

**MASHPEE COMMUNITY GARDEN
RULES AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

Ensuring an enjoyable gardening experience for all the gardening community is our primary goal. For that reason, please observe the rules of the garden and be a good neighbor. Rules for “good standing” status and general information are outlined below:

1. Mashpee residents and returning gardeners (i.e. plot holders) in good standing who submit applications, indemnity forms, and checks by March 1st will be given first preference to plots each year on a first come, first served basis. After March 1st, vacant plots will be assigned in the order that complete applications are received.
2. Gardeners must apply, complete an Indemnity Form, and pay the required fee each year. Returning gardeners who apply by March 1st may keep the same plot.
3. Each plot must be completely cleaned out and returned to its original condition at the end of the season – no later than November 1st. Written approval by the Advisory Committee for all winter crops is required prior to November 1st. Eighteen plots are approximately 8' x 12' and two accessible raised beds are 4' x 8'.
4. No item may be brought into the garden that will compromise the safety of the site or its users.
5. Children must be supervised at all times. Children and other visitors are not permitted in the garden unless accompanied by an authorized gardener, who assumes full responsibility for their behavior.
6. Pets are not permitted in the garden.
7. Gardeners will be asked to volunteer up to 2 hours per month to assist with the upkeep of the entire garden during the growing season.
8. Gardeners are encouraged to visit their plots at least once a week; and their plot and its surrounding pathways must be kept free from weeds and trash. All trash, weeds and diseased plants must be promptly removed from the garden area and taken with you for disposal.
9. If a plot becomes neglected or overgrown with weeds, the gardener will receive a written warning. If no action is taken after a 2nd warning, the plot will be cleared and reassigned. There are no refunds on fees paid.
10. 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; and keep the Advisory Committee informed.
11. Gardeners who decide not to use their plot should contact the Advisory Committee, so it may be reassigned to someone on the waiting list. If there is no evidence of activity at a plot by June 1st, it may be reassigned. There are no refunds on fees paid.
12. 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 it must be removed at the end of the season.
13. Only organic fertilizers, insecticides, and weed repellents may be used that are OMRI listed (Organic Materials Review Institute) or CDFA Registered (California Dept of Food and Agriculture) products.

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14. Tall plants such as corn or sunflowers may only be planted if they do not shade your neighbor's plants. The growing of marijuana is prohibited at the Community Garden.
15. Invasive plants must be avoided such as mint, catnip, raspberries or anything else which might grow or re-seed beyond your plot and intrude into adjacent pathways or plots. For questions, please contact the Mashpee Community Garden Advisory Committee.
16. Fencing of any kind is prohibited without prior written approval of the Advisory Committee.
17. Business signage or advertising in your plot is not permitted.
18. Picking from your neighbor's garden is prohibited even if it appears to be abandoned.
19. Water is available at the garden. However, each gardener must ensure water use is not excessive and the spigot is turned off when not in use. Hoses will be available for use between April 1 and October 31 each year. Timers, sprinklers and irrigation hoses are not permitted.
20. Gardeners may store small personal items in the on-site shed such as gloves and simple gardening tools in the cubby with the corresponding number as their plot. This shed is also used to house shared equipment that the Town provides (wheelbarrow, hose, etc.). Gardeners will be given the combination for accessing the shed. It is extremely important that you always lock it upon leaving the garden, and that shared items are returned immediately after use.
21. All gardeners will receive a key or lock code to the Community Garden upon assignment of a plot.
22. No vehicles are permitted in the garden. The small parking area on site can accommodate up to six (6) vehicles at a time. Please use extreme caution when entering/exiting the lot and, under no circumstances, should vehicles back-out onto Route 130. Alternate parking is available at the Mashpee Community Park across from Town Hall.
23. 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 pollinator gardens, should contact them at 508-539-1400.
24. The Mashpee Community Garden Advisory Committee has the duty of enforcing rules and making decisions regarding the Community Garden each year. They have the authority to resolve conflicts, refuse a plot to a gardener or dismiss a current gardener. Violation of these rules could affect the health and welfare of the entire garden – and should be reported to the Advisory Committee. For questions, suggestions, or issues, please contact the Mashpee Community Garden Advisory Committee through the Town Manager's Office, Mashpee Town Hall, 16 Great Neck Road North, Mashpee, MA 02649.

We hope everyone has a fun, relaxing, and rewarding Gardening Season
Mashpee Community Gardens Advisory Committee