



2008 Community Garden Guidelines

Ensuring enjoyable gardening experiences for all of the garden community is the primary goal of these rules and responsibilities. For this reason, observe the rules of the garden, and be a good neighbor.

1. **All gardeners must be Walworth County residents** and **Sign Waiver** located on the back of this form.
2. The garden should be a safe place for the community, children, and other gardeners. Do not bring anything that will compromise the safety of the garden.
3. The garden's executive committee or steering committee has the duty of enforcing rules and making decisions for the garden between annual meetings of all gardeners. They have authority to resolve conflicts, including refusing a plot to a gardener or dismissing a current gardener.
4. Garden plots will be open approximately Saturday May 17th, 2008 (weather permitting). Produce must be harvested and plots cleaned by Friday morning October 31st, 2008 (closing date). This includes the removal of everything you brought into the garden.
5. Individual plots will be approximately 20'x 20' and 20'x 30', children's plot are 10'x10', all plots will be marked off by garden coordinators. Rental fees are \$20.00 for 20'x 20' plots; \$30.00 for 20'x 30'; and \$2.00 for children plots. Previous gardeners can reserve their prior space if done by March 13th, 2009.
6. No chemical weed killer (herbicides) may be used. Pesticides are discouraged and prohibited at many community gardens. Keep all pest-control products and containers away from children. Walworth County Extension at 262-741-4951 can give safe pest-control advice. Chemical free areas will be available.
7. Plants must be grown within the plot boundaries. No perennials plants allowed. Tall crops (sunflowers, corn, trellised plants) may be grown, but should not shade another garden plot.
8. Water will be available on site. Hooking up your garden hose to the coupler at the garden is allowed. If doing this please be considerate of other gardeners. Hoses are only allowed through designated walking areas and cannot be dragged through plots. Gardeners must be present when their hose is hooked up to the water source.
9. Only established paths going to and from your plots may be used.
10. Children should be restricted to your plot and the common areas of the garden. Teach your children to respect others' plots and not to waste water.
11. **Plastic mulch and plastic orange fences are not allowed.** Biodegradable mulch such as compost, leaves, and straw are encouraged. No wood chips are allowed as mulch because of the slow decomposition rate.
12. **No pets** are allowed in the gardens.
13. Gardens should look tidy all growing season. Gardeners are responsible for controlling the weeds at the beginning of the and throughout the growing season and preventing them from spreading to other gardens. If your plot is overgrown with weeds, you will receive a warning. After two weeks of no action, your plot may be mowed or reassigned by garden coordinators.
14. Compost stations will be available for garden plant disposal and community use. All weeds and diseased plants should be disposed of in the designated area. Please no trash in the piles. Please no kitchen scraps as it may attract animals.
15. All gardeners are responsible for providing their own tools, seeds, and plants.

16. Tilling will be done prior to the growing season.
17. In the fall, remove all materials that were brought into the garden. If it grew in the garden, it can stay in the garden.
18. Volunteer time is encouraged for upkeep of the whole garden.
19. Neither Walworth County nor the University of Wisconsin-Extension Office is liable in case of accidental, theft, or vandalism.

WARNING LETTER:

If the garden coordinators notice that the above rules and guidelines have not been followed, then you will receive a warning letter explaining what problems need to be addressed. If the situation has not been corrected after two weeks, you will lose the plot and it will be assigned to a different gardener.

Stealing and vandalism will not be tolerated. Call the Elkhorn Police Department at 262-723-2994 to report theft or vandalism problems. In case of emergency dial 911.

Commitment

I have read and understand the application and accept these rules, terms, and conditions stated above for the participation in the UW-Extension Walworth County Community Garden.

Signed: _____ Date: _____
Gardener

Approved: _____ Date: _____
Garden Manager

