

2015-2016

## WENDELL COMMUNITY GARDEN INFORMATION and RULES

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.

Community is an important part of the Community Garden. The community includes the gardeners, the Community Garden committee, townspeople and others who enjoy the garden space. The Community Garden Committee is the executive that operates the garden. It is made up of five members appointed by the Selectboard. All gardeners and residents are welcome to attend and participate at meetings, which are posted on the town posting board. The committee welcomes donations of time, money, or materials.

### Community Garden Features

**1. *Individual plots***

Plots of varying sizes with good sun and garden soil are available on a yearly basis. Plot holders may use the same plots over several years, based on approval by the committee.

**2. *Tool shed and garden tools***

Gardeners will get the combination to the padlocked tool shed, which houses hand tools (shovels, rakes, pruners, trowels, a wheelbarrow, etc.).

**3. *Solar powered gravity-feed irrigation system.***

Spigots are on posts located throughout the garden plot area.

**4. *Compost bins***

Weeds and other discarded plant materials go into the bins at the north side of the plot area. Finished compost is available to gardeners, usually on volunteer days when bins are maintained.

**5. *Walking garden***

A magic space organized by the garden committee, planted with ornamental perennials, herbs, and fruit trees, accessible through the rose arbor and along stone-dust walking paths.

**6. *Cutting garden***

A plot maintained by the committee (and any other interested volunteers) with annual and perennial flowers and greens. Plot holders are welcome to cut flowers from this plot for bouquets.

**7. *Wood chip pile***

Donated wood chips for mulching paths, located near the tool shed.

**8. *Composted manure pile***

Some years (but not every year), composed manure has been donated for use by community garden plot holders. When available, the composed manure pile has been located near the tool shed.

**9. *A 4' x 8' cold frame.*** Usable for extending the garden season.

## 2015-2016 Important Dates

**Late February – March and April**– Apply for one or two plots. Get an application at the library, post office lobby or senior/community center bulletin board or by contacting Katie Nolan (544-2306). Garden plots are available to Wendell residents on a first come/first-served basis until April 30.

**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-** Let committee members know your plans for winter crops, cover crops, or fall-planted crops like garlic. At the end of the season, bed your plot down for the winter. Clear plots of trash and annual plant debris.

### **How to Get a Plot or Plots**

- Fill out the application form and return it to Community Garden Committee, Wendell Town Offices, Morse Village Road, 01379 or contact Katie Nolan 978-544-2306 – be sure the committee has your current contact information.
- Sign the hold harmless agreement/agreement to follow the garden rules (attached).
- There is no charge for plots, but donations of time, money or materials are welcome.

### **Community Garden Rules**

**1. Be considerate of other gardeners.**

Examples:

Use water from the irrigation system thoughtfully. Shut off spigots after use.  
Control any pets you bring into the garden and clean up after them.  
Return tools to the tool shed in good condition.  
Talk with neighboring plot holders before planting tall crops like corn.  
Don't plant invasive perennials.

**2. Use organic and sustainable gardening practices.**

**3. Each season, volunteer 4 hours per plot to work in the Community Garden common areas.**

Common areas include: compost bins, shed, major pathways, the walking garden, the cutting garden.

**4. Keep the paths around your plot clear of weeds and mulch them with cardboard and wood chips.**

**5. Let the garden committee know about changes that affect care of your plot. Ask for help from committee members or other gardeners if you need it.**

Examples:

Extended vacation, new responsibilities, or injuries so you don't have time or ability to care for your plot.  
Decision to give up your plot mid-season.  
Feeling overwhelmed by fast-growing weeds or pest populations.

**\*\*\*The garden committee has the right to mulch or cover-crop plots that are assigned but are abandoned or left unused.\*\*\***