



Eatontown Community Garden Rules & Policies

Our goal is to ensure an enjoyable gardening experience for you and our community. These guidelines have been established by the Eatontown Community Garden Committee in consultation and oversight with the Borough of Eatontown. The Garden Committee is tasked with enforcing rules, making decisions for the garden, and resolving conflicts.

The Borough of Eatontown will collect plot fees and the Garden Committee will assign plots, organize maintenance tasks, and coordinate garden-related activities. Each year, and perhaps during the season, the Garden Committee, with the approval of the Borough, may modify the rules to better suit the program as it grows. The community garden is a privilege. Please observe the rules and be a good neighbor.

GARDEN RULES, POLICIES & RESPONSIBILITIES

1. **Orientation:** Gardeners are encouraged to attend the organizational meeting to be held prior to the planting season. This is an opportunity to tour the garden site, meet our fellow gardeners, and address any questions or concerns.
2. **Plots:** Potential gardeners must apply each year for a plot, but returning gardeners will be given first preference and permitted to keep the same plot if they wish. The number of plots per gardener may be limited depending on demand.
3. **Locks:** Gardeners will be given codes to access the garden. These are not to be shared.
4. **Plot season & hours:** Generally, the season runs from April 1 to November 1. Gardening is permitted from dawn to dusk. Gardeners are expected to have something planted by June 1, and keep their plots planted all season.
5. **Plot maintenance:** Plants must be kept within plot limits, and plots and surrounding areas must be well-tended to preserve the overall appearance of the garden. Tall crops must be located in the center of the plot so they do not shade other plots. Crops must be harvested upon maturity, and weeds pulled before they go to seed. Temporary structures such as stakes and tomato cages are allowed at a maximum height of six feet, and must be removed at the end of the growing season. You are responsible for cleaning your plot at the end of the growing season.
6. If you are unable to maintain your plot temporarily, notify a member of the Committee or arrange for a fellow gardener to help.
7. **Stakes** marking plot corners must always be left in place. No brightly colored fencing is allowed (such as orange plastic construction fencing).
8. **Plants:** Follow guidelines specified by the Committee. Invasive species are prohibited.

9. **Compost/Mulch:** Biodegradable mulch such as compost, leaves, straw and hay are encouraged. Compost may be available at the garden. Carpet mulch and wood chips are not allowed. Black plastic is allowed but must be removed at end of season. Weeds and diseased plants go in plant refuse piles – not on the compost pile.
10. **Watering:** Turn off all water spigots after use, coil all hoses neatly on the post provided, and conserve water. Unattended watering is not permitted.
11. **Trash/Compost:** Trash is “carry in, carry out.” Non-compost refuse must be removed when you leave (bags, bottles, cans, etc.). Vegetative materials may be placed in the designated compost bin.
12. **Organics only:** Only organic methods and products are to be used in the garden. A list of products approved by the Organic Materials Review Institute will be posted in the shed. Never use herbicides (weed killers) or pesticides.
13. **Volunteer duties:** Gardeners are expected to participate in the spring and fall cleanups. The maintenance of common areas, tools, and compost bins is the shared responsibility of all gardeners.
14. **Pets** are not allowed within the fenced in garden area.
15. **Children** must be supervised while in the garden.
16. While on community garden grounds, no prohibited or illegal behavior is permitted, including, but not limited to, the cultivation of illegal plants, smoking, alcohol consumption, gambling, or using illegal drugs.
17. The garden is not for commercial use. Selling of produce is prohibited. If you have a surplus of fruits or vegetables, please share them with your neighbors or contact the Eatontown Food Co-op at 732-542-0882 to donate.
18. **Respect:** Please respect other gardeners. Do not take food or plants from other gardeners’ plots, or take anything from the garden that is not rightfully yours. Take care of tools and return them to the storage area when done.
19. **Enjoy!** Keep the garden a happy, secure, and enjoyable place where all participants can garden and socialize in a neighborly manner.

Contact us at:
CommunityGarden@eatontownnj.com

