

Gloucester Township Organic Community Garden

Guidelines and Responsibilities 2021

Gardening Courtesy and Communication

In the spirit of cooperation, please treat the garden, other gardeners, neighbors, and visitors with respect and consideration.

Contact a garden committee member if you have questions, suggestions, or complaints.

Harvest items only from your own plot unless you have received authorization from another gardener to care for and/or pick produce. Make arrangements for plot maintenance if you will be away for more than a week. Contact the gardening committee if you are ill so they can help.

A bulletin board for communication has been mounted inside the shed as a way for all of us to stay in touch. Please use it for any garden-related purposes.

Please supervise children in the garden.

Pets, drugs (including alcohol), radios, boom boxes and fires are not allowed. Neither are smoking or chewing tobacco.

For your safety, only garden during daylight hours. Consider gardening in pairs and keep a cell phone nearby.

Plot Responsibility, Use and Maintenance

Keep the Garden Committee advised of your current street address, email address, and telephone number. Notify a member of the committee of any change to your contact information.

Plan to be present for spring and fall cleanup days. Occasionally a request for help with a project in the garden may be posted. Your help would be greatly appreciated. We may have local students and scouts that will assist on these days. You can act as mentors to help teach these young people about gardening.

Notify a Garden Committee member if you are no longer able to tend your plot, will be absent for a long period of time, or have asked a friend to tend your garden.

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Gardeners should be actively working in their plots by May 19 unless they have informed the Garden Committee that they will be starting later. However, the plot must be maintained. Plots that aren't being worked by June 1 are assumed abandoned, and will be reclaimed by the township without refunding the plot rental fee. Plots not planted will be reassigned.

Gardeners who do not maintain their plots by removing weeds and grass throughout the growing season will not be eligible for a plot in the following year. Gardeners should expect to stop and check on their plot at least two times a week--more during harvest time(s).

Garden waste that isn't/can't be composted must be placed in the yellow barrels provided by Public Works. Empty barrels are kept inside the gate. Barrels with refuse are placed alongside the road near the recycling container and large trash container (no plant material). Trash (plastic bags, paper, etc.) must be removed from within the garden and placed in the trash bin outside the gate.

Permanent structures other than plant supports are not allowed in the garden plots. Fences may be left if the renter plans to return the following year. All plots need to have a three foot gate so a lawn mower and/or tiller can enter the plot. (If you wish to have your plot tilled annually, the fence may have to be taken down for easier access.) Treated wood must never be used in an organic garden for staking plants or raised beds. The chemicals used to keep the wood from rotting may leach into the soil and be taken up by the plants that we plan to eat. If plastic mulching is used for controlling weeds, add amendments before it is put down, and remove it in the fall to add amendments, leaves, and/or grow a cover crop.

Since this is an organic garden, please adhere to organic growing practices. Do not use synthetic chemical pesticides and herbicides, or fertilizers like Miracle-Gro. Moth balls and other poisons may not be used. Use organic alternatives to control pests. Please see the "What is Organic Gardening?" information sheet. Ask a Garden Committee member for help and/or look on the Internet under organic practices for more information.

Organic farming methods include using compost, mulching with straw (which discourages weeds and retains moisture), planting cover crops in the fall to be turned or rolled in spring, mulching the ground with leaves over the winter, rotating crops, adding organic dry composted cow manure and other organic amendments such as bonemeal, greensand, etc. Please refer to the mulch sheet for additional information.

Gardeners must be present while watering. Please make sure both water faucets are turned off when you leave. Please refer to the watering sheet to help you know when and how much to water.

Garden cleanup in the fall must be completed by December 1. Plot renewal is contingent on having followed the guidelines.