

# Safety Guidelines

## CURLY COMMUNITY GARDEN Inc

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### 1. Responsibility of Garden Members

- Participation in the garden is at each member's own risk.
- Members must take full responsibility for their actions and follow these Safety Guidelines and the Curly Community Garden Member Guidelines.
- Curly Community Garden Inc, the members of the Management Committee and Northern Beaches Council are not liable for injury or health risks (including allergic reactions) to members and visitors, or for damage to or loss of their possessions.

### 2. General Garden Safety

- Prioritise common sense and maintain focus on the task at hand.
- Take reasonable care for your own health and safety and that of others working nearby.
- Familiarise yourself with all safety guidelines and the First Aid Kit, located in the small shed.
- Maintain safe and considerate behaviour. Members or visitors displaying behaviour that endangers others or disrupts the garden environment will be asked to leave.

### 3. Heat Risk Management

- Drink plenty of water before arriving at the garden.
- Bring a water bottle to stay well hydrated while working.
- Wear a broad-brimmed hat, sunglasses, light-coloured breathable clothing and SPF 30+ sunscreen (spare hats and sunscreen are available in the small shed).
- Take frequent breaks in the shade.
- Monitor yourself and others for signs of heat exhaustion (dizziness, nausea, heavy sweating) or heat stroke (confusion, collapse or a lack of sweating).
- Note: In extreme weather, tasks may be modified or the working bee may be shortened or cancelled.

### 4. Accidents and Hazard Identification

- Hazards in the garden include cuts, scratches, stings, bites, excessive sun exposure, heat stroke or exhaustion, dehydration, injury from tools, inhalation of soil spores and back strain from poor lifting techniques.
- Assess risks before starting tasks, including weather, materials, tools and equipment, and personal health and well-being.
- Keep work areas and pathways clear to reduce slips and trips.
- Report all hazards, accidents, incidents or near misses to the Garden Co-ordinator.
- The Garden Co-ordinator must record these on the working bee To Do list in Google Drive; for serious incidents, an Accident, Incident and Near Miss Report must also be completed.

### 5. Safety of Children and Members with Support Workers

- Parents and support workers must supervise those in their care at all times.
- Parents and support workers must caution them about hazards including, but not limited to, tools, extreme weather, hot-tasting plants and toxic leaves, such as rhubarb.

### 6. Manual Handling and Lifting

- Plan lifts carefully and use trolleys or wheelbarrows when possible.
- Wear appropriate PPE, including gloves and sturdy, enclosed footwear.
- Lift with your legs, not your back. Ask for help with heavy items.

## **7. Recommended Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)**

- Broad-brimmed hat, sunglasses and light-coloured breathable clothing
- SPF 30+ sunscreen
- Sturdy, enclosed footwear
- Gardening gloves
- Long-sleeved shirts and long trousers

## **8. Use and Storage of Garden Tools and Equipment**

- Check that tools are clean, sharp and in good repair before use. Report issues to the Garden Co-ordinator.
- Use tools only for their intended purpose.
- Remain aware of your surroundings and others nearby, especially when using sharp tools.
- Place items safely when not in use; do not leave them in garden beds, pathways or shared spaces where they can create trip hazards or be lost or damaged.
- Clean and dry tools after use to prevent rust and the spread of soil-borne diseases.
- Store tools, equipment and materials neatly and safely in their designated areas.
- Parents and carers must supervise children who are using gardening tools.

## **9. Use of Electric Lawn Mower**

- Be alert to projectile risks when mowing. Both the operator and bystanders must maintain a safe distance from the mower's path.
- Safety goggles are provided in the small shed and are recommended for use while mowing.
- Check the mower for damage or debris before use.

## **10. Use of Power Tools**

- Only use power tools if you are competent and experienced.
- Select the right tool for the job; use cordless power tools where possible.
- Ensure tools are in safe working condition and wear appropriate PPE, such as safety glasses, gloves, ear protection and sturdy, enclosed footwear.
- Do not use power tools in wet conditions or near water.
- Ensure all required safety mechanisms and guards are in place.
- It is the owner's responsibility to maintain their equipment.

## **11. In Case of Emergency**

- Call 000 (Triple Zero) in an emergency.
- Refer to the "First Aid & Emergency Response" poster located in the small shed for specific first aid instructions.
- Defibrillator (AED) Location: Toilet block at Abbott and Spring Roads (one block away)
- Emergency Assembly Point: Bicycle racks near driveway gate
- In the case of an emergency, the Garden Co-ordinator must collect the Garden Logbook from the small shed and ensure all attendees are accounted for at the assembly point.

**In an Emergency – Ambulance, Fire or Police  
Call 000 (Triple Zero)**