

Rock County Farm

Community Garden Rules and Regulations 2021

COVID-19 Guidelines

The Community Gardens will still open as scheduled for 2021, pending any changes with the ongoing Covid situation. Updates will be provided as they are available.

Our priority is to keep the users of the garden and the community safe. Please follow these guidelines to keep everyone safe and the gardens open:

- If you are feeling ill for any reason stay home.
- Keep your distance between you and other gardeners, allowing 6 feet of space.
- Wash your hands frequently and bring hand sanitizer.
- Bring your own tools and avoid sharing.
- If using a shared hose or water source, please sanitize after use.
- Wearing a mask is recommended.
- Only garden participants and their household members should come to the garden to maintain the plot.

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 and people within their household 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. Community hoses are available for use by all gardeners. If using a shared hose or water source, please sanitize after use.

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 and pesticide use is prohibited in the gardens. 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 prohibited. Please contact Horticulture Educator, Julie Hill at Julie.hill@wisc.edu with questions regarding pesticide use.

Garden Cancellation

If you choose not to use your garden plot, please contact the 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.

RECAP Participants

Sheriff's Office RECAP participants 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 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, 2021. 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.