

## Meadow Terrace Community Garden Guidelines

### GARDEN CONTACTS

- ⇒ **Site coordinator:** Juan Alvez: [jpacruz@hotmail.com](mailto:jpacruz@hotmail.com)
- ⇒ **Program Director:** Julie Shorter: 802-878-1375 or [jshorter@ejrp.org](mailto:jshorter@ejrp.org)

### GENERAL GARDEN INFORMATION

- The Meadow Terrace Gardens are located next to the Center for Technology Essex Natural Resources Building. Sites are open from dawn to dusk. Water is available on site from Mid-May through Mid-September. Meadow Terrace has both no-till and tilled (in the spring) plots.
- The gardens are not fenced in, regularly patrolled, or closed in anyway. Please be aware that theft of produce or items can happen.
- Gardeners may rent 1 garden plot for their initial year. Returning gardeners will be given their same plot unless they indicate otherwise, or reasonable contact has been attempted with no response.

### GARDEN AGREEMENT

*By signing the registration form you agree to adhere to the following guidelines. Understand that if you fail to meet these requirements you risk losing your plot and being uninvited for the following year, or charged a cleaning fee.*

- **Show some sign of gardening by May 25** or have contacted a garden coordinator. If you have not spoken with the coordinator or started your garden by May 25, your garden may be reassigned to someone on the waiting list. Abandoned plots may be reassigned. There are no refunds for reassigned plots.
- Only organic gardening is allowed at Meadow Terrace. Organic insect controls include Bt (a bacterium), rotenone, pyrethrum, Neem, copper soaps, and various homemade remedies. *Please use caution and read instructions before applying any pesticide.* Sources for organic pest controls include Gardener's Supply Company and [gardensalive.com](http://gardensalive.com). Organic gardening involves three main principles:
  1. Feed the soil by using compost and cover crops to add organic matter and nutrients. Chemical fertilizers such as MiracleGro are not used in organic gardening.
  2. Apply natural mulches (such as hay or straw) to suppress weeds, reduce water loss, and add organic matter to the soil.
  3. Use natural, botanical, and biological insect controls to avoid harming beneficial organisms and pollinators. Synthetic pesticides are not used in organic gardening, as they can have unwelcome side effects to plants, wildlife, and people.
- The following applies to ONLY those with no-till plots:
  - You may create permanent beds and paths and small structures like trellises. **No large permanent structures**, like sheds.
  - You may plant perennial flowers, herbs and bulbs (garlic!), but not woody perennials, brambles or trees.

- You may begin gardening anytime in the Spring, even before water lines are installed.
- Exercise good land stewardship. This includes removing all trash and maintaining walkways and borders adjacent to your plot. There will be no intentional planting in walkways- plant one foot in from adjoining gardens. **Keep your plot edges neatly trimmed.** Do not remove sticks or dead trees from the woods to use in garden. Never leave materials by the shed, regardless of their condition. **Landscape fabric, black or colored plastic, and newspaper** are not allowed as they are ineffective for weed control in a community garden and difficult to remove after use. Instead, use recyclable brown paper to cover beds.
- Please water in the morning or evening and apply water at the base of plants where possible. Keep hoses in good repair. **Sprinklers, soaker hoses, underground water systems, and unattended watering are not allowed.** Use hay or straw as mulch to reduce evaporation. Turn off the main valves when leaving the garden.
- Grow only flowers, vegetables, fruits, and herbs. The raising of farm animals or any animals, is not permitted. Growing of any tobacco or marijuana (including hemp) products is not permitted.
- No pets inside the garden.
- Children are welcome in the garden, within the pathways.
- Be a good neighbor, which includes:
  - Being open, accepting, respectful and inclusive of everyone
  - Exercising patience, mindfulness and understanding towards others
  - Participating in productive communication and maintaining a spirit of cooperation with fellow gardeners.
  - Getting to know your fellow gardeners.
- Clean up your plot at the end of the season:
  - Tilled Plots Only: clear all inorganic materials (stakes, strings, trellises, rocks, burlap, fencing, twine, stakes, plastic, etc.) and cut up corn stalks, sunflowers, and anything with woody stems, like broccoli on or before October 18, 2026. We encourage you to leave plant and weed material in the garden, spread out, to be tilled under.
  - No-Till Plots Only: following tilled plot guidelines if you do not plan on returning the following season, otherwise all material may remain in place.

## IMPORTANT DATES

**March 13**– Due Date for Application with Fee

**May 1**– Gardens due to open (but check any time after April 20)

**May 25** – All gardeners must show some sign of gardening or contact your coordinator

**October 18**– All materials brought into the garden, and stakes, must be cleared (see above)

These guidelines are intended for the health, safety, and satisfaction of all. If you have questions, suggestions, or are experiencing a problem, please talk with your site coordinator or the program director. Thanks for your help and have a great season in the garden!