

Nature's Finest Club



Student Garden Handbook

These next few pages will lay out the garden regulations and the application process to obtain your very own garden bed!

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I. Introduction

Nature's Finest Club was started in the fall semester of 2016 by a dedicated group of students that wanted to reconnect Moorpark College students with their natural roots. They were awarded 10,000 square feet of weeds and bushes to turn into the first organic student garden at Moorpark College. With a lot of hard work, a lot of sweat, and a little bit of blood, they built exactly what they dreamt of.



This space would not have been possible without the help of fellow students and faculty who hold the same principles. We want this student garden to continue to prosper, so we have created this handbook to help. Please be sure to read and fully understand everything! If you have any questions, don't be afraid to ask.

II. Garden Regulations

A. Membership

Student Garden plots will only be awarded to enrolled students at Moorpark College who are members or advisors of Nature's Finest Club. To apply for a garden plot, use the attached application.

B. Garden Plots

Each garden bed is a 4' by 4' plot where each club member can grow their own fruits and vegetables. Below are basic rules about the plots.

- If plots are in high demand, students may be requested to group up and share one plot.
- You must submit a plant list (a list of fruits/vegetables you plan on planting in your plot) to the Executive Committee within two weeks of when you are awarded the plot. You must be actively planting (if appropriate) within four weeks of the awarded date. If you need some ideas, check out the plant list attached to this packet!
- Please do not use any artificial fertilizers, toxic pesticides, herbicides, or any other chemicals that have not been approved by the Executive Committee.
- Do not alter the structure of the garden bed, including the irrigation system and the chicken wire cage surrounding the bed unless you have written permission from a Committee member.
- Do not remove any soil from the garden plot
- If you notice any part of the garden bed is broken (cracked wood, broken wire, leaking irrigation, etc), please report it as soon as you can to an Executive Committee member so it can be repaired.
- You are responsible for maintaining your garden plot. You must spend at least one hour per week tending to your crops AND attend at least one garden work day per month. Your time will not be tracked, but if it is obvious you are not caring for your plot, you may lose it.
 - If you cannot allot the time, please let a friend or Executive Committee member know so they can tend to your crops. This must

only be temporary, if you plan on having a long-term absence, please speak with an Executive Committee member.

- Do not enter and/or modify other club members' garden plots without their permission.
- Please keep the area clean of trash and any garden waste.
- Banned plants include:
 - Bamboo
 - Bermuda
 - Castor
 - Gopher Spurge
 - Pampas Grass
 - Papyrus
 - Smoking Tobacco
 - Marijuana
 - St. John's Wort
 - Sugar Cane
 - Mint
 - Horseradish
 - Viny Plants

C. Work Days

As stated above, all club members who have a garden plot must attend at least one garden work day per month. There will be one garden work day per week. Some tasks on garden work days may include: carpentry, maintenance, and general garden chores. Garden work days are also perfect days to tend to your crops! Dates and times for garden work days are to be determined. Garden work days may be scheduled by the garden assistant or garden manager.

D. Behavior

Remember, you're at a garden! Please keep the noise to non-disruptive level. Music is perfectly fine as long as the volume is reasonable. Use your best judgement!

E. Tools and Supplies

Tools are supplied in the shed at the garden. They are accessible during garden meet-ups and/or when an Executive Committee member/advisor is present to open the shed.

- Please do not take any tools home.
- If you do not know how to use a particular tool, don't use it until you have been properly instructed.
- Please wash all tools before returning them to the shed.
- If you notice a tool is broken, please report it to an Executive Committee member or Club Advisor.
- Do not leave any personal items in the shed, Nature's Finest Club, Moorpark College, or the Ventura County Community College District are not liable if it is damaged or lost.
- Most seeds are also provided, please speak with an Executive Committee member for access.

F. Safety

A garden can be a dangerous place if you are not careful. Please remember to wear all protective equipment. While gardening you should be wearing:

- gloves
- closed-toe shoes
- long pants
- long sleeves
- sunscreen
- bug spray

Our garden is also a wild place. Snakes have been spotted slithering through the area, please treat them with RESPECT. If you don't bother them, they won't bother you. Under the circumstances where you have been bitten by one, please seek medical attention immediately. As with all healthy gardens, there are plenty of insects. Most of them are harmless, but there are bees, red ants, and earwigs. Apply the same idea as stated above. Just remember, be aware of your surroundings and you should be just fine.

G. Contact Information

Here is the contact information for some of the Nature's Finest Club Board members and advisors. Feel free to contact them with any garden or club related questions!

Mikyla Maglente - NFC President:

nfcactivities@gmail.com

(815) 600-9647

Samantha Paul - NFC Vice President:

paulsamantha00@gmail.com

(805) 377-0806

Professor Ahlstrom - NFC Advisor:

mahlstrom@vcccd.edu

Professor Putnam - NFC Advisor:

rputnam@vcccd.edu

(508) 776-7609

The Nature's Finest Club Garden Plot Application is now online through a Google Form. You can find it on the website naturesfinestclub.org under the Forms tab. Complete it to receive a garden bed and learn how to plant this semester!

SPRING Planting List

Fruits/Vegetables:

- Spinach
 - Eggplant
 - Onion
 - Strawberries
 - Artichoke
 - Tomatoes
 - Carrots
 - Celery
 - Fava Beans
 - Beets
 - Broccoli
 - Red Roselle
 - Lettuce
 - Peanut
 - Peppers
 - Garlic
 - Chia
-

Herbs:

- Basil
 - Toothache Plant
 - Lavender
 - Dill
 - Borage
 - Ashwagandha
 - Fennel
 - Echinacea
 - Horehound
 - Chives
 - Chamomile
 - Patchouli
 - Cilantro
 - Feverfew
 - Thyme
 - Oregano
 - Stevia
 - Rosemary
-

Flower Bouquets:

- Yarrow
 - Calendula
 - Queen Anne's Lace
 - Nasturtium
 - Sage
 - Echinacea
 - Ca. Poppy
 - Amaranth
 - Snapdragon
 - Lupine
 - Sunflower
 - Milkweed
 - Marigold
 - Bachelor's Button
-

Here are great sites to purchase seed of transplants for garden: (1) Baker Creek Heirlooms
(2) The Growers Exchange

We will provide our members with the basic seeds and plants, but encourage gardeners to explore the wide variety of veggies, herbs, and flowers out there! This is your chance to connect with nature. If you want to grow a plant not on the list, contact the Garden Manager for approval. Welcome to Nature's Finest, a group of people that love nature, bliss, and organic foods. Welcome home.

FALL Planting List

Fruits/Vegetables: (Plant in Late Sept. - Early Oct.)

-Artichokes -Red Onions -Kale
-Radish -Garlic -Spinach
-Carrots -Celery -Rhubarb
-Fava Beans -Beets -Arugula
-Lettuce -Peanut -Turnips
-Bok Choy -Cauliflower -Lima Bean

Herbs: (Plant Year Round)

-Basil -Toothache Plant -Lavender
-Dill -Borage -Ashwagandha
-Fennel -Echinacea -Horehound
-Chives -Chamomile -Patchouli
-Cilantro -Feverfew -Thyme
-Oregano -Stevia-Rosemary

Flower Bouquets: (Plant Year Round)

-Yarrow -Calendula -Queen Anne's Lace
-Nasturtium -Sage -Echinacea
-Ca. Poppy -Amaranth -Snapdragon
-Lupine -Sunflower -Foxglove (Poisonous)
-Milkweed -Marigold -Bachelor's Button

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