

Mashpee Community Garden 2016 Rules and Responsibilities

- Ensuring an enjoyable gardening experience for all the gardening community is our primary goal. For that reason, observe the rules of the garden and be a good neighbor.
- Applicants must be a Mashpee resident or taxpayer. Proof of such (e.g., tax bill, ID) is required.
- In addition to the \$25 plot rental fee, a \$50 refundable deposit will be required to cover costs associated with clearing out any neglected plots during and after the gardening season. Each plot should be completely cleaned out and returned to its original condition at the end of the season. The DPW will inspect the entire garden on or after November 1st. Only gardeners who have removed all vegetation and other materials from their plot by October 31st will have their original \$50 deposit check returned to them.
- Gardeners must apply each year, but returning gardeners will be given first preference and may keep the same plot. Each gardener will receive a map of the site for reference.
- Do not bring anything into the garden that will compromise the safety of the site or its users.
- Children should be supervised at all times, and are not permitted in the garden unless accompanied by a plot holder.
- Pets are not permitted in the garden.
- Plot corners should be marked with stakes which identify the gardener's name and plot number. These should remain in place all season.
- Gardeners are responsible for contributing to the upkeep of the entire garden during the growing season and are encouraged to visit their plots at least once a week.
- If a plot becomes neglected or overgrown with weeds, the plot holder will receive a warning. If no action is taken within one week, the plot will be cleared and reassigned, and the deposit forfeited.
- Gardeners who may be briefly unable to care for their plots due to illness or vacation should ask a fellow gardener or alternate for assistance.
- Gardeners who decide not to use their plot should contact the registrar so it may be reassigned to someone on the waiting list. If there is no evidence of activity at a particular plot by May 1st, it will be reassigned. There are no refunds on fees paid.
- Keep plot boundaries, edges, fencing, and pathways free of weeds and trash. It is expected that gardeners will help maintain the area immediately surrounding their assigned plot(s), and remove and properly dispose of all trash.
- Plant refuse piles are for weeds and dead plants only. There is a separate pile designated for rocks/sticks. Diseased plants should be discarded in the trash.
- Biodegradable mulch such as compost, leaves, and straw are encouraged for water conservation and minimization of weeds. Non-organic or chemically treated mulch

and wood chips are not permitted. Black plastic is allowed, but must be removed at the end of the season.

- Use only organic fertilizers, insecticides, and weed repellents.
- Situate tall plants such as corn or sunflowers so they do not shade your neighbor's plants.
- Do not plant mint, catnip, Jerusalem artichokes, comfrey, raspberries or anything else which might grow or re-seed beyond your plot and intrude into the adjacent pathways or neighboring plots.
- Do not put up fencing of any kind without prior approval of the steering committee.
- Do not put any business signage or advertising in your plot.
- Do not pick from your neighbor's garden even if it appears to be neglected/abandoned.
- If you have a surplus of vegetables or fruits, please consider donating to a local food pantry.
- The Water District has agreed to waive any fee for water; however, it is the responsibility of each gardener to ensure water use is not excessive and the spigot is turned off when not in use.
- There is a shed on site where gardeners may store small personal items such as gloves and simple gardening tools. Gardeners should use the cubby with the corresponding number as their plot. This shed is also used to house some shared equipment that the Town provides (wheelbarrow, hose, etc.). Plot holders will be given the combination for accessing the shed. It is extremely important that it be secured at all times, and shared items be returned immediately after use.
- Do not drive into the garden. The small parking area on site can accommodate three (3) vehicles at a time. Please use extreme caution when entering/exiting the lot and, under no circumstances, should vehicles back-out onto Route 130.
- The Mashpee Conservation Department has planted two pollinator gardens on the property and has also installed butterfly boxes throughout. Please enjoy these features but do not disturb them. Anyone interested in volunteering to assist the Conservation Department with maintenance of the gardens, should contact them at 508-539-1416.
- The garden's executive committee or steering committee has the duty of enforcing rules and making decisions with regard to the garden between annual meetings of all gardeners. They have the authority to resolve conflicts, refuse a plot to a gardener or dismiss a current gardener.

We hope everyone has a fun, relaxing, and rewarding 2015 Gardening Season!
Mashpee Community Garden Steering Committee