



at the Goshen Farm Sharing Garden

Goshen Farm Sharing Garden

Welcome Packet 2017-2018

November 1 Deadline to apply and pay for returning and new gardeners ***Note 2018 Plot rental for current gardeners paid by the deadline of Nov 1, 2017 is \$25.

Rules and Guidelines

Welcome! Ensuring enjoyable gardening experiences for all of the garden community is the primary goal of these rules and responsibilities. For this reason, please observe the rules of the Sharing Garden, and be a good neighbor. The Sharing Garden should be a safe place for the community, children, and other gardeners. Please do not introduce anything which might compromise the safety of the Sharing Garden. Being a Sharing Garden Member includes being a proactive supporter of Goshen Farm as a whole.

- Plots are 10' x 10' or 5' x 20'.
- GF Sharing Garden will supply gardeners with a fenced-in area, water supply, wood chips, a supportive community environment and education.
- Annual rental rate: \$25 per plot for GFPS members only. There are no refunds.
- Each person must apply each year for a plot, but returning gardeners will be given first preference and permitted to keep the same plot if they wish. The number of plots per gardener is limited to one at this time. Renewal of the same plot will be at the end of the gardening year (by November 1).

Otherwise all plots will be available on a “first-come, first-serve” basis and are rented “as is”, in their current condition.

- Plan on visiting your garden at least 2-3 times per week for watering, weeding, and harvesting during the growing season. Harvest vegetables and flowers from your plot only.
- Road access to the garden area will be available via a gate locked with a high security combination padlock. This combination will change intermittently. Sharing of the combination with non-members is strictly prohibited.
- To sign up for plots, ask questions, or express concerns, please e-mail Bob Nestruck, Goshen Farm Sharing Garden Committee Chair at garden@goshenfarm.org.
- Garden meetings are held in the Broadneck Community Library Meeting Room or at the Sharing Garden at times listed on the GoshenFarm.org website. All are welcome.

Plot Rules

Plot rules are based on a simple concept: Be a good neighbor. If you tend your plot well, weed it regularly and completely (including the pathway at your plot’s edge), and harvest when your produce is ripe, you’ll make an invaluable contribution to the community, which is at the heart of our Sharing Garden. Failure to follow the rules will result in the loss of your plot and rental fee.

Rented plots should be planted by June 1 and should be well maintained each month thereafter until general clean-up by October 31. Gardeners may continue gardening through the fall winter season which is fine as long as plot rentals and GFPS memberships are renewed on time. Rented plots can lie fallow only from November through May.

If a gardener falls behind in maintaining his/her garden, they should contact the Sharing Garden Chair and ask for assistance. Assistance will be given where possible, but responsibility for maintaining the plot remains with the plot renter.

If a plot is not planted or is neglected or general garden rules are ignored, the Sharing Garden Chair may contact the plot renter asking for remediation within a given time. If the plot renter does not respond to this notice or doesn’t complete the remediation, a second notice will be given, If the issue is not resolved within seven days, the renter may immediately lose his/her plot and rental fees and the plot is subject to reassignment. In addition, at the discretion of the Sharing Garden Chair, the plot renter may be charged for clearing his/her plot.

General Requirements

- Annual plot rental fees and GFPS fees must be paid at the time of registration.
- Smoking or alcohol use is prohibited anywhere on the Goshen Farm property.
- No pets are allowed within the garden fencing. Please keep pets on a leash anywhere on the Goshen Farm property.
- Monitor children in the garden, so that they do not damage neighbors' plots.
- Remove any trash you have generated.
- Each renter is required to contribute 6 hours of work over the year to benefit the Sharing Garden and Goshen Farm. Please log your donated time and hard work in the garden binder located to the left of the door of the gardeners shed.
- Each gardener will respect and maintain all shared tools, hoses and other garden property. Please ensure that the gardener's shed is locked when finished.
- Park in designated areas.
- If you find any historical items (bits of pottery, glassware, tool fragments, etc. When digging in your garden, please save them so that we can all benefit from the history of this property. Place your finds in a plastic bag found in the gardener's shed. Label the bag with your plot number and leave it in the box designated for artifacts, also in the gardener's shed.

