

Waukesha County Community Gardens RULES – 2017

The Waukesha County Community Garden Rules have been established to provide the best experience for all gardeners. **Please familiarize yourself with these Rules as you are responsible for following them.**

1. All gardeners must be Waukesha County residents and **sign the Garden Waiver** (on the Reservation Form, contact 262-548-7775 for additional copies). Neither Waukesha County nor the University of Wisconsin-Extension Office is liable in case of accident, theft, or vandalism.

2. Garden **Rental fees are \$50.00 and \$70.00** based on the plot size being rented. Plot sizes are approximately 20'x20' and 30'x30' but plots may be wider and shorter (i.e. 22'X18') or thinner and longer (i.e. 19'X21'). Plots are marked off by Garden Coordinator and are not to be changed by gardeners. **NO REFUNDS WILL BE GIVEN.**

3. Last year's gardeners can reserve their prior space if done by **Monday, February 27th**. Requests for multiple plots will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis due to the high volume in interest to rent a garden space. First year community gardeners are allowed to rent only one plot.

4. **Gardens will OPEN approximately Saturday, May 20, 2017 (weather permitting)**. The plowing date is dependent upon the weather and "our turn" for plowing. Do not begin gardening until you see a stake identifying your plot number in front of your plot and there are stakes at the four corners of your plot. If we can plow sooner or there is a delay in the garden opening, we will notify you. Water will be connected as soon as possible after plowing.

5. Gardeners provide their own **tools, seeds, and plants**. Tall crops (corn, sunflower, trellised plants) may be grown, but should not shade another plot.

6. Water will be available on site and can be carried to plots from the water tank.

Ø Hooking up your garden hose to one of the various tanks or couplers at the garden is allowed, but please be considerate of other gardeners. **Hoses must be unhooked and in your garden plot when you are not at the Garden.**

Ø Sprinklers are NOT allowed.

7. Garden Plot Restrictions:

Non-Organic Gardens = Rows A, B, C, E, F, X-- have some restrictions. Chemical weed killers (herbicides) are NOT allowed. If any insect problem develops, we encourage the use of biological insect control, but insecticides and chemical fertilizers are allowed.

Organic Garden = Row D -- This area is "organic" which allows for the use of only materials certified for organic gardening such as pheromone traps, horticultural oils, BT, insecticidal soaps, hot pepper sprays, compost, and manures. Commercial chemical pesticides and fertilizers not certified for organic gardening should not be used. This includes insecticides, fungicides, herbicides, and fertilizers.



8. **Garden Plot Appearance:** Gardeners responsible for controlling the weeds on their plot and preventing them from spreading to other gardens from when the Garden opens through the end of the season. If you feel a garden plot has been abandoned, due to the excess weed growth, contact us. We will contact the gardener. Also see #7.

9. **Mulch:** Carpet as mulch is NOT Allowed for many concerns. Even plastic and fabric mulch are NOT Recommended. Both are difficult to remove and dispose of at the end of the growing season and such materials can get caught in our equipment and require mechanical removal and sometimes costly repairs. Newspaper, straw, or hay would be a better choice for weed suppression since these can decompose (and do not need to be removed).

10. **Garden Rows:** Consider the benefit of planting in raised garden rows (see photo) and/or positioning the rows in your garden in such a way as to avoid run-off during heavy rains.

11. **Garden Paths:** Use only established paths for going to and from plots. Garden pathways are to be maintained (weeded, mowed, etc.) by the gardens surrounding the paths. Pathways should have no planted material growing on them. All vegetable plantings and garden supplies (i.e. hose) should be kept inside your fence or garden plot area. All paths to the water and other plots should be passable and not fenced off.

12. **Fences** are allowed around plots but **space** must be accommodated for other gardener's movement in and about the garden and to water tanks.

13. **Failure to Garden:** If you have not gardened (i.e. barely planted, mostly all weeds) for TWO consecutive years, you will not be allowed to garden the following year per the discretion of the Community Garden Coordinator.

14. **Gardens will CLOSE on Monday, October 23rd, 2017 at 9:00 am.** Produce must be harvested and plots cleaned. This includes the removal of everything you brought into the garden including any fencing, stakes, string, tomato cages, tarp, plastic, etc. by date listed above. Thick-stem vegetables (i.e., corn), thick-stem flowers (i.e., sunflower), and thick-stem weeds also need to be removed. **An additional \$25 fee will be charged to the gardener for the next year they garden if the garden is not cleaned up by this date.**

15. **Website/Newsletter:** Please visit our website (<https://fyi.uwex.edu/community-gardens/>) for updates and Garden information. In addition, gardeners receive 4 to 5 newsletters ("The Garden Connection") during the growing season. Newsletters will be mailed to those without email. Past newsletters can also be found on this website.

16. **Permanent Garden Plots:** There are a limited number of "permanent" gardens (plots that are not tilled in Spring). There is a waiting list, please contact office.

17. **Gardeners are responsible for their children and their guests.** Children should be supervised.

18. **Pets are NOT allowed at the Garden.** In addition, feeding of animals at the Garden (i.e., squirrels, chipmunks, deer, etc.) is not allowed.

19. **Questions?** Contact the Waukesha County UW-Extension Office by calling 262-548-7775.

