

# HORTICULTURE CLUB F.A.Q.

## Notes:

1. **LINKS** (bold & in blue) in this FAQ require login on <https://www.sctexas.org>.
2. Name & contact info for officers is on the Club website under [Club and SIG Leaders](#)

## Arrange for tilling your Garden bed. 3 steps.

- **Prepare your bed.** Remove irrigation systems, trellis, cages, etc. Add any soil amendments you want.

Login to <https://www.sctexas.org> with your member ID & password!

- **Pay for Tilling** using SC Ticket System. On "Resident Home" look for "Buy Tickets". Find for "Horticulture Beds, Tilling & Infrastructure" and proceed.
  - The list of tickets is long and it may be hard to find. Most browsers support the **FIND** command.  
**PC: Ctrl-F    Mac: Command-F    Phone, you're on your own**
- [Submit Tilling Request](#) on the Horticulture Website

## General Garden Questions

- **How do I volunteer with a SIG?** [Read about the SIGs here.](#) Find the name & contact info for SIG leaders under [Club and SIG Leaders](#).
  - Starting in January 2025, you can sign up to get emails from a few SIGs - login to [sctexas.org](https://www.sctexas.org), go to your [Resident Home](#) page and click on "My Memberships" on the left side. You'll get a list of your current Club memberships, and under Horticulture Club, check the box of the SIG you're interested in.
- **What happens to lost items at the Gardens?** There's a Lost and Found tub on the Barn front porch where people can put found items. Put your name and/or bed number on your stuff so it can be returned directly. For important lost items (keys, phone, etc.), e-mail the president and a memo can be sent out.
- **3 wheelbarrows in a row?** If you see 3 wheelbarrows lined up next to each other (in a row), please do not remove any of them. A gardener is waiting for wood chips to be delivered to use in their area. The tractor can fill the 3 to cleanly deliver a load without making a mess.
- **Are there SNAKES?** There are 2 poisonous snakes in Sun City and both have been found in the Gardens - Western Diamondback Rattlesnake and Coral snake. Diamondbacks have been curled up on wood chip areas; they blend in with the chips. Coral snakes can be anywhere. Be extra careful in the Gardens - don't wear open-toed shoes, watch where you step, do not reach into areas that are overgrown or not fully exposed, and take care turning over rocks. If a snake is sighted, do not approach and wait for the snake to move on, or find someone in the gardens to dispatch of the snake.
- **What Club tools can I use?** Any tool in and outside the Barn, except for all gas or battery powered equipment, can be used by members. Be sure to clean and return the tool to its proper place after use. Only trained S.I.G. members may use the powered tillers, mowers and string trimmers.
- **What do I do with broken tools?** Complete a 'Repair' tag, attach the tag to the item and put it in the Barn for service, if possible. The 'Repair' tags are yellow (easy to see) and in a box mounted to the Mower Corral fence near the Barn back door. Tools includes any cart, wheelbarrow, shovel, rake, etc. If it needs repair, complete the form and just 'Tag it'.

