

Town of Sudbury Community Gardens Policies

The Town of Sudbury Community Gardens are located on public conservation land at the Lincoln Meadows North Conservation Land and, therefore, fall under the jurisdiction of the Sudbury Conservation Commission. Volunteer garden coordinators are responsible for day-to-day management of the gardens, but it is the responsibility of all gardeners to act as caretakers of the gardens. The following policies were developed by the Conservation Commission and Conservation staff.

1. Plot Assignments

- a) Plots are available on a first-come, first-serve basis, with preference given to returning gardeners. Plots are assigned by the garden coordinators in this order:
 - 1) Returning gardeners
 - 2) Returning gardeners wishing to change plots
 - 3) New gardeners
 - 4) Returning gardeners wishing for more space
- b) Plots are available for non-Sudbury residents and are assigned to non-residents based on availability with Sudbury residents having priority.
- c) Returning gardener and new gardener registration deadlines are set each year, usually for a late April date. (For this year's deadline dates, contact your garden coordinator or check the registration letter or Conservation website.) Registrations and plot fees are due in full by these deadlines. Returning gardener plots that have not been claimed by that date will be opened up to new gardeners.
- d) Only one plot per household/residential address may be assigned at the beginning of the season. If there are extra plots available once all new gardeners from that season have been accommodated, second plots may be assigned based on availability. Plots are not transferrable.
- e) If you need special accommodations in order to participate, please contact the Conservation Department at 978-440-5471.
- f) Gardens are open dawn until dusk, seven days a week.
- g) Maintenance:
 - 1) All gardeners are expected to maintain their gardens actively throughout the season; this includes watering, timely weeding and harvesting, spring preparation, fall clean-up, and any other plot-related maintenance. Regular weeding will minimize the dispersal of unwanted seeds into neighboring plots and harvesting crops before they rot will help control rodents and other garden pests. If you plan to be away for an extended period of time, please make arrangements with other gardeners to maintain your plot(s).
 - 2) Each gardener is responsible for maintaining the garden pathways immediately surrounding his/her plot. All gardening activities must be kept within the boundaries of each assigned plot; take special care to contain berries, squashes, and other vining plants within the confines of your assigned plot.

- 3) Gardens not started by June 1st or unmaintained (as defined above) during the gardening season may be subject to forfeiture without refund.
- 4) Each gardener is expected to contribute time to the upkeep of the shared garden area. While no specific time requirement has been set, gardeners should expect to contribute 2-4 hours per season. See the garden coordinator for volunteer work and community service suggestions (high school age volunteers). Upkeep tasks may include: maintaining garden perimeter pathways, gates, and fences; cleaning up trash/litter/debris; removing rocks from the garden; turning compost; removing vegetation from fences; filling water barrels; spring and fall preparation work; end-of-season work; etc. If in doubt, check with the garden coordinator for task suggestions.
- 5) Gardens are intended for the growing of vegetables, fruits, berries, and flowers for household use or donation (e.g., to food banks); they are not intended for commercial use or profit. Planted trees (including fruit trees) are not permitted in plots. Berry bushes and other tall plants (e.g., sunflowers) should be kept to a reasonable height so as not to shade neighboring gardeners' plots.
- 6) Only organic pesticides, fertilizers, and other soil amendments (such as compost, manure, bone meal, lime, etc.) are permitted. Non-organic/synthetic pesticides, fertilizers, and other soil amendments are not permitted; only use untreated, unpainted wooden stakes (no pressure treated or painted materials). If in doubt as to the acceptability of a particular treatment or amendment, check with the Garden Coordinator, Conservation Division, or the Organic Materials Review Institute (www.omri.org).
- 7) No permanent structures (e.g., sheds, raised-bed gardens) are permitted without approval from the Town.
- 8) Parking is permitted only in designated areas and during times that gardens are open. Vehicles should not be driven on garden land (except designated parking areas) without permission of the Conservation Division (via the Garden Coordinator).
- 9) No soil may be removed from garden plots.
- 10) Sudbury Community Gardens are CARRY IN/CARRY OUT; please take all trash and other debris with you.
- 11) The Town of Sudbury shall not be liable for any injury to persons or property resulting from community gardening activity.

2. Plot Forfeiture - Failure to comply with above policies may result in a loss of future gardening privileges. The Garden Coordinator or Conservation Commission may require that a non-compliant gardener forfeit their plot. Appeals may be made to the Conservation Commission. Your compliance with the above policies will help ensure that everyone has an enjoyable and prosperous garden.