

Rules and Guidelines of the Oxford Community Garden - 2017

Welcome to the Oxford Community Garden. The rules and guidelines were developed and revised by plot holders. They are intended to create boundaries that allow everyone to enjoy and reap the benefits of the Community Garden. Many people working together in community created, and will sustain, this Garden. Above all, in our interactions with one another, please treat every person with respect, remembering that each of us brings different gifts and limitations.

Rules versus guidelines. Rules are objective and enforceable and may lead to plot forfeiture if not followed. Guidelines either simply inform or offer suggestions about how we would like to act in community, but carry no “penalty” if not followed.

- = Rules
- ☼ = Guidelines

Gardening Courtesy:

- Children are VERY welcome in the Community Garden (hereafter, “Garden”); children younger than 13 must be under adult supervision.
- The fenced area is a pet-free, alcohol-free, and tobacco-free zone.
- No vandalism or stealing (this includes tools, seeds, vegetables, etc.).
- If no one else is in the Garden, lock the shed and our three gates when you leave.
- Explicit permission must be given for anyone to harvest produce from or do anything in another’s plot (but see harvesting exception below).
- ☼ Communication among gardeners is encouraged! Please use the bulletin board for garden-related messages.
- All tools and supplies from the shed are to be used in the Garden only and returned in good condition as soon as you are finished with them.
- ☼ Anything stored in the shed will be considered community property.
- ☼ Please treat the tools well when they are in your care. If a tool breaks, repair it or inform the Garden Committee.
- ☼ Please do not lay tools in pathways.
- Water hoses may be laid on walkways only, not across other plots.
- Use earphones when listening to music or radio unless you are alone in the Garden (or only friends working in your plot are present).

Plot Responsibility:

- Each plot must be planted for at least one season per year and mulched in any season it is not planted, or the plot will be forfeited. If a plot appears to be neglected, notify the Garden Committee.
- ☼ Perceived problems with another gardener's plot should be reported to the Garden Committee if you cannot contact the gardener directly.
- Plots must be consistently maintained to minimize weeds, diseased plants, and pests. If you cannot maintain your plot, notify the Garden Committee.
- **The Garden Committee will notify the Plotholder of any plot that appears neglected and give the Plotholder 2 weeks to clean up the plot. If not cleaned up within that time, the plot will be reassigned. Plotholders will be allowed two such incidents of plot neglect followed by Garden Committee contact in one calendar year. On the third incident in one year, the plot will be reassigned, and the plotholder must wait one year before being assigned another plot.**
- **If ripe produce is not harvested in a timely manner, the Garden Committee may contact the Plotholder. If no response is received within 72 hours, the Garden Committee may appoint someone to harvest the produce and donate it to charity. Plotholders will be informed of any such harvesting.**
- ☼ You may leave a general request for help in the shed granting permission for anyone to maintain (weed and water) and harvest produce from your plot when you cannot do so. Please include dates!
- ☼ If you water someone's plot in response to a general request (above), please note that with your initials and date watered.
- ☼ If you require assistance with plot maintenance in general, you are encouraged to leave a note on the bulletin board and discuss with the Garden Committee.
- Maintenance of walkways and common areas is an ongoing group effort requiring contributions from all Plotholders. Each Plotholder must maintain (clean, weed, and mulch) the walkways around your own plot, and help maintain other common areas (such as the blueberry beds).
- Each Plotholder should participate in at least 3 work days per year. If you cannot participate in at least 3 work days, ask the Garden Committee how else you can help.
- Woody perennial plants are not permitted in plots.
- Unattended watering is not permitted (no timed sprinklers or hoses left running) unless approved by the Garden Committee.
- ☼ Water conservation is encouraged! Please consider using soaker hoses and mulch to conserve water, and use nozzles on hoses.
- ☼ Report any water leaks to the Garden Committee. Major leaks (such as a broken pipe) should be reported to the OPC or the City Water Department immediately (numbers in shed).

Structures:

- The outside dimensions of plots, including raised bed structures, shall not exceed the assigned plot dimensions.
- Chemically-treated lumber may not be used to construct raised beds or placed in contact with soil in plots or where produce is grown.
- Paint containing lead is prohibited in the garden, and old paint must be tested for lead before being used in the garden.
- Structures and plants in plots shall be less than 8 feet tall.
- ♻️ Please try to avoid shading neighboring plots.

Weed, Pest, and Disease Control:

- **Organic gardening methods are strongly encouraged.**
- ♻️ If your plants have a pest or disease problem that you do not know how to handle, you are encouraged to contact the Garden Committee or a garden mentor for assistance or advice.
- Chemicals prohibited by the Garden Committee or OCGA board may not be used in the Garden.
- Chemicals (fertilizers, pesticides, herbicides, and fungicides) may only be used within your own plot, and must be applied only during calm weather and in such a manner that they remain within plot boundaries.
- Application of any chemical must be consistent with the label directions.
- ♻️ If you aren't familiar with a chemical, please ask for assistance to ensure safe and proper application.
- Chemicals may be stored in the shed only in the designated chemical storage location and **MUST** have the original, legible label and your name and phone number on the container.

General:

Each gardener is responsible for knowing and abiding by the garden rules and OCGA bylaws (available at www.oxfordcga.org).

Rules may be revisited annually and can be amended by a 2/3 vote of Plotholders, though we will strive for consensus decision making.

Violation of the Garden rules may result in reassignment of your plot to another individual.

Happy Gardening!