

Gardener's Handbook  
Woodbury Community Garden Association  
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Garden at: 317 E. Red Bank Ave.  
Woodbury, NJ, 08096

This publication is meant to provide Woodbury Community Garden Association member gardeners with information about how to use and benefit from the various features available at the garden.

Gardeners are asked to read the handbook carefully, archive it, and use it as an ongoing guide to the garden.

The WCGA assumes that member gardeners will visit the garden frequently to weed, water, plant, harvest, and otherwise care for the plants within their plots. Since part of the mission of the WCGA is to provide food for persons experiencing food insecurity, gardeners are expected to contribute to that mission by caring for their plots, and by harvesting surplus vegetables for donation, as appropriate.

### Locks

- Locks on the garden gates preserve the plants within the fence from damage from deer, dogs, and from vandals or uninvited visitors.
- The combination to the locks for the gates, the water supply, and for the tool shed is the same. It changes each season. Members will be given the combination upon payment of fees.
- Members are asked to secure all locks when leaving the garden.
- Members will receive instruction about how to unlock the tool shed.

### Watering System

- Individual members will maintain the health and productivity of the plants in their plots by watering as the weather dictates
- To operate the watering system, members will
  - Open the lock on the water faucet and pull the handle up as far as possible.
  - Open the valve for each hose being operated.
  - Use the hoses as desired.
- To close the watering system, members will
  - Return the hoses to the hose reels or hose hooks, taking care to preserve the hose nozzles.
  - Close the valve.
  - Close and lock the pump, and place the bucket over the faucet.

### Tool Shed

- Members will always lock the shed to prevent theft and damage.
- The tool shed contains a lawn mower, an edger, and various hand tools, shovels, rakes, pruners, and cultivators that are for the use of gardeners. Gardeners will always
  - Clean borrowed tools when finished using them
  - Return tools to the space allotted

### Wheelbarrows/Wagons/Weed Buckets/Watering Cans

- Members may use these items which are not stored in the tool shed.
- Members are asked to report breakage or damage to those items to the Executive Property Manager

### Plot Borders

- Maintaining plot borders is the responsibility of members.
  - Plot borders are necessary

- To maintain space between plots for walking, working, and for mowing
- To be aware of plants that are growing outside of borders which may impede mowing or interfere with another member's plantings.
- Members must use surveyed markers to determine plot borders. If markers are unclear, gardeners must consult the Executive Property Manager
- Some materials may be available free of charge to members to maintain borders.
- Members *must* make application to the Executive Property Manager if they wish to build borders or constructions that are unique or specialized.

#### Weeding/Cultivating/Mulching

- Individual members will be responsible for removing weeds and other unwanted plant material at the beginning and at the end of each season.
- Individual members will be responsible for weeding their plots throughout the growing season to maintain good growing conditions.
- Individual members will be responsible for cultivating and mulching plots to maintain good growing conditions.
- Individual members will dispose of spent plant materials in the compost bin along the driveway, and weeds in the woods along the driveway.

#### Soil Amendment

- Individual members will use only organic amendments and fertilizers to amend the soil in their plots.
  - Some soil amendments may be available free of charge.

#### Planting

- Members are encouraged to plant a variety of crops throughout the growing season.
  - Members may plant as soon as conditions allow and into the late fall and winter months, depending on the crop and its requirements.
- Members are strongly encouraged to plant mostly annual crops rather than perennials, shrubs, and trees.
  - Members may not plant invasive varieties of plants such as common milkweed, morning glory, garlic mustard, and some perennial herbs such as mint and oregano. Perennial herbs may be grown in pots that can be placed inside plots and lifted to remove them.
    - Members will be responsible for removing perennial plants at the time of their departure from membership in the garden. This includes small shrubs, perennial flowers, and perennial fruits and vegetables such as asparagus and strawberries, as well as herbs.

#### Pesticides/Herbicides/Fungicides

- Gardeners will use only organic methods to treat plant diseases and pest infestations.

#### Garden Furnishings

- Gardeners may use small fences, row covers, cages, and other supports within their individual plots, while keeping in mind that they are maintained within each plot and do not interfere with walking/mowing paths or a neighboring plot.
- Gardeners may find some garden furnishings at the garden for their use, free of charge.
- Garden furnishings in the plots of departing members must be removed by **March 1** of each year or they will become property of the WCGA for use by other gardeners. Furnishings that are removed may be donated to the garden.

#### Children and Pets in the Garden

- Children are most welcome in the garden.
  - Children must be monitored so that they are safe and so that they do not damage plants in other members' plots
- Pets are welcome but must be leashed to prevent damage to members' plots and plantings. Members must clean up after their pets as necessary.

### General Safety

- Gates
  - To prevent unwanted visitors such as dogs from entering the fenced garden, members will keep the gates closed as much as possible when they are working inside.
- Masking
  - The WCGA recommends that masks be worn when other gardeners are present in the garden unless there is a 12 foot distance between persons. People may mask at any time when in the garden, as desired.
- Smoking
  - There is no smoking within the fenced area of the garden.
- Tools and Supplies
  - Members will use tools and equipment safely so that other gardeners can walk and move safely without stepping or tripping on equipment
  - Gardeners will report broken equipment, problems with locks, or other maintenance concerns to the Executive Property Manager.
- Guests in the Garden
  - Members' guests are most welcome in the garden. Members are responsible for their safety and will ensure that guests respect the garden by enjoying it without interfering with the work of other gardeners.

### Departing Members

Despite good intentions to continue membership into a new growing season, some members experience situations that compel them to leave.

Departing members are asked to inform the Garden Director of their decision to leave as soon as they are able.

***Departing members MUST*** clear their plot of weeds, dead plant materials, plot furnishings, and perennial plants or herbs, by March 1, before the beginning of the next season, ***as required by the member contract.***

### WCGA Board Members

Amélie Harris-McGeehan, Garden Director ([ameliebhm@yahoo.com](mailto:ameliebhm@yahoo.com)) (cell # 609-820~2172)

Asst. Director-position vacant

Thomas Mirochna-Treasurer ([tmirochna@me.com](mailto:tmirochna@me.com)) (#609-471-2866)

Camille Sauerwald-Secretary ([camille.sauerwald@gmail.com](mailto:camille.sauerwald@gmail.com)) (856-889-7443)

Richard McGeehan-Executive Property Manager ([richardmcgeehan@yahoo.com](mailto:richardmcgeehan@yahoo.com))