



Las Milpitas de Cottonwood Community Farm

Plot Application & Waiver

2405 S. Cottonwood Lane, Tucson, AZ 85713



Welcome! Thank you for your interest in community gardening. Las Milpitas is a project of the Community Food Bank of Southern Arizona. At this five-acre community farm, we aim to increase access to healthy food, create shared space for community building, and help gardeners build skills to be advocates for community health.

Please keep in mind that **applying for a plot does not guarantee participation**. You will be notified if you are accepted no later than a week before Planting Day. Because our program aims to serve those who face disproportionate barriers to gardening and fresh produce, *preference will be given to applicants who income qualify or who live 3 miles or less from the farm*. We are also happy to connect you to a community garden in your neighborhood.

GARDENER INFORMATION

Each gardener should fill out their own waiver and application, even if sharing a plot. You will need to attend a free gardening orientation workshop, offered by the Community Food Bank, during your first season.

Name: _____ Address _____

Phone number: _____ Home Cell (Circle one) Email _____

Name of fellow gardener, if sharing a plot: _____

Preferred method of contact: CALL EMAIL TEXT WHATSAPP (Circle any that prefer)

Do you represent an organization garden? If so, please indicate what organization. _____

Languages you speak: _____

Preferred language: _____

Number of people in your household: _____

Your household monthly income:

Your household annual income:

Describe your gardening experience.

Low-Income Guidelines	
Household size	Monthly income
1	\$1,926
2	\$2,607
3	\$3,289
4	\$3,970
5	\$4,652
6	\$5,333
7	\$6,015
8	\$6,696

Staff Use Only: Plot Number Assigned and Date _____

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Why are you interested in gardening at Las Milpitas?

Preferred date and times for meeting (circle all that you are available): 1. Friday evenings (5pm—7pm)
2. Saturday afternoons (11am-1pm) 3. Saturday afternoons (1pm-3pm) 4. Tuesday afternoons (4pm-6pm)

As a gardener, you will have the opportunity to collaborate with other gardeners to complete projects around the farm for volunteer hours. **Please circle at least one area of interest:**

Compost/Worms

Seed saving

Greenhouse planning

Garden troubleshooting

Irrigation

Rainwater harvesting

Communications/event planning

Cooking

Community organizing/advocacy

Other: _____

GARDENER RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The farm requires active participation from and collaboration with all gardeners in order to ensure that the space can be enjoyed by all. As a Las Milpitas gardener and community member, you are participating in a shared agreement with both rights and responsibilities. You may keep your plot as long as you abide by this agreement.

As a Las Milpitas gardener, I have the right to:

- Basic amenities such as water on drip irrigation, soil amendments, seeds/seedlings and garden tools from the Butterfly Shed. I will respect the rights of others by caring for, properly storing and locking materials after use.
- Orientation to the farm and assistance with my plot from Milpitas staff and/or Garden Leaders.
- Organize and host events at Las Milpitas. I will submit an event request form and coordinate with staff at least two weeks in advance.
- Equal opportunity and non-discrimination.
- A reasonably harmonious environment, and conflict resolution measures when necessary.
- Regular participation and contribution to the farm. My participation, contribution and ideas for the farm will be highly valued and I am encouraged to attend monthly community meetings.

My responsibilities as a Las Milpitas gardener (please initial next to each to indicate you have read and agree):

- Attend a free gardening orientation workshop, offered through the Community Food Bank, during my first season of gardening at Las Milpitas. _____

