

Anthill Village Community Garden Club

Membership Agreement -- March 1, 2024 through February 28, 2025

This Membership Agreement represents the Club's commitment to honor the expectations of our University sponsors for a safe, attractive, and well-maintained community garden and public space.

Please read carefully. You are responsible for abiding by these rules and the additional AVCG Guidelines on our ClubExpress website, at AVCG.org or <https://avcg.org/>

1. Liability:

A. Gardeners hereby hold the University of California, Irvine and AVCG Club and its officers harmless for any and all liability which may be incurred as a result of the gardener's use of the premises.

B. For liability reasons, only members of the AVCG Club are allowed to work in or water a garden plot. For each primary member and each co-gardener, including minors, new and renewing members need to provide current contact information on our ClubExpress website and agree to this Membership Agreement. Use ClubExpress to sign-off on the Membership Agreement and Liability Waiver as a condition of club membership. Sign-offs must be completed before a member may work in the garden. See the club website at AVCG.org for instructions and forms.

C. Parents must supervise children at all times. Parents are expected to keep children out of other gardeners' plots, away from the shed and its tools, and off of the wagons and wheelbarrows.

D. Garden plots must always be maintained in a safe condition, with the University having the right to rectify an unsafe situation immediately. Any violation of the safety rule may lead to a revocation of membership.

2. Plot Care and Maintenance: Club rules for plot care include, but are not limited to, the following:

A. Garden plots must be actively worked and harvested throughout the year, i.e., with continuously growing healthy plants covering at least 50% of the assigned area, and be kept free of weeds, dead, diseased or insect-infested plants. Fruits and vegetables should be harvested in a timely manner, as ripe items attract rodents. It should be obvious to a casual observer that someone is taking good care of the plot on a regular basis.

B. Planting may occur only within designated plot boundaries. Plant growth, soil and other materials must not extend into the aisle or into neighboring plots. All materials used for gardening must be kept completely within the plot boundary, both horizontally and vertically. Gardeners must keep the aisle adjacent to their assigned plot weed-free for a distance of two feet from the edge of the plot. End-of-row plots by the perimeter fence need to keep the path weed-free from the plot edge to the perimeter fence. Plot edges should be visible.

C. Primary members are expected to be the primary active gardener for the plot throughout the year. Members assigned to other plots should not work in other members' plots unless either 1) plot members are present or 2) the club has been notified of a member's need for short-term assistance due to a temporary hardship. Short-term or vacation watering and harvesting (with permission) by current AVCG members does not require notification of the club. Obtaining help from a non-member requires adding the helper as a secondary garden member in ClubExpress. The secondary member must sign-off on the Membership Agreement and Liability Waiver before working in the plot. Gardeners may not trade plots or give their plot to others. If you decide to drop out of the club or cannot maintain your garden plot, please notify the officers by promptly sending an email to avcg@uci.edu. When relinquishing a plot, it must be cleared, cleaned and left neat and tidy, out of consideration for the next gardener.

D. Gardeners need to read and agree to comply with the "Guidelines for Structures and Storage" when designing and installing structures, including frames, enclosures, plot edging and raised beds. See the club website for this document: AVCG.org, under Guidelines. No structure may obstruct vision through the plot, either vertically or horizontally. No structure may exceed six feet in height. Plot layout and designs, including both materials and plants, should be planned so as not to cast shade or physically obstruct adjacent plots. Seasonal plants like sunflowers or corn may exceed six feet in height during their limited growing season; perennial plants may not exceed six feet in height.

E. AVCG, as a campus club, maintains a restriction on perimeter fences for garden plots.. Any edging fence enclosing a plot cannot exceed 10 inches in height. A taller fence may be placed around individual raised beds as long as the fenced area does not exceed half of the total plot area.

F. Trees are permitted, but only in freely moveable pots placed on a slab of concrete or bricks, i.e., trees cannot be planted in the ground. Trees also cannot exceed six feet in height or cast shade on neighboring garden plots.

G. Gardeners will be asked to remove intrusive, invasive or unsafe plants. Invasive plants such as mint and grasses should be planted in containers. Bougainvillea and ivy are not allowed to be planted in the garden. Tobacco and marijuana are prohibited per UC policy. Berries must be cut back regularly. For more information on invasive plants see the [UC IPM website](#).