## Garden Bed Questions for renters.

- **I no longer want to rent a bed.** Under Contact Forms, fill out the [Membership and/or Garden Termination Form](#)
- **NOW I want to rent a bed.** Contact the Bed Chair ([Club and SIG Leaders](#)).
- **Can I plant mint?** **NO.** Not in the blocks or bed because mint is very invasive.
- **Info on my bed tag needs updating.** Under Contact Forms. [Change your Member Info](#).
- **I have a temporary health or family issue, I NEED HELP!** Contact the Bed Chair ([Club and SIG Leaders](#)). Usually, temporary help can be arranged with your bed neighbors but should not be more than 3 months. Contact the Bed Chair when help is no longer needed, or if longer than 3 months.
- **What is the “Weed Witch”?** You’ll get Club emails saying “the Weed Witch is coming”. The Weed Witch (*aka. Bed Chair*) is responsible for enforcing the Garden Covenants regarding bed appearance & maintenance. If your bed or aisles are “neglected” the Weed Witch will contact the renter of record about the violations by phone and/or e-mail. **LINK TO COVENANTS pg#**
- **What type of timer should I buy?** [Orbit 1-Port Single Digital Dial Timer](#) is the most used in the Gardens; they are easy to set & use, and provide consistency. Available at Home Depot, Walmart and on Amazon.
- **Maintaining my bed & aisles.**
  - **How and why should I fill my bed blocks?** This helps keep the blocks straight and prevents critters from living there, like mice, rats, and snakes. Just fill with some of your bed soil so you can add more compost to the bed later.
  - **My blocks need straitening - what should I do?** Pull the soil away from the blocks and push the block back into alignment. If this is a very large issue, contact the Bed Chair. Blocks with a “U” or “V” hole are less stable and will need straightening often because they can’t be filled to stabilize them.
  - **I have broken blocks. How can they be replaced?** Contact the Bed Chair. We keep a small inventory of extras.
  - **How high should the wood chips be in the aisle between my bed & the next?** Ideally no higher than the middle of the bottom block. Might not be possible in places where over-chipping has already happened. Keep the chips as low as possible and only add a thin layer of chips when you see dirt.
  - **My bed is on the end of a row, should I put wood chips there?** **NO** wood chips or crushed granite should be added as a grass deterrent in these areas, as this is a hazard to mowers (*both machines & people*). This also applies to beds along the main aisle. Instead, pull out any grass or weeds to leave bare dirt - yes, it’s takes more effort to maintain but over time you’ll WIN!

## How to buy Club Products, from ...

- **Greenhouse** - The Greenhouse primary function is to sell plants, grown from seeds, for Spring and Fall gardens.
  1. Enter through either door and pick your plants
  2. Fill out the purchase form with how many plants & prices; forms are on folding table to the left of the entry door (*near coffee pot*).
  3. Payment by...

- a. Cash or Check. Put the ticket & payment in the slot of the black box (*near the coffee pot*). Instructions should be on the folding table as well.
  - b. IOU. Mark the purchase form as "IOU" & place it on the clipboard next to the payment box. When you return **WITHIN 10 DAYS** to pay the IOU, find your purchase form on the clipboard, mark it 'Paid' and place the form & payment in the cash box next to the clipboard.
4. WARNING – scorpions have been seen – and felt – in the Greenhouse
- **Nursery -or- Compost**
    1. The forms for both are in the painted mailbox near the bagged compost area.
    2. Fill out the purchase form with what you bought.
    3. Payment by...
      - a. Cash or Check. Put the ticket & payment in the slot of the metal lockbox inside the mailbox.
      - b. IOU. Mark the purchase form as "IOU" & put the form in the metal box. **WITHIN 10 DAYS**, you need to return with cash or check !!! Put payment in an envelope marked with your name & "payment of IOU" for BTN or NURSERY.
  - **Iris** are only for sale at the Spring & Fall the plant sales. During the sales, the Sun City Horticulture Iris fertilizer is also on sale.
  - **Can I pick fruit from the Orchard or other fruit/berries in the Garden?** **NOT from the Orchard**. You MAY pick a limited number of figs or berries, if there are any available. DO NOT STRIP ALL THE FRUIT – leave some for others.

#### **PAYING for RENEWAL Membership and/or Bed.**

- Click <https://www.sctexas.org/Files/Library/27376/HORTPURCHASEDUESNBEDSHOWTO.PDF> for a walk-thru of the steps to renew your membership AND/OR your Garden bed. **PAGES 1-3**

#### **PAYING for NEW Bed Rental & Infrastructure Fee.**

- Click <https://www.sctexas.org/Files/Library/27376/HORTPURCHASEDUESNBEDSHOWTO.PDF> for a walk-thru of the steps to pay for the **NEW BED** rental & infrastructure fee. **PAGES 3-5**