Plot Design

- Plant tall crops (corn, sunflowers, etc) near a fence or where they will not cast shade upon neighboring plots. If you are unsure of the direction of the shade, please ask others. Plants which do not meet this standard may be removed.
- Refer to plant tag and seed packets for mature plant size when planting.
- Ensure plants are properly supported as they grow. Tall and strong tomato cages work well.
- Perennials and permanent structures can be left if the same plot is rented consecutively. Otherwise, plots must be cleared of all vegetation and structures. Plot barrier can now include treated lumber.
- Aggressive/spreading plants (mint, lemon balm, etc) must be planted in pots.
- No illegal or invasive plants are allowed in the Sharing Garden.

Plot Maintenance

- Plots need to be well-tended throughout the season, including weeding and harvesting of vegetables. Warnings will be given if produce is over-ripe and rotting. If not picked after a warning, over-ripe produce will be harvested by a designated garden picker and donated to a food bank.
 - Paths between plots should be kept open and accessible to all at all times. No personal items such as excess trellis, lumber, stakes or benches can be stored outside of your own plot.
 - Excessive over- growth will be cut back.
 - Using weed block is highly encouraged. Commonly used acceptable mulches include straw, hay, black plastic, or weed barrier mats, newspaper (non-glossy, and covered with an organic mulch), seaweed, grass clippings (not chemically treated), and other organic mulches.
 - All garden plots must be cleared by December 31 if not returning for the next planting season, unless over wintering crops.
 - Compost piles must contain only discarded plant materials cut to one foot lengths. Diseased plants should be removed from the property in a closed plastic bag.
 - Water conservation must be practiced at all times. Spray nozzles must be used on water hoses.

Acceptable / Unacceptable Products

To maintain the organic integrity of the Goshen Farm Sharing Garden, do not use products that are listed in the "Unacceptable" column:

Acceptable

- Use only OMRI or USDA National Organic Program Materials
- BT, M Track, MVP
- NEEM
- Insecticidal soaps
- Pyrethrum
- Summer Oil
- Seaweed/fish preparations
- Garlic, hot pepper, "kitchen" mixes
- PRO GRO
- Diatomaceous earth
- Sulfur
- Wood ash
- Rock powders (lime, granite dust Greensand, and rock phosphate,)

Unacceptable

- Miracle Gro, Miracid, Peters, etc.
- 5-10-5, 5-10-10 and variations
- Rotenone
- Sevin
- Diazonin
- Malathion
- Methoxychlor
- Commercial slug bait
- Sabadilla
- Chemical formulations
- Carpet pieces
- Stones
- No herbicides

If you want to use a product that is not on either list, but you're unsure about it, please ask.

GET

EAT

DIRTY

FRESH

Health and Safety Terms

This safety policy is intended to demonstrate that the Goshen Farm Sharing Garden (GFSG) recognizes our responsibility to conduct our gardening activities in a reasonable manner and to maintain reasonably healthy and safe conditions in the Sharing Garden. For the purposes of this policy, any reference to the Sharing Garden, "the garden" or "the garden site" means the general boundaries of the garden and Goshen Farm.

1. Adult gardeners are responsible for their own safety. Children of gardeners are expected to be under the control of their parent(s) or guardians(s) when at the garden site.
2. If you see a hazard, an unsafe condition, or a situation which could result in injury or ill health, take the appropriate action. Eliminate the hazard or unsafe condition only if you are able to do it safely and are comfortable taking the action to correct the hazard or unsafe condition. Otherwise, notify the Sharing Garden Chairman as soon as possible.
3. Rototillers, lawn mowers, power weed trimmers, wood chippers, chain saws, or other power equipment shall be operated in the Sharing Garden only by individuals over the age of 18 who own the equipment or have themselves leased the equipment for use. These individuals use this equipment at their own risk.
4. Be aware of your surroundings. Avoid being in the garden alone. Avoid secluded areas with high vegetation. If individuals or groups of people taunt, bother, or seem threatening, leave the situation immediately. For life-threatening or other significant incidents, call 911 immediately. Alert the Sharing Garden Chair about the situation as soon as possible.
5. Do not leave garden tools at the garden site. They should be stored in the gardeners' shed which should be locked when a gardener leaves the Goshen Farm property.
6. No fires or fireworks shall be used on Goshen Farm property.
7. Drugs or alcohol shall not be consumed on Goshen Farm property, nor are any persons under the influence of illegal drugs or alcohol allowed on Goshen Farm property.
8. Urination and defecation on the open ground is not allowed.
9. Gardeners agree to hold harmless the GFSG volunteer organizers and work leaders, their partnering organizations and their employees, members of the Goshen Farm Preservations Society, Ind. Board of Directors, officers, volunteers and other persons and land owner(s) from any liability, damages, loss, injury or claim that occurs in connection with their association with the Goshen Farm Sharing Garden.

