

Poolesville Community Garden Guidelines Conditions of Use 2023

Administrative Rules

1. **Poolesville Community garden plots are rented “as is”** (current condition).
2. **To rent a garden plot**, gardeners must fill out and submit a completed application form along with a \$55 (4'x4') and \$60 (4'x8') plot rental fee. Plot fees are due in full before the garden season begins.
3. **Gardeners must maintain a current email address and phone number, to be provided to the Poolesville Community Garden.** Contact changes should be sent to PoolesvilleCommunityGarden@gmail.com.
4. Plots are not transferable, and fees will not be refunded or pro-rated. Plots that are given up or are revoked for cause will be returned to Garden Committee for re-assignment.
5. Assignment of garden plots will be awarded by a lottery system. Preference for next year's plots will be given to this year's participants first. Plots are renewable annually.
6. The Garden Committee is responsible for ensuring that the rules are followed at all times.

Garden Rules

1. All Gardeners, new and returning, are required to attend an annual Spring Garden Meeting.
2. **Gardeners are required to work in their plots at least once a week.** Each gardener is responsible for weeding, cultivating, and/or watering, and must arrange for someone to maintain the garden plot if they are away or are not able to perform maintenance tasks every week.
3. **All gardens are subject to regular inspections.** If a garden plot is not in compliance with the established rules, notifications will be sent by email. A follow-up inspection will be performed 2 weeks after the email notice. If the plot is still not in compliance, the use of that plot will be revoked. All fees will be forfeited.

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4. By **April 26**, gardeners must begin work on their plots including weeding, soil amendment, and cultivation. By **June 1**, gardeners must have planted seeds, seedlings, or transplants in their plots. By **November 15**, gardeners must remove dead plants and summer garden debris from plots unless they are year round gardening. Gardeners may continue to garden beyond November 15th using hoops and covers as needed.
5. **Organic practices** are required in all parts of the community garden. Garden pests and plant diseases can be especially serious in the community garden setting. Gardeners are expected to monitor their plants and plots for signs of pest problems and plant diseases.
6. **To reduce weeds and pests**, improve the soil, and maintain the garden's appearance, application of compost is strongly recommended. Gardeners are encouraged to use materials such as aged compost, composted manure, leaves, straw, burlap, or layers of newspaper to protect the soil and reduce weeds. Carpet, stone, and sod mulch are not allowed.
7. **Poisonous plants, invasive species, and illegal plants** are not permitted.
8. **The community garden will provide water.** Water conservation should be practiced at all times. To protect against plant diseases and conserve water, please concentrate on watering roots rather than other parts of the plants. Gardeners must be present when watering. Do NOT leave water running unattended. Watering should be limited to 15 minutes at a time, especially if others are waiting to water.
9. **Encroachment** into paths or other garden plots is not permitted. Plant clippings and excess soil and compost shall be disposed of only in the plastic barrels bin and not on the grounds of the garden, either in the red stone area or the ornamental planting beds. No plastic trash, plant tags etc are to be left in the garden area or placed in compost bins. Only bagged trash may be placed in the church's trash receptacles.
10. Gardeners may harvest vegetables and flowers from their garden only.
11. **Plant supports or stakes are allowed but cannot exceed six feet or shade adjoining plots.**
12. **Pets are not allowed** within in the garden.
13. **Littering and dumping** are forbidden. The garden is a trash free, carry-in and carryout facility. Only plant waste is allowed in plastic trash cans in the corner area. No plastic trash, plant tags etc are to be left in the garden

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- area or placed in compost bins. All trash must be removed from the site and disposed of by the gardeners. Only bagged trash may be placed in the church's trash receptacles.
14. Gardeners are not allowed **to trap animals** (such as ground hogs, raccoons, etc.) in the gardens at any time.
 15. **All personal tools**, wheelbarrows, hoses should be marked with the plot number and the plot holders' initials. Gardeners are not permitted to borrow or move tools, wheelbarrows, etc. without the express permission of the owner. All borrowed items should be returned in the same condition as borrowed.
 16. **Children are welcome** in the garden but must be supervised by a responsible adult at all times.
 17. **The garden is a smoke-free area.** Loud radios and/or loud music are not allowed.

Conditions of Use and Garden rules will be subject to annual review and revision.