



Groton Community Gardens

Rules & Regulations 2026

I. Overview

Groton Community Gardens are intended to be a beautiful and peaceful place for individuals to cultivate flowers and vegetables. The following set of rules and regulations have been designed to ensure:

- That the community gardens are a pleasant place to be and look at, for gardeners, neighbors, and the general public.
- Fairness and equity among the gardeners.

Gardening is a wonderful past time and very rewarding. Please realize the amount of time, commitment and effort that is required to keep your plot weed free, healthy and maintained takes approximately 2-3 hours weekly.

Please communicate if you are having difficulty maintaining your garden. There are many gardeners in the group who are willing to help someone in need. Failure to properly maintain your garden plot may result in non-renewal of your membership for the following year. Please reach out!

II. Who can rent a plot in the Community Gardens?

Individuals must be 18 years or older.

III. Plot Rental, Registration, Fees

1. To ensure fair access for all community members, each household may initially reserve one garden plot. After May 15, if additional plots are still available, households can rent a second plot. Please be aware that renting a second plot is for the current season only and does not guarantee you the same two plots for the following year.
2. Garden plots are issued on a year-to-year basis, **January 30th**. At the end of season, plots must be cleared by **November 15th**. If the plot is renewed, fences can remain in place.
3. Gardeners in good standing have the option to renew their garden plot(s) for the following year no later than **January 30th**. Those who do not meet the registration deadline may forfeit gardening privileges and their plot will be re-assigned to a new gardener. Payment for renewed plots must be received no later than **January 30th**. Gardens need to be cleaned and prepared for planting **by May 1**.
4. Prospective gardeners can add their name to a waiting list. When a plot becomes available, prospective gardeners will be contacted in the order they registered. Please note this is just for the year. It does not automatically assign you for the same plots the following year.
5. Gardeners who relinquish their plot may not directly transfer the plot to another gardener.

6. Plots are open daily from sunrise to sunset.

7. There are limited garden tools available. It is recommended you bring your own small shovels, spray nozzles and/or watering can.

IV. Gardener Rules

- The Groton Parks & Recreation Department has the duty of enforcing rules and making decisions based on the interest of the whole garden. They have authority to resolve conflicts, including refusing a plot to a gardener or dismissing current gardeners.
- Gardens and surrounding walkways must be kept free of weeds. **Fences must be inside the plot. Each gardener is responsible for the maintenance and upkeep of their garden plot and surrounding pathways.** Watering, weeding harvesting and any other garden related maintenance are the responsibility of the gardener. It is the plot renter's responsibility to keep the pathways clear of weeds.
- Failure to properly maintain your garden plot may result in non-renewal of your membership for the following year.
- All plots must be “naturally” grown. **NO toxic chemicals or pesticides.** Natural pest management and fertilizer may be used. For example: neem oil, horticulture oil, insecticidal soap, compost, aged manure, composting teas, IF IN QUESTION ASK!
- You must not practice any horticultural techniques that will affect adjacent plots including shading another plot or planting of invasive species. **Example: Mints, strawberries, etc. No sunflowers due to the fact they block the sun on adjacent plots.**
- A water tap is located at both sites. Make sure water is turned off after use.
- The garden is not available for commercial use; don't sell your produce.
- No dogs/pets in the garden, no smoking. Shoes are recommended.
- Cameras are located in the garden to prevent outsiders from taking your produce.
- Clean up plots must be done by November 15th.

If you see anything illegal happening, please contact Town Police at 860-441-6712 or text Eileen 860-625-1024