Gardening Tips and Advice

Start small with your first garden.

Many gardeners get a little too excited at the beginning of the season and plant more than they need. So first, take a look at how much your family will eat. Keep in mind that vegetables such as tomatoes, peppers, and squash keep producing throughout the season, so you may not need many of those plants to serve your needs. Other vegetables, such as carrots, radishes, and corn produce only once. You may need to plant more of these.

Grow only what you like to eat.

You'll take better care of what you look forward to eating.

Water only when necessary,

then water deeply and early in the day. Vegetables need about an inch of water a week. Conserve water by building soil organic matter and mulching crops to reduce soil moisture evaporation. When soil around plants is dry a couple of inches below the surface, soak the soil deeply. Water as early in the day as possible.

Visit your garden every day.

Check for signs of pests and diseases so you can take care of problems before they get out of hand. Of course, visit simply for the sheer joy of it!

Weeds compete with your vegetables

for water and nutrients, so it's important to keep them to a minimum. Use a hoe or hand fork to lightly stir the top inch of soil (cultivate) regularly to discourage weed seedlings. A mulch of clean straw, compost, newspapers or plastic can keep weeds at bay.

Fertilizing your crops is critical to maximizing yields.

Organic gardeners often find that digging in high-quality compost at planting time is all the fertilizer their

vegetables need. Consider applying a packaged organic vegetable fertilizer, following the directions on the box. Don't apply more than recommended.

Don't be shy about picking your produce, This is what it's all about! Many vegetables can be harvested at several stages. Leaf lettuce, for example, can be picked as young as you like; snip some leaves and it will continue to grow and produce. Summer squash (zucchini) and cucumbers can be harvested when the fruit is just a few inches long, or allowed to grow to full size. The general rule: if it looks good enough to eat, it probably is. Give it a try. With many vegetables, the more you pick, the more the plant will produce!

Pests and disease are ongoing problems for most vegetable gardeners. Although specific problems may require special solutions, there are some general principles you can follow.

Spring Insects Many experts recommend floating row covers to manage spring insects. These can be used to keep new pests out!

Fungal diseases - Reduce fungal diseases by watering the soil, not the leaves of plants. If a plant falls prey to a disease, remove it promptly and place it in a trash bag; don't put sick plants in the compost pile.

Summer insects - Pick larger insects and caterpillars by hand and once you get over the "yuck!" factor you will find this is a safe and effective way to deal with limited infestations. Or use insecticidal soap sprays to control harmful bugs. Most garden centers carry these products. Whatever pest control chemicals you use, read the label carefully and follow the directions to the letter.

Communicate with others. The Sharing Garden is a community environment and all gardeners are here to help. The Sharing Garden is full of beginners and master gardeners. Everyone has tips, advice and stories to share. Please let the Sharing Garden Chair know if there are issues before they get out of hand. If you lose interest, lack time, or leave for a period of time, let the garden leadership know so we can help.



Gardener Application

1. Gardener: _____
2. Gardening Partner/Group: _____
3. Gardener Address: _____
4. Gardener Phone: _____ Other Phone _____
5. Gardener e-mail: _____ Other e-mail _____
6. Returning Gardener: Yes No 7. Plot Number: _____ (\$25 per plot)
8. Total Paid \$ _____ 9. Check Number _____

I would like to be a garden leader
I would like to volunteer in another way

Experience Level Gardener:

I am an advanced gardener and would like to help novice gardeners I will need gardening help

Photo Permission: From time to time, gardeners, garden leaders and media will take photos of the garden. Please check here () if you DO NOT give your permission for your photo to be published. Please let photographers know you do not want to be published, if you see them at the garden.

Phone and e-mail: All gardeners are required to share their phone number and e-mail address with garden leaders. In addition, a gardener phone and e-mail list is shared with all gardeners. Please check here () if you DO NOT give your permission to share your phone number and e-mail with all gardeners.

By signing below, I agree that I have read and understand the garden health & safety terms and garden rules and plan to abide by all rules and terms. I understand that either the garden group nor owners of the land are responsible for my actions. I therefore agree to hold harmless the garden group and leasee/owners of the land for any liability, damage, loss or claim that occurs in connection with use of the garden by me or my guests.

Signature _____ Date _____

Received by _____