

RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR THE COMMUNITY GARDENS LUFKINS BROOK CONSERVATION AREA, GEORGETOWN, MA

ELIGIBILITY

Any person willing to abide by these rules. All persons must sign a "Hold Harmless" agreement relieving the Town of Georgetown from any liability or damage suffered because of the use of Town land. Persons younger than eighteen years of age may sign if an adult signs with them. While plots will generally be assigned on a first come first served basis, some preference will be shown to long-time participants in the program.

THE CONSERVATION COMMISSION

The Commission will, weather and circumstances permitting, provide plowing (discontinued). Water taps will be provided during the growing season. They will mark, number and assign the plots which may be used as soon as this is done. Garden hours are Dawn to Dusk. The Town cannot be responsible for protecting plots against unauthorized picking or vandalism.

GENERAL RULES

Plots will be 30'x30' with a path around each plot (discontinued). These must be kept free of weeds and rocks.

Renters must mark their plot with a sign showing Name. If there are no signs of use by May 1st, the plot will be forfeited and reassigned.

Legal annual flowers or vegetables, except pop-corn, Chinese lanterns and Jerusalem artichokes may be grown. One-crop plantings and failure to harvest are discouraged! No trees or shrubs. Only common fertilizers, pesticides, fungicides and herbicides approved for home gardens may be used. Temporary fences, hand tools, weedwhackers and rototillers may be used. No sheds or permanent structures allowed.* **[Use of organic methods are highly recommended.** If you have questions, please contact the garden stewards.]

Watering by can, bucket and hoses permitted. Hose users must give way to hand waterers and also must not leave the garden when using hoses. This privilege will be withdrawn for all if abused by anyone

STONES, WEEDS, AND OTHER ORGANIC MATTER MUST BE REMOVED TO THE EAST OR WEST SIDE OF THE GARDENS.

MAN-MADE MATERIALS MUST BE TAKEN TO THE DUMP. Plots must be kept up, reflecting good gardening practices. Be a good gardening neighbor

Motor vehicles are not allowed in the Garden area unless delivering compost or mulch, and notification has been given to the garden steward/s. Use of the Service Row is limited to non-muddy days please.

The season ends after the 2nd snowfall.

For "permanant plots": plots must be cleared of all plastic and paper pots and other garden materials. Fences should be cleared of any weeds, but may be left in place if gardening the following season. Any plastic mulches should be rolled-up and may be stored on site. Do not leave plastic mulches in place at it may encourage over-wintering of pests and otherwise harm the area. You may however, leave mulches on wintering vegetables such as carrots, etc.

For "temporary plots" renters must COMPLETELY clean up their plots, removing all wire,fences, plastic pots and papers. All corn and sunflower stalks must be cut down and taken to the wood on the East or West sides of the Gardens. No large weeds may remain. Area must be clear for plowing. Leave no vegetation that will allow over-wintering of pests.



Garden Application, Rules and Regulations

LUFKINS BROOK CONSERVATION AREA, GEORGETOWN, MA

2012

PAYMENT BY CHECK ONLY

MADE OUT TO

"GEORGETOWN CONSERVATION COMMISSION"

MAIL THIS COUPON AND YOUR CHECK TO:

Conservation Commission
1 Library Street
GEORGETOWN, MA 01833

Garden Plot Application

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

E-Mail Address _____ PHONE _____

Attached is my check for the \$10 plot rental fee for each plot. I have read the rules and regulations and agree to abide by them. INJURY OR DAMAGE RELEASE

I, _____ of _____ do hereby release the Town of Georgetown and its affiliates and agents from any and all claims for injury or damage resulting from the Town and its affiliates and agents allowing me to use Town and related properties for gardening purposes.

SIGNATURE _____

Please indicate your desired plot placement:

Near the road (up front so I don't have to walk too far)

In the Middle of the gardens (I'm a social animal, and/or I like to take a walk around the gardens and see what other folks are doing)

Out back (keep me away from the road, I don't like listening to cars going by. I don't mind taking a hike past a few plots to get to mine).

DATE _____

PLOTS _____

Where?

Route 133, across from the Golf Course.

What?

For decades, gardeners from Georgetown and surrounding towns have been growing flowers, pumpkins, beans, etc. at the Community Gardens. A nice place with plenty of SUN! For a donation of \$10 you get a HUGE plot that measures approx. 30x30 feet! Half-lots: \$7.

How?

Fill out the attached application and make out a check to the **Georgetown Conservation Commission**. Again, the donation is \$10 per 30x30 plot with all checks made payable to the Georgetown Conservation Commission. **Call David Cavallaro at 521-0836 or Lonnie Brennan 5449 (lonnie@GeorgetownToday.org) to get your plot assignment. If you gardened last year, you get your lot back this year with your PROMPT phone call or e-mail. Any extra lots will be assigned to newbies on APRIL 10th. PLOTS ARE SCARCE NOW. WE'VE FILLED UP THE FRONT, AND NEED to reclaim more of the fallow land out back. It's been many years, so the work is VERY hard with the overgrowth. Water faucets are located throughout the area, so just bring your own hose or please share hoses.**

What can you expect?

Lots of sunshine. Lots of weeds! The place needs work. It's an old farm in need of strong hands and hearty work to reclaim areas as we continue to improve the garden plot areas.

Weeds?

We are over-run with weeds, so you are going to want to mulch (grass clippings, bark, straw, etc.) any large areas. It's also a great way to conserve water and to provide a natural environment for beneficial insects such as spiders and lady bugs. You can buy bales of straw cheap at local farms or that the Essex County Co-Op in Topsfield on Rte. 1, across

from the Topsfield Fair Grounds. For a few bucks a bundle, you're creating a great environment to keep your plants weed-free and prevent leaf diseases from soil-splashing during rainstorms. Please plant disease-resistant plants where possible.

Who Gardens at the Community Garden Plots?

A lot of your neighbors: Parents with their children, retirees. school teachers. engineers, managers, artists, flight attendants, sailors, veterans, you name it, they've been here! You don't need to live in Georgetown. We've had folks from Groveland, Haverhill, Boxford, N. Andover, Rowley, etc.. The gardeners are nice people and welcome new comers each year.

Ready, Set, Go!

CAUTION: Getting started the first year can be rough: you'll need to prepare your own garden, clear any weeds, plant a lot of things...well, just plan a LOT of work for a couple of days, then, just keep up with things by visiting the garden every couple of days to rake or water or sip a cup of coffee and watch your plants grow and stretch to the sky. **IF YOU RAKE THE DIRT IN YOUR GARDEN every few days, YOU'LL PREVENT WEED SEEDS from getting a foothold. WET NEWSPAPERS COVERED WITH STRAW ALSO WORK AS THE BEST WAY TO PREVENT WEEDS from making your fun a chore.** And spiders and beneficial insects love the cover and moisture!

Community Groups are Always Welcome!

Share a garden plot with your class, your club, your Scout Troop, etc. Grow vegetables for fun or to donate to your local church pantry!