a weather resistant plastic and designed for outdoor use. (No wood or metal storage containers allowed) No taller than 42 inches in height (3.5 feet) and not wider than 48 inches in width (4 feet) and no deeper than 24 inches (2 feet) in depth. This includes buckets, pails, boxes or any other type of container. If it can contain something it is considered a container.

- Two (2) appropriate small garden chairs or a small bench. Chairs/bench can be made from plastic or composite material. No wood or metal chairs, as these can be attractions for pests to nest in or upon.
- Made-for-gardens support systems, poles, cages, trellises, including concrete support wire. *(Any wood poles and supports cannot be made from any type of pressure treated lumber)* All posts or supports must be no larger than 3 inches x 3 inches square or 3 inches in diameter. And not exceed 72 inches (6 feet) in height.

The following items are **NOT ALLOWED** for use in your garden plots.

- Old windows, stepladders, screens, doors, household furniture, etc. to be used as décor, fencing or as supports or cage for crops.
- Pots or containers of any type.
- Any container that can trap and hold water, thus facilitating a possible habitat for breeding mosquitoes and other insects, including plastic bags. If plastic bags are in use for the storage of soil or additives, please make sure that they are drained of any standing water.
- No overhead structures over 72inches (6 feet) from ground to top of structure, including vegetation, and said structure can be no larger than 24 inches (2 feet) in width. Must not be a permanent structure.
- No work tables are allowed in plots with the exception of ADA compliance.

The following Plants are **NOT ALLOWED** for use in your garden plots.

• Any ILLEGAL plant	• Any tree	• Sugar Cane
• Sorghum	• Bamboo	• Rose Bushes
• Passion Fruit	• Plumeria	• Castor Beans
• Petunias	• Wild Dandelion	• Grapevines
• Jerusalem Artichokes	• Canna Lily	• 4 O'clock (flower)
• Datura (flowering vine)	• Cactus (any succulent)	• Mint (all types)
• Morning Glory (any type, weed, domestic, flower)	• White and Black Nightshade	• Volunteer Tomato Plants
• Horseradish	• Any thorny berries (See Berry Note)	• Any perennial that grows over 4 feet (and is considered woody)
• Potatoes (any kind)	• Butterfly Plants	• Invasive plants*

*(The above plants are banned from the LBCGA and members will not plant them)*

\* (An invasive plant is a plant that spread aggressively from the original site of planting, which in turn, takes over or overwhelms any near by plants. Potatoes are defined as any type of potato including Sweet Potatoes or Yams)

## **NOTE - BERRY PLANTS**

As of July 1, 2008 all berries are banned except strawberries and blueberries.

**BANNED BERRY PLANTS INCLUDE:** Brambles-(thorny plants), blackberries, raspberries, olallieberries, loganberries, gooseberries or any member of the Genus Rubus. This includes all berry plants that have runners or suckers or thorns. All berries planted in LBCGA plots prior to July 1, 2008 will be grandfathered in and will be removed once plot is returned to LBCGA.

## **SEASONAL PLANTINGS**

Please refer to the LBCGA website for recommended seasonal plants for both summer and winter plantings. Please visit: [www.LBCG.org](http://www.LBCG.org)

## **HOSE USE AND REPLACEMENT**

The policy for hose replacement is that the plots that share the hose, share the cost of a new hose. It is suggested that you purchase a Sears Craftsman rubber hose, only 50-foot allowed, as a longer hose would break the hose holder and a shorter hose will not make the perimeters of the assigned plots. The Sears Craftsman hose has a lifetime guarantee and if leaks, breaks or whatever, cut off both ends and take to any Sears store for a full replacement. However, please make sure that the hose is identified as a Sears Craftsman hose. All hoses must be stored, wound and hung properly on hose hangers without kinks and in concentric rings with all debris/mud washed off after every use. There will be no washing or rinsing of any motor vehicles in the garden.

Please report any problems with the water or a hose to the Chair of the Water Committee or to any Garden Officer or LBCGA Board member.

## **MEMBERS SHARE TABLE – EDIBLE ITEMS ONLY**

All members are invited to share excess crop with other garden members. When placing items on the share table, they should be clean and identified. Gardeners should check back and remove anything that has not been taken. Do not place anything poisonous or toxic on the share table (i.e. Naked Lady bulbs, flowers, etc.) Any fruits from the Orchard will be placed on this table as well for the garden membership. Please adhere to the posted regulations at the table and the following:

- Take only 2 items of each variety, per person, per plot, per day.

## **COMPOST CONTAINERS AND COMPOSTING**

Compost containers are limited to two (2) compost containers, neither to exceed 3 feet x 3 feet x 3 feet in size. All composting must be done in a covered container. All crops in composter must be covered with dirt or manure due to flies, gnats and critters. Please do not bring any meat scraps from home as this will attract unwanted vermin into the garden. Open composting and leaving leaves on the soil is not allowed. Compost containers are not considered planted area in your plot. The area used by these containers falls within the 20% non-planted area rule.

