

Wagon Hill Farm Community Garden 2022 Guidelines
www.wagonhillcommunitygarden.com

We are fortunate that the Town of Durham leases this space to us on Wagon Hill Farm which has been farmed continuously for over 300 years. We need to be careful stewards of the land. We appreciate your cooperation and community spirit to make this a successful program. These guidelines are designed to help the garden run smoothly.

1. Annual Membership & Plot Use Period: Annual membership and plot use begin once registered and membership fee is paid, and end with final cleanup of plot(s) no later than the last Sunday in October. "Plots" refer to raised beds, as well as in-ground plots. **Plots are not transferrable. If you are unable to garden, notify the Membership Coordinator.**

2. Work Day Commitment: Members are expected to participate in at least three work days. Work days are used to maintain the *general* garden area, not individual plots. Be sure to sign in on work days.

Work days will be held according to the schedule distributed in March, monthly reminder emails will be sent. If you are unable to come to work days, email the Membership Coordinator to work out an alternative plan for you to do your share of general garden maintenance. Gardeners not meeting their work day requirements may be asked to leave the garden.

3. Organic Gardening, Fertilizer & Pesticides: The gardens are organic, so do NOT use synthetic fertilizers or non-organic pesticides. Plastic mulch is allowed, but not preferred. Any non-organic mulch must be removed at the end of the season. If you have any questions about products, consult the garden web site or ask the Garden Steward. Read the Pest & Disease Control Guidelines posted on the website.

4. Plot Maintenance: Plot maintenance is the responsibility of the individual gardener. Keep your area free of weeds, disease and insect pests. Harvest your vegetables in a timely manner and be sure your plants and structures stay inside your plot. Rotting produce attracts insects, diseases and rodents. Donate extra produce to the Food Pantry.

If you are not be able to tend your garden due to illness or travel, find someone to water, weed and harvest. Make sure this person knows what your plot number is and clarify exactly what you're asking them to do.

Gardeners are expected to check their gardens at least once a week. If a plot appears to be untended, you will be contacted by the Garden Steward. If your plot is not cleaned up within two weeks after contact, it may be reassigned. Remember the community garden is like a neighborhood, your actions or inactions can affect everyone.

5. Path Maintenance: Gardeners are responsible for maintaining the paths around their garden bed(s). Keep paths clear of rocks, weeds and other debris.

6. Water & Hoses: Water is a precious resource and our faucets are fed from a well. Gardeners are asked to mulch their bed(s) and limit watering to no more than three times a week. Water faucets **must be turned off** after use. Do not drag hoses through other's gardens. Hoses must be coiled and off the ground after use.

7. Tools/Wheelbarrow: Tools and wheelbarrows in the shed are for shared use. Please take care of them! Return the tools and the wheelbarrow in a clean condition, ready for the next person to use. If you break something, please leave a note on the clipboard in the shed so it can be repaired or replaced.

8. Plant Debris & Compost: Follow the directions posted in the compost area. Diseased plant material should be removed from the garden and disposed of in your trash at home. Weed and weed seeds should not be placed in the compost. Plant material for the compost pile should have soil shaken off in your bed, then **break or chop plants into small pieces so they will compost more quickly. Plastic plant markers, wire, string, pots or stakes MUST NOT be placed in the compost.**

9. Plant restrictions: Perennials are no longer permitted. If you have perennials already, it will be your responsibility to remove them when you leave the community garden.

10. Structures: Structures intended to support or control plants (such as tomatoes, cucumbers, squash) are allowed but should not shade someone else's garden or inhibit movement on garden paths. Any structure, such as stakes, poles, tomato cages, wire, etc., must be taken away from the garden at the end of the season. The shed cannot safely accommodate storage of materials used by individual gardeners.

Individual fences around plots are not generally allowed; however gardeners who have issues with woodchucks, rabbits, etc. can request permission from the Garden Steward to erect a temporary barrier for the season. The type of materials used will have to be pre-approved and, if approved, the fencing/barrier will have to be removed at the end of the season.

11. Donations: Check with the Materials Coordinator before donating tools, newspaper, cardboard or plants to the garden. Check with the Food Pantry Coordinator before donating plastic containers. If you would like to make a monetary donation to the garden, work with the Treasurer or Board Chair.

12. Other: Respect other gardeners' plots as you would like them to respect yours. Do not take plants or produce from their plots or allow your plants to invade their space.

Do not bring illegal substances, alcohol or dogs off leash to the garden. There is no smoking at Wagon Hill Farm. Leaving open containers of standing water in the garden provides a perfect mosquito breeding ground. Please report theft, vandalism or unusual activities to the Membership Coordinator.

13. Organization Memberships: Wagon Hill Farm Community Garden does make plots available to organizations. The following additional rules apply: at least one of the registered gardeners will accompany members of the organization when they come to tend their plot; and the registered gardener will be responsible for the conduct of the members of the organization, making sure the Wagon Hill Community Garden guidelines are followed.

Garden Board:

Membership Coordinator: Cynthia Watkins wagonhillcommunitygarden@gmail.com

Garden Steward: Karen Wills karenwills58@gmail.com

Materials Coordinators: Toby Clarke

Board Chair: Lyn Howard

Compost Manager: Steve Jones

Education and Community Building: Tara Tracy

Treasurer: Carolyn Dupont

Secretary: Christina Felix

Food Pantry Coordinator: Gloria Story

Revised: March 2022