



Town of Boscawen Community Garden April 1st to October 31st, 2024 Season Gardener Rules and Guidelines

This Community Garden is open to people of all ages, who wish to grow their own food or provide produce to local food pantries, soup kitchens, or charities. **Produce from your plot shall not be sold.** Gardeners understand that this is a community garden. In order to succeed, gardener support is needed to maintain the site, manage compost, and help with related tasks. Preference is given to Town of Boscawen residents and individuals who work in Boscawen, but are not residents. If you live out of town, you may be placed on a wait list. Special needs accommodation will be provided on a case-by-case basis. We expect harmony between the eldest and youngest, and courtesy to all.

The Town of Boscawen prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, religion, age, disability, marital or family status. The Town of Boscawen is an equal opportunity employer.

LEASE REQUIREMENTS, PAYMENT AND PLOT AGREEMENTS

Each gardener must complete the following before any work in the garden can begin: an application form which includes an Indemnification and Hold Harmless clause; acceptance of and agreement to abide by all terms, conditions, and gardening rules and regulations; payment in full for the plot(s).

- The garden is open seven days a week, from dawn to dusk.
- The fee for a 12' x 12' plot (144 square feet) is \$15.00 per gardening season payable with the application. If four adjacent plots are available, the cost of this 24x24 (576 square feet) plot is \$45, or one plot free. Plot fees include use of the plot and water for the 2024 gardening season.
- Plots are assigned by the Boscawen Agricultural Commission or assigned representative, on a first come/first serve basis.
- **Pets are not allowed at the garden site.** Ensure that pets are not shut in cars while you are at the garden plot. They are better left at home while you garden. Only service animals are allowed.
- Smoking, alcoholic beverages, and illegal drugs are not allowed on any part of the Community Garden site at any time.
- **Planting on assigned plots shall be started no later than June 10, 2024.** Plots that are unattended by this deadline are assumed to be abandoned. They are forfeited without refund and may be reassigned. Garden plots must be cared for at least once a week.
- The plot holder shall be present and responsible for guests or visitors at their garden plot.
- Fall Garden cleanup, including removal of all fencing, dead plants, non-organic weed barriers, tomato cages and other temporary supports/materials must be accomplished by October 31st, to

be ready for soil amendments, rototilling, and adding compost. Please bring untreated leaves for the compost bin, if able.

- Do not plant trees or shrubs. If it is woody, it is not allowed. If you have questions about plants, weeding, amendments, insect control and related matters, ask one of the Master Gardeners. They are here to help; their knowledge is invaluable.
- These guidelines and rules are intended for the health and safety of all participants. Infringement of these guidelines and/or rules may ultimately result in termination, without a refund. The first step would be a face-to-face conversation between the gardener and a member of the Boscawen Agricultural Commission or a Garden Committee member focusing on compliance with a specific guideline and/or rule be followed from the date of the conversation forward. If necessary, the second step would be a written notice from the Boscawen Agriculture Commission to the gardener, to stop the infringement. The third step, if necessary, will result in termination of garden privileges for the current gardening year. A gardener whose privileges have been terminated the prior year may be reinstated on a case by case basis.

GARDENING RULES

1. **Make sure that your crops and/or equipment do not interfere with adjacent plots or walkways.** Keep pathways free of rocks and sticks, pulled weeds and debris to enable mowing of all pathways.
2. Keep pests and fungus such as squash bugs or tomato blight in your plot under control. Gardeners are required to use an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) approach to pest and fungus control. Ready-to-use **organic** insecticides may be applied as a **last resort** after your pest problem is properly identified and after speaking with a Master Gardener or a member of the Garden Committee. **Ensure that you read the label thoroughly, understand it, and that it is an approved product by O.M.R.I. or the E.P.A. for the specific pest needing management before use. The label is the law.** Read and make sure you understand all IPM handouts that you receive throughout the growing season.
3. Weed control requires the use of cultivating tools, hoes, and sometimes getting down on your hands and knees and simply pulling, which is easier done when the soil is damp. Remember to clean your tools thoroughly after every use to limit the spread of pests. Keep insects in your plot under control. Mulch and/or weed barriers (hay, straw, leaves, cardboard, newspaper, barrier cloth) are encouraged.
4. **The use of herbicides in the Community Garden is prohibited.**
5. The use of small power equipment, such as small rototillers, reel mowers, power mowers, and weed whackers, is allowed. Use of this equipment must not interfere with anyone's plot, crop, or pathway. Please take extreme care NOT TO sever irrigation lines. There are no electrical outlets on site. If you are in doubt about anything pertaining to the Community Garden, contact the Agricultural Commission at kgallagher@boscawennh.gov or call 603-753-9188 x 2322 or rashby@boscawennh.gov or call 603-753-9188 x 2321 and leave a message for a member of the Garden Committee.