- Attend Planting Day. If I cannot attend, I am responsible for notifying staff ahead of time and scheduling another day to plant. _____
- Care for the land. I will not use non-organic pesticides and herbicides, or synthetic fertilizers. If I am not sure if something is allowed, I will talk with farm staff. _____
- Regularly maintain my plot and pathways around it. This includes planting, harvesting, pruning, weeding, and checking for leaks. Plants should not encroach into pathways or nearby plots. Weeds should be removed ASAP to prevent spreading to neighboring plots. Personalization and barriers must remain within the dimensions of my plot and not impede access to nearby plots. If illness, travel, etc. prevent me from caring for my plot, I will inform farm staff in advance and identify a temporary person to maintain it in my absence. _____
- A minimum of **3 volunteer hours per month** toward community farm efforts by attending at least **one community work day** a month. This does not include maintaining my plot. Work days are a fun way to get involved at Las Milpitas and meet fellow gardeners! Options are: Thursday work days (morning), or Saturday work days (morning). I must regularly log these hours in the hours log, located in the Butterfly Shed. If I can't attend any of the events, I can contact staff for alternative days/times. _____
- Conserve water. My plot is watered once a day for approximately 30 min. on drip irrigation. I will not water my plot by hand. I will fix leaks when possible and, if not, inform a staff member ASAP regarding a leak. I can use shade cloth and mulch (leaves, chop and drop, or hay) on top of the soil to hold moisture in the ground. _____
- Respect plots. I will not harvest food, pull flowers or weeds from another plot without permission. _____
- Respect for others. I will be civil and cooperative with other gardeners, neighbors, staff and the public and work to resolve conflicts with others compassionately. I will adhere to the Las Milpitas Code of Conduct (attached at the end of this application). _____
- Harvest my plot regularly (at least once a week during the most abundant parts of the season) for my own use or offer produce to others so that it doesn't go to waste. _____
- Respect farm resources. Only use farm tools for farm projects or garden plot maintenance. Clean and return tools to the sheds after use and lock all sheds and gates behind me when leaving. _____
- Work carefully and cautiously in the garden knowing that wild animals, including Rattlesnakes, may be present. Las Milpitas does not condone killing snakes. _____
- Do NOT trim or prune any trees or shrubs on the farm without explicit permission and training on how to do so. _____
- If I can no longer care for my plot, I will notify farm staff and establish a timeline for removing any structures and non-plant materials. _____

I have read the gardener rights and responsibilities and the Las Milpitas Code of Conduct (attached below) and agree to abide by the terms of my plot and guidelines outlined. I recognize that to complete my orientation I will need to attend Planting Day and a *free* gardening orientation workshop, offered by the Community Food Bank, during my first season.

Gardener signature _____ Date: _____

Staff Use Only: Plot Number Assigned and Date _____

Rev.

Staff signature _____ Date: _____

Submit your completed application at the Community Food Bank at 3003 S. Country Club Rd. or via email to milpitas@communityfoodbank.org.

LAS MILPITAS GARDENER, VOLUNTEER, AND VISITOR CODE OF CONDUCT

Each gardener is a valuable member of the community farm. Be civil and cooperative with other gardeners, Community Food Bank staff and the public.

- Do not harvest food, pull weeds, or pick flowers from another plot without permission from the gardener or farm staff.
- Use common courtesy and resolve differences in a neighborly way. Remember to stay polite and listen carefully. If you are unable to resolve differences, please contact Community Food Bank staff as soon as possible.
- No harassment or abuse of any kind is permitted or tolerated on Community Food Bank property, including but not limited to:
 - Laying a hand upon, striking, or threatening another person.
 - Sexual harassment and nonconsensual physical contact of any kind.
 - Harassment on the basis of a protected characteristic that shows hostility toward another individual.
 - Use of foul language (swearing) or abusive verbal attacks aimed at anyone in the farm space.
 - Engaging in abusive written communications with gardeners, volunteers, staff, or visitors.
- Respectfully welcome visitors to the farm. The farm is open to visitors during the following hours: Tuesday-Saturday, April-September 7 am-3 pm, October-March 8 am-4 pm. If visitors ask you questions you're not comfortable answering, please direct them to Las Milpitas staff.
- Pets are not permitted inside the farm.
- Be safe, for the benefit of yourself and others. Respect the safety and privacy of others.
- Pick up after yourself and do not leave items or trash in the common areas.
- The possession of firearms is prohibited in the farm space.
- No consumption of drugs or alcohol are allowed on site.
- Gardeners or visitors will leave any portion of the farm immediately upon being told by a Community Food Bank staff person or volunteer.

CONSEQUENCES

If you fail to follow any of the above rules/responsibilities or Code of Conduct, a member of Las Milpitas staff will contact you and establish a reasonable period of time to correct the problem, up to 30 days. After that time, staff will revisit the situation with you to assess progress and 14 additional days to correct the problem. If the situation does not improve after that time, you may be asked to leave your plot.

If you have an interpersonal problem at the farm that you need help resolving, please contact a staff member as soon as possible.

Questions about the rules? Contact farm staff at milpitas@communityfoodbank.org