

Ewing Community Garden Guidelines

The Ewing Community Garden is an all-volunteer, active, working community garden; and as such requires all members to assist in the daily, weekly and seasonal care, upkeep, and support of the garden. The garden experience involves individually maintained garden plots, as well as cooperative efforts in caring for the entire garden site. Because a community garden is a shared space, gardeners need to be considerate of their gardening neighbors. The following rules and guidelines have been designed to facilitate: community garden safety; a community garden environment gratifying to work in; pleasant for gardeners, neighbors, and the general public to look upon.

Community Clean Up: Many hands make light work. There are overall maintenance chores involved in running any community garden. Participation in scheduled cleanups and maintenance chores is strongly requested so that the “community” aspect of community gardening is realized.

Plot Maintenance: Each gardener is responsible for the maintenance and upkeep of his/her plot(s). Regular watering, weeding, harvesting and any other garden-related maintenance are all the responsibility of the gardener.

Pathways immediately surrounding assigned plots need to be kept passable and free of any vegetation, debris, and garden hardware.

Untended weeds go to seed and also will spread throughout the entire garden site. Good neighbors keep weeds at a minimum so that everyone enjoys the community gardening experience.

Crops, plants, and vines and vegetation must be contained within the boundaries of the member’s own plot so they don’t grow onto adjacent paths or another member’s plot. Remember vining plants such as zucchini and squash need a lot of space and must be controlled.

Watering: use only as much water as you need. Do not leave running water unattended. Do not flood pathways or other garden plots. Coil hoses in a neat manner after using. Notify garden leadership [at ewingcommunitygardens@gmail.com] or the Township if a leak is noticed.

Fences: No perimeter fences or other barriers around individual plots are permitted. Individual fences hinder path maintenance, encourage weeds between plots, and are often unsightly.

Height Restrictions: Gardeners should not plant tall plants where they will shade a neighbor’s plants. Please keep internal garden structures (plant supports, cages, stakes) under 8 feet tall.

No-till/organic section: Sites listed as organic (roughly the eastern half of the garden site) will not be tilled and are to be gardened following organic gardening guidelines. This includes, at a minimum, no synthetic fertilizers or pesticides. If you have questions about counts as organic, ask a fellow gardener or visit www.organicgardening.com/learn-and-grow/whatis-organic-gardening

Plant restrictions: Garden plots may be used to grow fruits, vegetables, herbs and flowers. Shrubs and perennials can only be planted in non-tilled plots, and must not exceed height restrictions. **BANNED PLANTS:** trees, and plants that may be considered invasive, poisonous, or may cause physical harm, for example: castor beans, bamboo, all mints, and morning glories.

Harvesting: Gardeners may only harvest vegetables and flowers from their own gardens, unless given explicit permission to harvest from another plot by that plot’s holder. Pick and remove ripe produce promptly. Keep garden plot(s) free of overripe, rotting and spoiled fruit and/or vegetables. Post a note on the bulletin board if you would like to share your produce.

Pets and Children: Pets and children are welcome in the garden when accompanied by an adult and well supervised.

Parking: Parking is only permitted on the street and along the eastern edge of the plot by the large gate.

Compost: Several compost bins are located throughout the garden. Materials in them are for common use. Please do not put weeds with seeds or **ANY MUGWORT** (including roots) in the bins, as this will spread weeds to rest of the garden.

Trash/Recycling/Rocks: Gardeners are responsible for taking any trash from their site to the established township trash pick-up area. Adhere to Township garbage policy when disposing of waste, in particular weight restrictions. Rocks must be deposited at designated rock pile, outside the main gate.

Abandonment: If a gardener must abandon a plot they must notify garden leadership promptly either in person or email, ewingcommunitygardens@gmail.com. After May 15, if no notification is received and no activity has been observed at the plot for three weeks, the lease may be terminated. If a plot becomes unkempt, gardeners will be given two weeks notice to clean it up. After two weeks, if the gardener continues to neglect their plot without verbal or written notification of their abandonment they will not be able to renew their plot rental during the first two weeks of March, they will however be able to purchase a lease during the open period (March 15-31).

End of Season: In tilled plots, gardeners are responsible for clearing their plot of all plant material and non-biodegradable materials (stakes, trellising, netting, plastic materials, tomato cages) at the end of the growing season and leaving the plot as they found it in the spring. In non-tilled plots, gardeners are responsible for the appearance and safety of their plots and all materials in them.



By signing below, I agree to follow these rules and guidelines to help ensure a successful community gardening experience for all involved. By providing my contact information, I give Ewing Township permission to share my contact information with the ECGA.

Name: _____

Signature: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

March ____, 2023