6. Gardeners will provide their own seeds, plants, organic fertilizer and tools for their own use. Compost **may** be available on site.
7. Park in designated areas only, not in travel lanes. Do not block circular drive unless unloading items. **Please, do not enter through the cemetery.**
8. Remove all litter. This is a carry in, carry out site. **Keep the pathways free of wood and sticks, pulled weeds, and debris to enable path mowing.**
9. The compost bins are for compost material only including: untreated clean grass clippings and leaves. Please do not put any weeds or garden plants in the bins. They carry seed, insects and fungus. Absolutely no pet waste, dairy product or meat products are allowed in the compost bins.
10. Gardeners are responsible for updating their contact information as necessary with the Agricultural Commission. Please contact kgallagher@boscowennh.gov or rashby@boscowennh.gov with any updates. It is the gardener's responsibility to be aware that these Gardener Rules and Guidelines may change from time to time.
11. Glass containers are prohibited in the Community Garden.
12. Electric fences are prohibited in the community garden.
13. Gardeners may only harvest vegetables and flowers from their plot.

GARDENING GUIDELINES

1. Be considerate of your neighbors, keep plots weeded and checked for pests and fungus. The best solution to control pests or fungi infestations is to check the plants weekly for damage and remove pest or affected plant material.
2. The Agricultural Commission **may** be offering an Integrated Pest Management class as well as a "Hands on" workshop at the Community Garden. The content, dates and times to be determined. Notification will be sent to gardeners as early as possible. Please plan to attend at least one workshop. Gardeners and their families are welcome to all these free workshops.
3. Please harvest all crops as they ripen. Possible use of any surplus can be discussed with a Garden Committee Member and/or taken to a local food charity. The Boscowen Community Garden-Ken Marshall Memorial Garden now has two garden plots dedicated to New Hampshire Gleans. NH Gleans is a network which increases the availability of fresh, local produce for food pantries, soup kitchens, community suppers, and the school Back Pack Program. As you plan your garden, please consider, planting a row for your neighbors in need. In addition, consider donating plants, seeds, or produce to NH Gleans. This valuable program helps those in our community experiencing food insecurity. For more information or produce drop off contact Stacey Luke, District Manager, Merrimack County Conservation District (MCCD) 603-223-6020 or by email info@merrimackccd.org

4. The Agricultural Commission encourages doing business with local merchants.
5. A list of local food charities and their intake hours will be posted at the Community Garden Kiosk.
6. If you see active vandalism or theft, or if you see someone in the garden between dusk and dawn call the Boscawen Police Department at 603-753-9124. Help to discourage losses by talking with unfamiliar individuals. Get to know your gardening neighbors and who belongs on site as a gardener or volunteer.
7. **The use of mulches such as leaves, grass clippings, and straw is encouraged for water conservation and weed control. Synthetic mulch may be used but must be removed by the end of the season.**
8. The irrigation system is designed to provide each four plot cluster with a spigot. **Please do not drag your hose over other gardener's plots.**
9. Water is supplied to us by the Penacook-Boscawen Water Precinct (PBWP). The use of water is a privilege for gardening use only. Please conserve water by watering plants in the morning or evening when possible, rather than in the heat of the day. Apply water at the base of plants where possible. Keep hoses and connections in good repair. **Unattended watering is never permitted.** **Gardeners need to be diligent in shutting the water off after each use. If there is a water line leak, or unattended watering, first turn off the water line valve by the cemetery, so flooding does not occur to adjacent plots, then contact Jeff at 603-856-3298.**
10. Dress appropriately and carry drinking water with you. This Community Garden is open to intense sun and widely varied weather conditions. If thunderstorms are imminent take heed. Sunscreen, long pants, suitable footwear (not sandals), long sleeves, hat, insect repellent, and a rain poncho might all be suitable, depending on the circumstances of the day. As New Hampshire is the tick and Lyme Disease capital of the world, do tick checks after being in the garden. White or beige clothes make a better background to show ticks than dark clothing.
11. Musical enjoyment is a matter of personal taste. Private listening devices are welcome, public music is not. Many people like to experience their garden in silent contemplation.

We hope all gardeners have a successful gardening season!