

Guidelines for Use of Plots at the Wendell Community Garden

The mission of the Wendell Community Garden is to create and maintain a sustainable garden run and enjoyed by the community, to maintain the garden area for garden and agricultural use, and to foster appreciation, respect, and collegiality among residents of the area.

“The community” referenced in the mission statement includes the garden plot holders, the community garden committee, and town residents and others who visit the garden.

1. Gardeners must treat other gardeners with respect.
2. The Community Garden Committee oversees and regulates the use of plots and other areas of the community garden.
3. Prospective plot holders must pay a non-refundable fee of \$10 per plot per year, with a maximum of \$30 per year. (People may have more than 3 plots per season, if enough plots are available.) Money raised from the fee will be used to buy and maintain garden materials, tools, equipment, and infrastructure. Plot fees may also be used to pay for gardening labor, if needed.
4. Before being assigned a plot, prospective plot holders must sign a pledge agreeing to work on specific community tasks at the garden, as listed in the task list, for instance, mowing paths, weeding common areas, turning compost, repairing equipment, or doing administrative tasks. The Garden Committee will create a list of tasks in March of each year, and update the list as needed. Garden Committee members or people they designate will keep a record of work completed by plot holders. Plots will not be reassigned the next season to gardeners who have not contributed their work assignments.
5. Plot holders must maintain their plots during the growing season. Weeds should not be allowed to mature and produce seeds, stolons, or other means of expansion to paths or other plots. Weeds or produce plants should not spread beyond plot boundaries and obstruct paths.
6. Plot holders must keep pets under control at all times when they are at the garden. Pet waste must be disposed of properly.
7. If a gardener is unable to maintain a plot during a particular season, the gardener must contact a Garden Committee member to develop and implement a plan for that plot. As noted in the “Important Dates” section, any assigned plots with no activity by June 1 and no communication with committee members may be assigned to others, weeded, mulched, or cover-cropped, as determined by the committee.
8. Committee members or people they designate will survey plots on June 1 and September 30 and report on the condition of the plots to the committee.

Plots will not be reassigned the next season to gardeners who don't correct unacceptable plot conditions within a reasonable time.

9. Community garden tools must be cleaned and returned to the proper spots in the garden shed after use.

Important Dates

March and April– Apply for one or two plots. Get an application at town website or by emailing garden@wendellmass.us. Garden plots are available to Wendell residents on a first come/first-served basis until April 30. Plot holders from the previous season will have priority for the plots they have worked.

April 30 – Any unassigned plots may be assigned to plot holders as extra (more than 2) plots, or mulched or cover-cropped, as determined by the committee.

June 1 – Any assigned plots with no activity by June 1 and no communication with committee members may be assigned to others, mulched, or cover-cropped, as determined by the committee.

October 31– Gardeners must let committee members know about plans for winter crops, cover crops, or fall-planted crops like garlic. At the end of the season, plots must be bedded down for the winter and cleared of trash and annual plant debris.