## **TERMINATION OF MEMBERSHIP**

Membership in the LBCGA may be terminated if any rules (including El Dorado Park rules) are broken, or if false information is given. If membership is terminated, a re-application may be submitted one year after termination date, if pass(s) and opener(s) are returned and plot is in compliance with the Rules and Regulations of LBCGA. (See bylaws, Article 111) Upon loss of membership you may not enter LBCGA grounds for any reason.

## **Causes for Termination \***

Any member can and will be terminated for any of the following:

- Theft from any garden, orchard, garden member or from the LBCGA.
- Drinking alcohol in the garden is cause for permanent loss of membership.
- Removing or taking any thing (I.E: Food, containers, bags, etc.) from the Food Bank table.
- Failure to make requested corrections to garden plot, upon receipt of a Notice of Correction, in the specified time allotted.
- Plots receiving three (3) Notices of Correction, within a twelve month period will be terminated. *(the year begins upon receipt of the first notice, not the membership year)*
- Abandoned Plot *(By LBCGA standards an abandoned plot means: no crop, no activity i.e. planting, watering or weeding, over run by weeds or blooming weeds, crop going to waste or rotting.)*
- Destroying any property belonging to LBCGA
- Entering another member's plot without written permission

\* Examples are not limited to the above.

When a membership is terminated, voluntarily or for cause, the member terminated is to collect their personal belonging within the period stated in their termination letter or by agreement. Any items left in the plot after the agreed upon date become the property of LBCGA to dispose of as the association deems appropriate. New members are on probation for the first 90 days and membership may be terminated for cause or rules violation, (Which includes, but not limited to, a correction notice.)

## **DUES AND FEES**

Annual dues for memberships are **\$100.00** and are prorated after January 1st, **with fees subject to change**. Gate openers are \$15.00 per opener (**non refundable** - This is the fee for the life time of the membership). Gate openers and passes are limited to 2 per plot by agreement with the City of Long Beach. Fees must be paid by check or money order. **Cash will not be accepted**. A \$50.00 fee will be charged for any returned checks and subject to change.

## **RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

- The orchard is cared for by the foreman of the orchard and is off limits to any member without the express permission of the foreman and/or the Board Chairperson. The orchard foreman or president will be responsible for supervising the picking and distribution of the fruit.
- In a garden emergency such as flooding, fire, unauthorized entry or other such events, the Board President, Vice-President or other Board members on site may take appropriate corrective action in consideration of the welfare of the garden and/or its members as a whole.
- LBCGA, through its food Bank provides free produce to organizations approved by the Board of Directors including, but not limited to, the homeless, battered women, abused children, the poor etc. Each member is greatly encouraged to contribute a portion of their produce to the Food Bank Project. The taking of produce from the Food Bank plots and/or from the produce collection table will result in immediate and permanent loss of membership.
- Member's personal information will not be disclosed by any Officer or by the Board of Directors.
- The Officers and Board of Directors are the determining bodies on the interpretation of the Rules and Regulation with all decisions being final.
- The officers and board members need not converse or otherwise meet with anyone unless the meetings are civil and respectful. Nor will anyone be expected to respond to persons who are harassing, intimidating and/or threatening.

## **INFORMATION**

The Board of Directors of LBCGA meets on the second Tuesday of each month at 2760 Studebaker Road, in the Parks and Recreation large conference room. Members are encouraged to attend board meetings. To bring any concerns or questions before the Board, in person or in writing, please contact the Board President to be added to the agenda. Letters may be sent to LBCGA, **Inc., P.O. Box 50167, Long Beach, CA 90815** or put in the mailbox in front of the small barn. Members may also contact any Board member and express concerns by phone or e-mail at [www.LBCG.org](http://www.LBCG.org).

The physical address of LBCGA, Inc. is:

Long Beach Community Garden Association  
7600B E. Spring Street  
Long Beach, CA. 90815

Members can appeal the loss of membership to the Board of Directors. The appeal can be either in person or written and submitted to the board. The member requesting the appeal should call the President of the Board to be placed on the meeting agenda. The appeal will be heard at the next scheduled Board meeting or at a special meeting called by the Board President. The Board of Director's decision is final. Decision could be loss of membership or probation of one (1) year. Should probation be violated then loss of membership will ensue with no appeal. Only one (1) probation allowed every seven (7) years.

**As a member, you sign a contract agreeing to abide by the Rules and Regulations of LBCGA. The Officers and Board of Directors of LBCGA are the final arbiters of any disputes or violation of garden rules and regulations. Suggestions or questions about LBCGA should be brought to the attention of the Officers and the Board, in person or in writing. If you have any questions about these Rules & regulations, please do not hesitate to contact a member of the Board of Directors.**