H. AVCG encourages organic gardening. Fertilizers, insecticides, weed killers, etc., must be used in a manner that will not be detrimental to adjacent gardens or grounds. Follow directions for use and amounts recommended by the manufacturers. The herbicide Roundup is prohibited. No toxic substances should be used or stored in the garden.

3. Inspections and Crew Responsibilities: Plots and assigned crew duties are regularly monitored for compliance with club rules. Be ready for the monthly inspection by the 27th of each month. New members have 14 days from the date the plot is assigned to begin working the plot. If a plot is in violation of the club's regulations or guidelines, the club officers will inform the member(s) by email, including through a monthly notice that includes the plot and crew assignment inspection chart with yellow and red flags. Violations must be corrected within 14 days to the satisfaction of the officers. If not corrected within 14 days, the plot is given a red mark.

The primary plot member is responsible for one community crew assignment such as weeding and perimeter maintenance, as a condition of membership per plot. That member's co-gardeners can assist at the discretion and direction of the primary plot member. Crew duties are described in detail on the club website, [AVCG.org](#), under Guidelines. Performance of crew responsibilities are monitored similarly to plot inspections. The officers may call an occasional workday for special projects.

Please refer to the document "Garden Inspection Process and Procedures" under Guidelines on the club's website [AVCG.org](#) for more information.

4. Membership Revocation: Members receiving three red flags in one membership year may be considered no longer in good standing and are subject to revocation and/or non-renewal of club membership. Failure to perform plot maintenance and community assignments will result in the plot being assigned a yellow or red flag. Failure to correct structure and storage problems noted in scheduled inspections may disqualify members from renewing their membership.

Actions such as, but not limited to, violations of this agreement, theft, vandalism, disrespect to other members, and destruction of property also can result in revocation of membership. No alcohol, drugs or tobacco are allowed within the Anthill Village Community Garden site. Gardeners should report these problems promptly to AVCG@uci.edu. All related University policies and guidelines that apply to the community garden will be enforced at the Anthill Village Community Garden. For further details, please refer to [UCI Policies & Procedures](#).

5. Pest Control: Gophers should be trapped when possible, as they also impact nearby plots. Traps are available in the shed. Please sign-out for a trap and return it when no longer needed. Rodenticides and pest bait are prohibited. Ant bait stations are placed in strategic locations throughout the garden, including selected plots, in an effort to reduce ants. If a bait station is placed in your plot, do not move it and make sure it is accessible so bait can be refilled each month. It is every member's responsibility to help with pest control.

6. Tools, Hoses, Water Usage: Shared tools are available for use by all club members and should be returned in a clean condition to the garden rack next to the shed. Please help keep the tools clean and tidy to minimize rust and wear. Tools should be placed on and around the rack so that they do not accidentally become dislodged and injure a garden member.

Water Usage: Be water wise. Overwatering that causes excessive runoff is prohibited and subject to a yellow /red flag.

Always turn off the water at the spigot and release water from the hose if a spray nozzle is used. When leaving the garden, make sure the water is turned off and the hose is coiled on the rack.

7. Waste Disposal: Green waste, i.e., only plant material, should be placed in the communal AVCG compost bin outside the garden next to the gravel parking lot. Never throw anything into the field surrounding our garden, including spoiled fruits or vegetables. Individual compost bins should be properly maintained to reduce rodents. We have no trash facility available for members. Members are responsible to remove all discarded garden-related materials, trash and any other items off site. Members can share materials such as seedlings by placing them on a “share” table near the parking lot gate. Any materials not claimed after one week should be removed by the member sharing them.

8. Communications: All communication to garden club members is by email. Club members are responsible for reading and acting on, as required, all notices sent to them by AVCG. You are expected to inform the club of any change to your email or street address.

9. Pets: Dogs and other domestic animals are not allowed in the garden.

10. Parking: Parking is allowed only in the designated AVCG parking area, and the assigned placard must be displayed on the dashboard. The Palo Verde parking lot is for tenants of PV Housing only.