



75 Maple Street
Essex Junction, VT 05452
802-878-1375

West Street Community Gardens Guidelines

GARDEN CONTACTS

- ⇒ **Site coordinators:** Kathy Rouleau: 802-324-0248 or lemonfair.21@gmail.com
Beth Paul: 802-343-4738 or isabetty@aol.com
- ⇒ **Program Director:** Julie Shorter: 802-878-1375 or jshorter@ejrp.org

GENERAL GARDEN INFORMATION

The West Street Gardens are located at the State Tree Nursery on West Street in Essex Junction. Sites are open from dawn to dusk. Water is available on site from Mid-May through Mid-September. All plots in **rows A-J are tilled** in the spring. All plots in **rows L-S are no-till**.

The gardens are not fenced in, regularly patrolled, or closed in any way. Please be aware that theft of produce or items can happen.

New gardeners may rent 1 garden plot for their initial year. Returning gardeners may request a maximum of 2 gardens. Returning gardeners will be given their same plot unless they indicate otherwise, or reasonable contact has been attempted with no response.

- Cover crops are encouraged. Speak to your coordinator for suggestions and sources.
- Gardeners in rows A-J who want a no-till plot may inquire about moving to a plot in row L-S. If there is an open plot available, we can make this accommodation.
- Gardeners in rows L-S who want a tilled plot may inquire about moving to a plot in row A-J. If there is an open plot available, we can make this accommodation.
- 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.

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.



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- 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. Do not remove sticks or dead trees from the woods to use in your garden. Never leave materials by the shed, other than corner stakes, regardless of their condition. Leave nothing on the grass of exterior plots, so the state can mow.
- Do not leave the water on and unattended. Do not drive over water lines or move them. Turn off the main valve for your section and remove hoses from spigot when leaving. *Please check in with a coordinator to ensure the proper procedure.* Do not place hoses on mowed areas. Notify your site coordinators or the Essex Junction Recreation & Parks Department (878-1375) immediately of broken pipes, leaky water lines, or other water issues.
- 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.
- Always keep pets under control and out of other gardeners' gardens.
- 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 11, 2026. No materials should be left by the shed, other than corner stakes, regardless of condition. We encourage you to leave plant and weed material in the garden, spread out, to be tilled under. Do not dump in the woods.
 - 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 11– 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!