



University of Kansas Student Farm Rules and Regulations for Participation

Contact information

Name: _____ Email: _____

Telephone number: (____) _____ Number of plots being requested: _____

How did you hear about the KU Student Farm? _____

This document states the rules and regulations that participants in the KU Student Farm are required to agree to in order to receive access to a personal garden plot. It also serves as clarification of the working relationship between the KU Native Medicinal Plant Research Program and the student farm.

Mission statement: The KU Student Farm provides members of the KU community with an opportunity to grow their own crops in a community garden setting. The student farm also will offer opportunities for learning new gardening and farming techniques through work days, instructional seminars and events with guest speakers.

I. General information

The KU Student Farm is an educational garden space where students, faculty members and staff members can grow their own food and learn about gardening. This roughly 10,000-square-foot plot of land was provided for the use of the student farm by the KU Native Medicinal Plant Research Program through the Kansas Biological Survey. The Native Medicinal Plant Research Program's medicinal garden, where the student farm is situated, is owned by KU Endowment and is part of the KU Field Station. It is located just north of Lawrence, at 1865 E. 1600 Road, next to the Lawrence Municipal Airport and Prairie Moon Waldorf School.

The KU Student Farm will be managed and overseen by a group of KU Student Farm Coordinators and the KU Student Farm Advisory Committee, which consists of the coordinators and several members of the Kansas Biological Survey staff. The permission given to work this land entails certain responsibilities to the Native Medicinal Plant Research Program, the Kansas Biological Survey and the University of Kansas as a whole. This project represents and reflects on all of them in some way. These responsibilities include:

- keeping the student farm area neat and maintained;
- taking care not to disturb or damage any plants/produce inside or outside of the student farm area;
- maintaining tools borrowed from the medicinal garden by appropriate use, cleaning and storage; and
- abiding by the rules and regulations in this document.

II. Who may garden

The KU Student Farm plots are available to KU students, faculty members and staff members. Anyone is allowed to help and volunteer with the student farm, but individual plots must be registered under the name of a KU student, faculty member or staff member. Individuals registered to a plot hold responsibility for that plot. The names of these individuals will be recorded in an online database and listed on a plot diagram posted at the student farm site. Original paper registration forms will be kept on file by the Native Medicinal Plant Research Program.

III. Organic practices

KU Student Farm participants are required to follow organic gardening principles and practices, including the use of organic fertilizers, pesticides, fungicides, etc. Participants should consult with student farm coordinators about specific products or in the case of an insect infestation or other problem.

IV. Composting

Composting will be communal. Gardeners participating in the KU Student Farm must dispose of weeds and plant materials in designated compost areas.

V. Plots

The area for individual plots consists of an “East Garden” and a “West Garden” in respect to the storage shed. Each plot will be registered after the individual participant discusses his or her general plan with a student coordinator. The student coordinators and members of the KU Student Farm Advisory Committee will be available to offer advice for garden plans.

Sprawling plant plots are roughly 10 x 10 feet, divided by 4-foot walkways. This layout allows space for growing plants such as watermelon and pumpkins.

Linear garden plots are roughly 4 x 26 feet with 3-foot walkways between. This plot size allows for all but large, sprawling crops.

Participants may grow only annual crops in their individual plots, barring special permission. However, space may be set aside for perennial crops. Once an individual has registered a plot, s/he may begin planting at any time during the fall, spring or summer semesters.

VI. Deposit

There will be a \$30 fee for the use of a plot (either one 4- x 26-foot or one 10- x 10-foot plot) during any or all of the growing season in single calendar year. Of this fee, \$20 will be a refundable deposit, and \$10 will be retained to contribute to the cost of water during the growing season. This deposit is intended to ensure an element of accountability. The deposit will be returned when coordinators receive the registered participant’s notification that the plot has been cleared and will be relinquished. When a gardener graduates or moves out of town, their plot will become available for another gardener, unless prior arrangements are made.

The KU Student Farm has the right to keep the deposit if the plot is not weeded or harvested for an extended period of time. We ask that plots be maintained by friends or fellow students during busy times or when gardeners leave town. Coordinators also will be available to help maintain plots on request, if necessary. A severely neglected plot may be tilled under; coordinators will make two attempts to reach the gardener using the contact information on the registration form before this step is taken.

VI. Work days

Work days and instructional presentations will be held one to three times per week, depending on the schedules of volunteers, coordinators and guest speakers. These work days and learning activities are not mandatory, but participation is highly recommended. During these days, gardeners may use the tools and equipment of the Native Medicinal Plant Research Garden.

VII. Future projects

Any projects outside the scope of this document can be discussed with the KU Student Farm Advisory Committee.

VIII. Liability

KU Student Farm participants assume all risk to themselves and their property associated with the use of any of the facilities, tools, etc. at the medicinal garden and the student farm. The KU Student Farm, the Native Medicinal Plant Research Program, the Kansas Biological Survey, the University of Kansas and the KU Endowment Association assume no such responsibility.

Statement of agreement

By signing this document, I acknowledge that I have reviewed the rules and regulations of the KU Student Farm and agree to abide by them for the duration of my participation and accept the potential loss of my personal plot if I choose not to follow them. I understand that these rules are subject to change as circumstances dictate.

Student Farm Participant _____ Date _____

Coordinator or Advisory Committee Member _____ Date _____