



Keith Chapman
Town Manager

TOWN OF NEWINGTON

200 Garfield Street Newington, Connecticut 06111

Parks & Recreation Department

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COMMUNITY GARDENS - RULES (2021)

The Community Gardens are located next to the farmhouse at the Deming Young Farm, 282 Church Street in Newington, CT. The 20 x 20 foot garden plots are available to Newington residents only; one garden plot per household. The cost for each garden plot is \$35.00. Each garden plot will be rototilled and staked by the Town and will be ready by late May (weather permitting). Water will be available. Please bring a watering can.

- Rocks and debris must be kept out of the pathways and mowing areas; place rocks in designated areas only.
- Use only Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) approved organic pesticides.
- All cleanup and removal of non-degradable items from garden plots must be completed by **October 15, 2021**.
- If garden plots are not claimed or worked on by **July 1**, they will become available to another resident.
- Permanent fixtures (watering systems, etc.) or sprinklers of any kind may not be used on garden plots.
- An adult must be present when any watering is done. Irresponsible use (e.g., leaving faucets running, letting children play in the gardens) will not be tolerated.
- Pets must be on a leash and attended to at all times.
- Bicycles are not allowed on garden walkways or garden plots.

- **BEGINNING PLANTING DATE:** Garden plots will be available for use once the gardens have been rototilled and staked, which is expected to occur in late May (weather permitting). **You may begin using your garden plot when the numbered stakes marking garden plot boundaries are in place. BE SURE YOU ARE ONLY WORKING IN YOUR RESERVED GARDEN PLOT.**

- **COMPOST & MULCH:** For weed suppression, we strongly encourage gardeners to use *biodegradable* mulch such as straw, grass clippings, biodegradable mats, etc. **Materials that do not decompose, such as carpet, black plastic, fabric weed barrier, etc. must be removed by October 15, 2021.**

- **REFUSE:** An area is designated at each garden site for weeds and organic waste to be stockpiled. Other areas are designated for rocks. **Trash cans will not be supplied. Please remove your own non-organic trash (paper, plant pots, etc.) from the garden area.** Do not throw litter or refuse elsewhere in the garden area.

- **VANDALISM:** Security is not provided. Vandalism and theft can be a problem, especially during harvesting season. If you notice unauthorized people in the gardens or suspicious activity, please help your gardening neighbors by calling the Newington Police Department at 860-666-8445.

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- **WEEDY / UNCARED FOR GARDEN PLOTS:** These garden plots are a potential source of weed seeds and pests and contribute to a ragged appearance. **Neglected garden plots may be cleared and/or reassigned if the gardener does not take appropriate action within two weeks of notification.** If you plan to be on vacation for an extended period of time, please ask a neighboring gardener, relative, or friend to care for your garden plot in your absence. If you wish to discontinue using your garden plot, please call the Newington Parks & Recreation Department at 860-665-8666.
- **WATER:** The water faucets are shared with other gardeners. Please let the Newington Parks & Recreation Department know if the faucets are not working properly.
- **GARDEN MAINTENANCE:** Individual garden plots and adjacent pathways shall be maintained by the gardeners.
- **BE NEIGHBORLY:** Be a good neighbor to your fellow gardeners. Do not exceed your own garden boundaries. Be considerate when using water, hoses, mulch, etc. Please keep a clear path between gardens. Please discard unwanted or unnecessary items properly. **Call the Newington Parks & Recreation Department to inform us of problems that occur regarding your garden plot.**
- **CROP REMOVAL:** Shortly after **October 15, 2021**, the Town mows and prepares the plots for winter. Materials you may leave behind in your garden plot include anything that can be safely turned into the soil, such as plant stems, leaves, crops you don't want, and organic mulches. **All other materials must be removed by the gardener.**

Failure to comply with these rules will result in doubling the garden plot fee the following season for the first offense and forfeiture of gardening privileges for the second offense.

February 4, 2021