

Madison Community Garden Rules and Responsibilities

These rules are intended to help all gardeners grow fresh, healthy plants in a thriving garden, to help create a sense of community among gardeners, and to help the Madison Community Garden (the "Garden") be a good neighbor in the Borough of Madison. These rules are subject to change at any time as deemed necessary or beneficial by the Madison Community Garden Advisory Committee (the "Committee").

1. Plots/Season: Full plots measure twenty feet by ten feet. Half plots measure ten feet by ten feet. The garden season coincides with the calendar year and gardeners will have the right to garden their plots for the year in compliance with these Rules and Responsibilities. Household and family members may garden with the gardener.
2. Applications:
 - A. Renewals: Garden plot renewal applications will be accepted between October 1st and December 31th. Existing gardeners who do not submit completed renewal applications with payment for the following season during this period are subject to the loss of their plot. To the extent possible, gardeners will maintain their rights to plant their same plot year after year.
 - B. New Applicants: Madison residents may submit new applications for plots from January 1st through May 15th. Applications open to all will be accepted starting May 16st for the current season. Up to 10% of the plots will be available to non-residents with preference given to Madison residents at time of application. In the event plots are not available, applicants will be maintained on a waiting list for plots.
3. Fees: A fee payment of \$60 for full plots and \$30 for half plots, payable to "Borough of Madison," and marked "Madison Community Garden" will be made with the application. This fee will be refunded in the event that no plots are available. In no other event will this fee or any other expenses incurred by the gardener be refunded or reimbursed.
4. No Transfers: Gardeners may not transfer plot gardening rights to others without the written consent of the Committee.
5. Utilization: Gardens will be planted promptly. Plots not planted to at least twenty percent usage by June 1st are subject to reassignment. At any time during the season, plots that appear abandoned in the opinion of the Committee are subject to corrective action and/or reassignment if not corrected within two weeks of notice. Commercial operations are prohibited.
6. Plantings: Trees are not permitted. Any plants that extend beyond the edges of the plot area may be cut and removed during the grass path maintenance operation. Any plantings which in the opinion of the Committee grow so tall

as to cast significant shade on other plots may be subject to removal within two weeks of notice from the Committee.

7. Garden Paths: Paths must be kept clear of tools, hoses, stones, or other items to avoid impeding mowing. Material left in the paths is subject to disposal.
8. Maintenance: Plots which are excessively weedy in the opinion of the Committee are subject to reassignment if not corrected within two weeks of notice from the Committee. Diseased and pest-infested plants must be addressed or removed from the Garden premises upon discovery and identification. Gardeners will not allow standing water to collect in any structures or fixtures within their plot. Gardeners will tidy their plots for winter removing any loose structures, plantings, tools or materials.
9. Garden Care: Each plot-holder may be required to perform up to two hours of Garden maintenance outside of their assigned plot. Gardeners unable to meet this requirement can make other arrangements with the Committee. Failure to meet the work requirement will result in loss of plot renewal rights.
10. Harvest: Crops must be harvested when mature. Upon notice from the Committee, unharvested crops will be collected and donated.
11. Children/Pets: Pets or other animals may not be brought into the Garden. All children brought into the Garden must be closely supervised.
12. Waste Removal: Suitable organic plant material may be composted in the appropriate compost bins at the Garden site in accordance with the appended composting rules. All other waste materials must be carried out of the Garden site by the gardener.
13. Water: When hoses are used for watering, the gardener must ensure that the hose does not intrude upon or damage any other plots. Unattended watering is not permitted. All hoses must be promptly disconnected after use.
14. Chemicals: The use of synthetic chemical herbicides, pesticides and fertilizers is strictly prohibited. Chemically-treated and pressure-treated lumber products are prohibited. If you have any questions regarding the suitability of any products, please contact the Committee.
15. Structures/Fixtures: Structures and fixtures taller than four feet from grade which in the opinion of the Committee significantly restrict light and airflow are prohibited except by written consent of the Committee. All structures and fixtures must be removed on abandonment or termination.
16. Tobacco: Tobacco products and smoking are prohibited in the Garden.
17. Compliance with the Law: Gardeners will comply with all applicable laws and governmental regulations in all activities relating to the Garden.
18. **Failure to Comply/Termination: Failure to comply with these rules may result in termination of plot usage rights.**

Gardener Initials and Date: _____

Madison Community Garden Information

The Madison Community Garden provides an area where individuals and families can grow vegetable and flower gardens organically, share and expand gardening skills and build community friendships. Located in the Madison Recreation Complex off Ridgedale Avenue, the Garden offers a very sunny plot, water facilities, deer and rodent fencing, and plenty of community.

In return, we ask our Gardeners to:

Be Organic

- Organic methods are strongly encouraged.
- Use of synthetic herbicides and pesticides is prohibited.
- Pressure or chemically treated wood may not be used.

Be Tidy

- Spend a little maintenance time weekly to keep plots productive and attractive.
- Always keep plot and adjacent paths tidy, including the winter season.
- Harvest crops when mature. Excess crops can be donated to food banks.
- Carry out all garbage and discard unwanted plant material in the designated compost piles.

Be Considerate

- Plants and structures should not block the sun from other plots.
- Pests and diseased plants should be dealt with quickly to prevent spreading.
- Follow the composting rules
- Smoking is prohibited within the Community Garden.
- Pets are not allowed within the Community Garden.
- Commercial operations are prohibited.
- Standing water may not collect within a plot, e.g. containers should be kept upside down; raised beds should drain.
- Untended plots should be given back to the Community so others may participate.

Be Safe

- Keep tools, stones and other materials off paths.
- Keep plants within the plot boundaries.
- Supervise children.

Volunteer

- The Madison Community Garden would not exist without the effort and enthusiasm of our volunteers!
- Share your special skills and enjoy the fun of Community work crews.

Feel free to contact us at madisonnicommunitygarden@gmail.com with any questions or suggestions.

Madison Community Garden Compost Rules:

Our goal is to create quality compost that gardeners can use without worry of introducing weeds or plant disease into their plot.

1. Put your compostable plant material in the “OPEN” compost bins only. Finished compost can be taken from the “COMPOST” bin. If the “OPEN” bins are full bring your plant material to the compost area along the gravel path outside the garden gate.
2. Do not put diseased plant material in the compost bins. Diseased plants should be disposed of in the dumpster in the parking lot. If you are in doubt be safe - throw it in the dumpster not the compost bins.
3. Weeds that have not flowered or gone to seed can be put in the compost bins. Weeds that have flowered or gone to seed must be put in the organic material recycling area along the gravel path to the garden.
4. Do not put tomato fruit of any variety including tomatillos in the compost bins.
5. Do not put large or thick stalks in the compost bins. Thick stalks (sunflowers, corn, etc.) should be put in the organic material recycling area along the gravel path to the garden.
6. Knock soil off the root ball before composting.
7. Do not put non plant material in the compost bins (i.e. plant pots, tags, twine, string, landscape cloth, etc.).
8. State regulations strictly prohibit bringing any of your compostable household material (i.e. food scraps, grass clippings, leaves) to the garden compost bins.