



## Rules and Etiquette

### Hopkinton Community Garden

#### 1. ***Gardening courtesy and communication:***

One of the main goals in community gardening is to work together or next to each other in relative harmony. Please be courteous in all interactions, and work to resolve any disagreements.

Contact Bethann McCarthy, the garden administrator, at [bmccarthy860@gmail.com](mailto:bmccarthy860@gmail.com) with any questions.

#### 2. ***Definition of a “working garden”:***

A garden plot must be maintained, planted or mulched, and stay within its boundaries. Plots must not be consistently weedy, untended or filled with debris. During the growing season, gardeners are expected to tend their plot regularly.

#### 3. ***Gardening Hours:***

Please tend to your community garden plot only during daylight hours.

#### 4. ***What is appropriate to grow:***

Vegetables, herbs, flowers and small fruit plants are appropriate. No large structures, trees, or large collection of non-plant items are allowed. Crops must be legal in New Hampshire. **No perennial crops or overwinter crops are permitted as the full garden is plowed under each year.**

#### 5. ***Water Availability:***

Rain-catchment or water storage barrels may be used on your plot, as long as they are completely contained in your plot area. There is no spigot available for filling in the fields. (We are investigating this, but pretty sure this is the case.)

#### 6. ***Spring Preparation & Planting:***

By **early June** your garden should be in the “getting started” stage. Some garden plots are reserved with the best of intentions, but end up not being planted. If you haven’t started preparations by this date, there is probably someone who would be willing to take over your plot. The minimum requirements of “getting started” include:

- o Weeding and planting; edging weeds along borders
- o Working the soil in preparation for planting
- o Pathway clean-up/trampled

#### 7. ***Summer Planting and Growing:***

**PLANTING:** By **June 30**, there should be substantial progress towards a productive garden, which includes:

- o At least half of the plot(s) worked and planted
- o Removal of remaining weeds
- o Establishing and caring for plants
- o Continued pathway maintenance

8. ***Fall Harvest and Clean-up:***

Garden plots should be empty of all plants and garden supplies by October 31.

9. ***No Trash Pickup Service:***

Carry in/carry out. Please keep trash and litter cleared from your plot and take it home for disposal.

10. ***Dogs in Gardens:***

Dogs should be leashed and not allowed to run through the garden or go into other garden plots. Please be mindful that your pet is not crushing other gardener's plants or urinating on their produce. Clean up and carry out all dog waste.

11. ***Plot Registration Required Annually:***

Plots are **not** transferable without the permission of the Garden Administrator. Gardeners are responsible for keeping addresses, phone numbers, and email addresses current with the Garden Administrator. If, for any reason, you need to relinquish your space, contact the Garden Administrator. Participants must renew their registration each year.

12. ***No refunds:***

The garden registration fee you pay only partially covers the costs of operating Hopkinton Community Garden Program. If you give up your garden plot after you have registered or if you fail to maintain your plot and it is transferred to another gardener, your plot fee **will not** be refunded. (NO FEE THIS YEAR)

13. ***Pathways:***

The Town will mow the pathways between the plots. Everything you plant must remain within the perimeters of the designated plots, allowing adequate space for growth and keeping pathways clear. **Please minimize plants trailing out into the space between plots. We can't guarantee that they won't get mowed.**

14. ***Vegetable Theft:***

Any gardener reported for taking vegetables, flowers or supplies from another's plot may have their garden privileges revoked. Gardeners are encouraged to harvest your crop regularly to reduce the temptation of theft by others.

15. ***Organic Gardening Required:***

Use of herbicides and/or weed killers and non-organic fertilizers is prohibited. Their use shall be grounds for forfeiture of the privilege to use the Community Garden. Contact the Garden Administrator for information on organic gardening.

16. ***Children in the Gardens:***

Children are encouraged to garden with their parents, but they must stay on the paths of their assigned garden without going through the plots of other gardeners.