



Weston Community Garden Policies

Orig. February 2015. Amended February 27, 2018.

Amended February 23, 2021

Expectations for participants in Weston's community gardens are set forth in the following policies. These policies provide a framework for governance of Weston's community gardens and enforcement of rules when expectations are not met.

The gardens are located on municipal purpose land and therefore fall under the jurisdiction of the Select Board. However, the Conservation Commission is responsible for the management and stewardship of the property. The garden coordinator is responsible for day-to-day management of the gardens, but all gardeners share responsibility for the care of the gardens. The garden coordinator may be an individual or a committee.

1. Plot Assignments

- a) Plots are assigned by the garden coordinator in this order:
 - (1) Returning gardeners
 - (2) Returning gardeners wishing to change plots
 - (3) New gardeners from Weston
 - (4) New gardeners with Weston connections (e.g. work in Weston, former Weston resident)
 - (5) Returning gardeners wishing for more space
 - (6) New gardeners not from Weston or with no Weston connection
- b) A full plot is 30' x 30' (900 square feet); a half plot is 15' x 30' (450 square feet)
- c) **Registration forms and plot fees from returning gardeners are due in full by April 1 each year. Plots will NOT be assigned to gardeners until a registration form and payment have been submitted to the garden coordinator.** Plots of returning gardeners that have not been claimed and paid for by April 1 will be released to new gardeners.
- d) New gardeners may contact the garden coordinator starting March 1 of each year to request a plot assignment.
- e) A maximum of one full plot and one half plot per household/residential address may be assigned at the beginning of the season (with the exception of three households that may keep the two full plots assigned to them prior to January 2015).
- f) Gardeners are responsible for informing the garden coordinator of any changes in their contact information, including email addresses. The garden coordinator is not responsible for the loss of plots due to incorrect contact information.

2. In the Garden

- a) Gardens that are not started by June 1 or that are abandoned during the course of the summer are subject to forfeiture without refund. The garden coordinator will make the determination as to whether a garden has been started in time or has been abandoned.
- b) Gardens are open dawn until dusk, seven days a week.
- c) Gardens are intended to be used for the growing of vegetables, fruits, berries, and flowers for individual household use or donation (e.g., to food banks); they are not intended to be used for commercial use or profit. Planted trees (including fruit trees) are not permitted in plots (with the exception of trees already in place as of January 2015). Dwarf fruit trees are allowed if they are planted in containers and they do not shade other garden plots.
- d) Only organic, non-synthetic soil amendments such as compost, manure, bone meal, oyster shell lime, fish emulsion, etc. are permitted. Synthetic fertilizers (e.g. MiracleGro, Osmacote) are not permitted. Non-organic pesticides (e.g. Round-Up) are not permitted. 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).
- e) Gardeners are responsible for the maintenance and upkeep of their garden plot, including watering, weeding, harvesting, spring preparation, fall clean-up, and any other plot-related maintenance. No rugs are permitted in the gardens.

- f) Gardeners should be considerate of neighboring gardeners and the entire gardening community. Plants taller than six feet (e.g., sunflowers) should generally be planted towards the center of the plot so as not to shade neighboring gardeners' plots, unless the plot has no immediate neighbor on the planted side. Neighboring gardeners may agree to allow taller plants on their mutual borders. Plants that contain irritants (e.g., stinging nettles) should be kept away from plot edges.
- g) Gardeners are responsible for keeping plants within plot confines so as not to interfere with adjacent gardens or pathways. Appropriate exceptions, such as decorative short flowers, may be approved by the garden coordinator.
- h) Each gardener is expected to contribute time to the maintenance 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 assignments.
 - ✓ Maintenance tasks may include: the annual Spring Clean-Up Day (the last Saturday in April); mowing the common areas and paths; maintaining garden pathways, gates, and fences; cleaning up trash/litter/debris; removing rocks from the garden; turning compost; removing vegetation from fences; end of season work; etc. If in doubt as to maintenance tasks, check with the garden coordinator for suggestions.
- i) No non-garden related items may be stored in the gardens. No permanent structures (e.g. sheds) are permitted without approval from the Town. Open mesh fences and gates are permitted.
- j) Hazardous materials may not be stored at the garden.
- k) In order to conserve water (and save water costs):
 - i) Unattended watering is not permitted. You must be present at the garden to use drip hoses or sprinklers. Due to the water pressure at the Garden, hand-held watering with a hose has priority over drip hoses and sprinklers, which are restricted to times when no other gardeners are watering with hand-held hoses. ~~Unattended watering is not permitted. You must be present at the garden to use sprinklers, drip hoses etc.~~
 - ii) Talk with your garden coordinator to learn how the water system works at your garden.
 - iii) Notify the garden coordinator of any leaks in the water line or problems with the water system.
 - iv) Make sure all faucets are off when you are finished watering.
 - v) If you are the last person to leave the garden, make sure the water main has been shut off, even if you did not use the water.
- l) Place organic matter in the designated compost areas. Take all inorganic trash with you when you leave the garden. This includes plastic materials, lunch debris, plant containers, etc.
- m) A fifteen foot wide corridor around the outside perimeter of the garden fencing must be kept free of brush and trash. Gardeners with plots abutting the perimeter are responsible for maintaining the perimeter adjacent to their plot.
- n) Gardeners should prevent mosquitos from breeding by eliminating standing water within their plots or anywhere in the community gardens.

3. Plot Forfeiture

- a) Failure to comply with these policies may result in a loss of your garden plot (without refund) and/or future gardening privileges. The garden coordinator will issue one written or emailed warning to any gardener who faces the loss of their plot and/or future gardening privilege due to violation of the policies. If the gardener fails to come into compliance or arrange a suitable solution with the garden coordinator within 1 month of the date of the written warning, the gardener may be required to forfeit their plot and/or lose future gardening privileges. In cases of egregious transgressions, the garden coordinator may require immediate plot forfeiture with the approval of the Conservation Commission.

Gardeners' compliance with these policies will help everyone have an enjoyable and productive garden.