



Perry Township Community Garden Guidelines

The following guidelines have been established to ensure a safe, productive, and enjoyable growing season for all of our participants. Please read through them carefully. By submitting your annual application, you agree to abide by these rules.

1. Registration, Fees & Plot Options

- **Application Requirement:** All participants must complete the official annual application form and provide their full name, contact information, and residency status.
- **Fee Structure:** Plot fees are determined by size: \$20.00 for a 10x20' plot or \$40.00 for a 20x20' plot.
- **Liability Waiver:** By participating, gardeners agree to hold harmless the Township and fellow gardeners from any liability, damage, loss, or claim related to the use of the garden.
- **Community Engagement:** Garden meetings and work parties are scheduled throughout the season. Please plan to attend to assist with garden upkeep, special projects, and to get to know your fellow gardeners.

2. Plot Maintenance & Active Gardening

- **Spring Planting Deadline:** To keep the garden active and minimize weed spread, plots must be planted by June 1st.
- **General Upkeep:** Keep your assigned plot and its adjoining pathways tended and free of weeds. Do not leave pulled weeds in the pathways.
- **Plot Abandonment:** If a plot appears untended or unplanted for a period of 14 consecutive days without prior notice to the site manager, you will be contacted. Unresolved neglect may result in the plot being reassigned to another gardener.
- **Absences & Tapering Off:** Please notify the site manager if you need temporary help, will be out of town for an extended period, or plan to discontinue using your space so it can be cleanly transitioned.
- **Planting Constraints:** Plant tall plants and vines (such as sunflowers or corn) in locations where they will not cast excessive shade or physically interfere with a neighbor's plot. Planting illegal plants is strictly prohibited.

3. Materials, Tools & Water Management

- **Water Usage:** Please do not leave the water running unattended. When you are finished watering for the day, neatly roll up the hose at the faucet area.
- **Shared Tools:** Return all community tools to the shed and ensure the shed is securely locked before leaving the garden.
- **Waste & Composting:**
 - Place healthy weeds and dead plants into the provided compost bin.
 - Diseased plants, seedy weeds, or invasive species must be bagged and placed in the trash to prevent spreading contamination.
 - Old woody plants should be placed in the designated brush pile to be carted to the recycling center.
- **Litter:** Please pitch in and pick up litter when you see it to keep our community space clean.

4. Safety, Behavior & Courtesy

- **Property Boundaries:** Do not apply any treatments to, or harvest anything from, another person's plot without their explicit, expressed approval.
- **Tobacco Restrictions:** Smoking and chewing tobacco are strictly prohibited within the garden area. Tobacco can transmit the lethal Tobacco Mosaic Virus to tomato plants, and discarded butts contaminate the soil.
- **Prohibited Items:** For the peace and safety of all, pets, drugs (including alcohol), fires, and loud, disruptive radios/boom boxes are not allowed.
- **Supervision:** Please closely supervise children at all times while they are in the garden environment.



- Hours of Operation: For your safety, only garden during daylight hours. We recommend gardening in pairs or keeping a cell phone nearby for emergency readiness.
- Incident Reporting: Immediately report theft, vandalism, or any unusual activities to the site manager and the local police department.

5. End-of-Season Clean-Up

- Hard Deadline: October 31st. At the end of the season, all dead plants and non-plant materials (string, wire, wood, plastic, fabric, etc.) must be completely removed and disposed of properly.
- Equipment Protection: It is critical that all metal stakes, cages, and T-posts are pulled from the ground. Leftover metal severely damages the mechanical tractor equipment used to prepare and till the plots for the following spring.
- Non-Compliance: Failure to clean up your space by October 31st may result in the loss of your gardening privileges for the next season or reassignment to a smaller plot.

6. Enforcement & Giving Back

- Guideline Violations: If any of these rules are violated, you will be contacted by phone or email and given one week to remedy the issue. If the violation is not addressed after one week, gardening privileges may be revoked.
- Grow a Row: Please consider designating one row of your gardening plot to be donated to Meals on Wheels and/or a local community food pantry. Thank you for helping feed our community!

ENJOY YOUR GROWING SEASON!