

## **Rock County Farm**

### **Community Garden Rules and Regulations 2020**

**The Community Gardens are still anticipated to open in spring of 2020, please avoid sharing gardening tools and be respectful of others space. A hand sanitizer station will be placed at the gardens, please remember to practice social distancing to minimize COVID-19 risks. Updates will be provided as they are available.**

#### ***Plot Size and Boundary Stakes***

The garden plots are approximately 20 feet by 25 feet (500 sq. ft.) Each plot will be marked with a numbered flag. Please plant so you maintain a 2 foot "buffer" around the border. This will minimize plants growing into your neighbor's plot or the walkway.

#### ***Community Garden Opening Date***

The garden will officially open in early May. Be aware of communications regarding opening day around this time.

#### ***Pets***

Pets are not allowed in the community gardens.

#### ***Safety and Courtesy***

Children must be supervised at all times by adults in the community gardens. If children are within the garden, they must stay in their own family's plot or on established paths. Do not enter or allow your children to enter other garden plots for any reason.

Some areas around the garden site may be marked "No Trespassing." Please observe these signs. Gardeners and their children must not enter research fields adjacent to garden sites.

Plant only within the corner stakes that mark your garden plot. Do not allow vine crops to grow into garden paths or neighboring plots.

Walk only on walkways provided in the garden area and on your own plot.

Anyone who vandalizes or steals from someone else's garden plot will not be allowed to participate in the Community Garden Program.

#### ***Garbage and Composting***

There is no garbage pick-up at the garden site. All trash (containers, paper, etc.) and other refuse **MUST** be taken with you. Plant materials should be deposited in the designated compost area (preferably chopped up), and rocks should be put in the rock

collection area of the garden. (Located next to the compost area.) Do not put brush or garbage in the compost pile.

### ***Fertilizing and Mulching***

Gardeners may apply organic (such as composted plants and manure) or chemical fertilizer (such as 10-10-10) to garden plots. Make sure that chemical fertilizers do not also contain pesticides, as these products are not allowed in the gardens. Follow application rates for commercial products carefully, as excess chemical fertilizers can burn plants and/or reduce seed germination. Manure, compost and leaf mulch may be available to community gardeners at designated locations within the gardens. Straw, leaves, and newspaper are also options. Be sure to cover newspapers with soil or leaf mulch to prevent it from blowing away. Plastic or weed cloth may NOT be used because it interferes with maintenance.

Gardeners may recycle plant material within their own garden plots, or use compost from the compost bin in the community garden. Please do not deposit household materials in the compost pile.

Compost is sometimes available at the garden. Please help yourself, while supplies last.

### ***Garden Neglect and Weed Control***

Gardens and pathways must be kept free of weeds. Gardeners are responsible for weeding their gardens and the borders of the area. The garden is in public display and a neat garden appearance is important. Also, the fewer the weeds, the higher the yield potential. Weeds spread seeds to adjacent garden plots and cause problems for other gardeners. Hoeing and hand weeding to control weeds, as well as mulching, are very important.

Gardeners need to maintain a clean-looking plot. Those who have neglected garden plots will be notified and given two weeks to remove weeds. If a gardener does not comply, the garden plot will be mowed, and the gardener will lose the community gardening privileges for the following year. The decision is at the UW-Extension staff discretion.

### ***Authorized People***

Only garden participants, people the gardeners invite, or other authorized personnel with business at the site are permitted in the garden site.

### ***Water***

Water is available at the garden site. The water hydrants have multiple faucets for hose attachment. **Due to COVID-19 Community hoses will not be available when the garden opens to help decrease the possibility of the virus spreading and encourage social distancing.** When risks minimize community hoses may be put out later in the growing season, gardeners are asked to bring their own containers and hoses for watering at this time and please limit sharing for health reasons.

### ***Soil Preparation***

Gardeners may use hand tools or gas-powered roto-tillers in the community garden. Garden plots will be tilled once just prior to the opening of the garden.

Additional tillage is the responsibility of the gardeners.

### ***Pesticide Use***

Pesticides are chemicals used to kill or repel pests. Pesticides include herbicides (which kill weeds), insecticides (which kill insects) and fungicides (which kill fungi). Pesticides can pose a threat to animals, plants and insects beyond the target pest. For this reason, insecticides and herbicide use in the community garden is strictly limited. Please contact the UW-Extension staff with questions regarding pesticide use.

### ***Garden Cancellation***

If you choose not to use your garden plot, please contact the UW-Extension Rock County Office at (608) 757-5066 so plots may be reassigned. There will be no refund after May 1.

### ***Donation of Excess Production***

Gardeners are encouraged to donate excess production to local food pantries. A designated area will be established for gardeners to drop off excess produce.

### ***Jail inmates***

Jail inmates often work in the community garden area.

If you observe inappropriate behavior or hear inappropriate language please report it to both the Rock County Sheriff's Office (608) 757-8018 **AND** the UW-Extension Rock County Office (608) 757-5066.

Be sure to report the date and time of the observed incident and your name and contact information for follow up, if need be.

### ***Garden Closing Date***

The Community Garden will close on October 31, 2020. Gardeners are required to clean plots and place vegetation on compost pile. After the closing date, any items left behind will be disposed of at the discretion of UW-Extension.