

TOWN OF GUILDERLAND
COMMUNITY GARDENS at
Tawasentha Park



Rules of the Row

ORGANIC GARDEN

1. The use of insecticide and fungicide made from synthetic chemical materials are prohibited: rotenone, pyrethrum and safer soap which are derived from organic sources are permitted. There may be limited use of herbicide along the perimeter fence if needed. Gardeners are invited to trim weeds along the fence thereby reducing the need for herbicide.

2. **COMPOST:** Compost makes excellent mulch. Compost bins are best constructed away from the garden lot line. The use of plastic and other non-porous materials for ground cover is prohibited.

GARDEN PATHS

3. Garden lots have access paths between them. These paths should be at least 4 feet wide. Leave adequate space for plant growth so as not to encroach in or over the paths.

4. Avoid stepping off the access paths and into other garden lots. Gardeners have their own methods of planting which may be damaged in the process.

5. The access and perimeter paths must be free of garden tools, weeds and other debris so as not to create a hazard or to impede maintenance. Such items that are temporarily placed on the paths must be removed before the end of the day. If a gardener continues to violate this rule after receiving two written warning letters, membership will be terminated. Note: the town will mow the perimeter paths provided they are free of garden tools, hoses, rocks and other objects. Gardeners may store garden tools and supplies at their lots or in the barn. Please store items in the barn neatly.

6. **WATER: watering with a hand-held hose nozzle** is required (no open ended hoses). The Town of Guilderland prohibits the use of water sprinklers in vegetable gardens. Leaking hoses should be repaired or replaced. If a drip or soaker hose is **connected to a gardens' water faucet**, the gardener must be present while in operation.

GARDEN MANAGEMENT

7. The community gardens is part of the Department of Parks and Recreation. Besides a town-appointed gardens' Coordinator, general oversight is exercised by a **Gardens' Advisory Committee**. Except for first-year gardeners, a gardener in good standing may apply to be considered for membership on the Committee. Gardeners should note their interest to participate in the "Comments" space on the annual **Gardens Application Form**.

8: Gardeners wishing to submit comments or suggestions at any time to the Advisory Committee should do so by email to OrganicGardening@aol.com or in writing and send or dropped off at the Parks' Department Office, Attention: **Gardens Advisory Committee**.

9. RADIOS: the use of headphones is required so as not to disturb the tranquility of the gardens.

10. TOBACCO: the tobacco mosaic virus (TMV) is one of the oldest known diseases of the plant world. Tobacco is prohibited from all areas in **and in the vicinity of** the community gardens. The prohibition includes any use of tobacco such as smoking or chewing as well as the open display of a tobacco product. Cigarette butts should be deposited in your vehicle's ash tray before leaving your vehicle. Do not toss butts on the ground. Such litter detracts from the cleanliness of the park and is a hazard to birds and other animal residents.

11. GUESTS: the gardens and hoop house are accessible to the gardeners and their immediate families. Guests may enter these areas **only when the gardener is present**.

12. PARENTS: children are most welcome. However, please monitor their behavior at all times.

13. DOGS: the town of Guilderland laws apply to Tawasentha Park, i.e., leashes and "pick-up" is required. Dogs are not permitted in the gardening area proper because of potential disease from dog feces.

14. GARDEN GATES: the last gardener to leave the garden regardless to the time of day should close the gates.

15. GARDEN LOTS: First-year gardeners shall be assigned no more than one garden lot. In subsequent years, each gardener is limited to a maximum of two garden lots, if available, allocated on procedures specified in the *Garden Lot Assignment Process*, a copy of which is available upon request. Renewing gardeners shall be entitled to the lot(s) assigned in the previous year subject to their compliance with the *Rules of the Row*. Due to obligations and needs related to garden management responsibilities, the Gardens' Coordinator is exempt from the two-lot limitation.

16. GARDEN PLANTING AND MAINTENANCE: gardeners are expected to maintain an orderly garden relatively free of excess weeds. Landscaping cloth can help control weeds; plastic covering is not permitted. Subject to soil conditions, garden lots should be prepared for planting no later than May 31 and planting in full-swing by June 10. An inspection of the gardens will be conducted **in July and in August**. Gardeners with neglected gardens will be notified that clean-up is required within 10 days. If clean-up does not occur, the gardener will be notified by registered mail that their membership is revoked. The lot will then be reassigned. Note: if additional time is needed or if there are extenuating circumstances, it is the gardener's responsibility to contact the garden's coordinator.

17. REMEMBER THE NEEDY: gardeners are encouraged to donate excess produce to the needy. Gardeners who leave substantial produce not harvested after the gardening season may be assigned a smaller lot the following year.

18. GLASS CONTAINERS ARE PROHIBITED FROM THE GARDENS: containers, bags, etc. should be secured so as not to blow around and detract from the orderliness of the gardens.

19. TREES: dwarf fruit-bearing trees are permitted but shall not exceed 12 feet in height at any

time during the growing season. Also, such trees shall be located on the lot so as not to shade adjoining gardens between hours of **11am to 4pm**. Conifers and deciduous trees are not permitted.

20. LIABILITY: Space permitting, gardeners may store equipment and supplies at their assigned garden lot(s), at their assigned hoop house space and in the barn. In so doing, gardeners will be fully responsible for the loss of any such items regardless of the reason for the loss.

HOOP HOUSE

21. PLANT PROTECTION: since there is no auxiliary heat in the hoop house, plants should be protected when low temperatures threaten.

22. DISEASED PLANTS: monitor plant health; diseased plants should be removed from the hoop house.

23. POTTING BENCH: remove all excess soil from the potting benches after each use.

24. HOOP HOUSE TOOLS/MATERIALS: only such items that are used in the hoop house may be stored under the gardener’s assigned bench space. Please keep assigned hoop house area clean and neat at all times.

25. ASSIGNED BENCH SPACE: Gardeners are expected to actively use all assigned bench space to grow seedlings for their garden. Placing objects on the bench not related to growing plants or placing plants or seed flats on the bench to act as a place-holder but otherwise neglecting their care will result in the gardener forfeiting hoop house privileges the following year.

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GARDEN LOT ASSIGNMENT PROCESS

Each year, gardeners will be entitled to the lot(s) assigned in the previous year subject to their compliance with the *Rules of the Row*.

Vacant lots will be assigned each spring according to the following priorities.

1. Renewing gardeners assigned to a smaller garden lot designated with a number and letter, i.e., “3a”, may upgrade to a full size lot. In the process, the gardener must give up the smaller lot. (All garden lots designated with a number and letter are considered smaller lots for this purpose.)
2. Renewing gardeners with one or more full-size lots (without a letter designation) may exchange a lot(s) for another lot(s) of equal numbers.
3. New applicants will be accommodated as available space is identified. Only one lot will be assigned to a first year gardener.
4. After all new applicants are accommodated and if available space remains, existing gardeners who have one lot may be assigned a second lot. Such additional assignments will be made during the first week in June.

5. If any lots remain available after the above priorities are followed, such remaining lots may be assigned to a gardener for one year only. If the additional lot requires substantial clean-up, an additional year may be assigned for that lot.
6. Lot assignments will be made in accordance with membership year seniority.

3/09/21