



Goshen Farm Sharing Garden

Welcome Packet 2021

January 1: Deadline to apply and pay for returning and new Sharing Gardeners. ** Note that the 2021 Sharing Garden plot rental for current Gardeners must be paid by the deadline of January 1, 2021. The plot rental fee is \$25. **

Rules and Guidelines

Welcome! Ensuring enjoyable gardening experiences for all in the garden community is the primary goal of these *Rules and Guidelines*. 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 other Gardeners, children, and the community. 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.

Basic Information

- Plots are 10' x 10' or 5' x 20'.
- The Goshen Farm Sharing Garden shall supply Gardeners with a fenced-in area, water supply, wood chips, a supportive community environment, and education.
- The Annual Rental Rate shall be \$25 per plot for GFPS Members only. There are no refunds.
- Each person shall apply each year for a plot. Returning Gardeners shall be given first preference and permitted to keep the same plot if they wish. The number of plots per Gardener shall be limited to one. Renewal of the same plot shall be at the end of the gardening year (by December 31). All plots shall be available on a “first-come, first-serve” basis and shall be rented “as is,” in their current condition.

- Plan on visiting your garden plot 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 Sharing Garden area shall be available via a gate locked with a high security combination padlock. This combination shall change intermittently. Sharing of the combination with non-members is strictly prohibited.
- To sign up for plots, ask questions, or express concerns, please email Bob Nestruck, Goshen Farm Sharing Garden Committee Chair, at garden@goshenfarm.org.
- Garden meetings shall be held at the Sharing Garden at times listed on the GoshenFarm.org website. All Gardeners and interested parties are welcome.

Plot Rules

Plot rules shall be 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 gardening community, which is at the heart of our Sharing Garden. Failure to follow the rules shall result in the loss of your plot and rental fee.

- **Rented plots shall 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 as long as plot rentals and GFPS memberships are renewed by January 1.**
- **Rented plots shall lie fallow only from November through May.**
- If a Gardener falls behind in maintaining his/her garden, he/she should contact the Sharing Garden Chair and ask for assistance. Assistance shall 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 does not complete the remediation, a second notice shall be given. If the issue is not resolved within seven (7) days, the renter shall 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, renewal of plot rental will not be allowed for the following season.

General Requirements

- Annual plot rental fees and GFPS membership fees shall be paid at the time of registration or by January 1.
- Smoking or alcohol use shall be prohibited on the Goshen Farm property.

- No pets are allowed within the Sharing Garden fencing. Pets shall be on a leash on the Goshen Farm property.
- Children shall be monitored in the Sharing Garden. Children shall not enter or damage neighbors' plots or produce.
- Trash generated by the Gardener shall be removed.
- Each plot renter is required to contribute six (6) hours of work during the year to benefit the Sharing Garden and Goshen Farm. Please log donated time and type of work in the Sharing Garden binder located to the left of the door of the Gardeners' Shed.
- Each Gardener shall respect and maintain all shared tools, hoses, and other garden property. The Gardeners' Shed shall be locked when finished.
- The Gardener shall park in designated areas.
- Any historical items (bits of pottery, glassware, tool fragments, etc.), found when digging in your garden plot, shall be placed in a plastic bag found in the Gardeners' Shed. The bag shall be labeled with your plot number and left in the box designated for artifacts, also in the Gardeners' Shed.

Plot Design

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

Plot Maintenance

- Plots shall be well-tended throughout the season, including weeding and harvesting of vegetables. Warnings shall be given if produce is over-ripe and rotting. If not picked

after a warning, over-ripe produce shall be harvested by a designated garden picker and donated to a food bank.

- Paths between plots shall always be kept open and accessible to all. No personal items such as excess trellis, lumber, stakes, or benches shall be stored outside of your plot.
- Excessive over-growth shall 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), grass clippings, seaweed, grass clippings (not chemically treated), and other organic mulches.
- All garden plots shall be cleared by December 31 if not returning for the next planting season unless over-wintering crops.
- Compost piles shall contain only discarded plant materials cut to one-foot lengths. Diseased plants shall be removed from the Sharing Garden and Goshen Farm in a closed plastic bag.
- Water conservation shall always be practiced. Spray nozzles shall 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

PROGRO

Diatomaceous earth

Sulfur

Wood ash

Rock powders, such as, 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

Herbicides

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



Health and Safety Terms

This *Health and Safety* policy is intended to demonstrate that the Goshen Farm Sharing Garden 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.

- 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 Sharing Garden site.
- Be aware of your surroundings. Avoid being in the Sharing Garden alone. Avoid secluded areas with high vegetation. If individuals or groups of people taunt, bother, or seem threatening, leave the area immediately. For life-threatening or other significant incidents, call 911 immediately. Alert the Sharing Garden Chair about the situation as soon as possible.
- 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 can do so safely and are comfortable taking the action to correct the hazard or unsafe condition. Otherwise, notify the Sharing Garden Chair as soon as possible.
- Do not leave garden tools at your Sharing Garden plot. They should be stored in the Gardeners' Shed which shall be locked when a Gardener leaves the Goshen Farm property.
- 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.

- No fires or fireworks shall be used on Goshen Farm property
- Drugs or alcohol shall not be consumed on Goshen Farm property. Persons under the influence of illegal drugs or alcohol are not allowed on Goshen Farm property.
- Urination and defecation on the open ground is not allowed.
- 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, Inc. 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. First, 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 vegetables.

Grow only what you like to eat. You will take better care of the vegetables you look forward to eating.

Water only when necessary. 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.

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. It is important to keep weeds to a minimum as they rob your vegetables of water and nutrients from the soil. 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, cardboard, black plastic, or weed barrier mats help keep weeds at bay.

Fertilize your crops to maximize 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. Do not apply more than recommended.

Do not be shy about picking your produce. This is what it is 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 it can be 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 diseases are ongoing problems. 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. Do not put sick plants in the compost pile.
- **Summer insects.** Pick larger insects and caterpillars by hand. Once you get over the “yuck!” factor you will find this is a safe and effective way to deal with limited infestations. Use insecticidal soap sprays to control harmful bugs. Most garden centers carry these products. Whatever organic 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, let the Sharing Garden Chair know so the other Gardeners can help.



at the Goshen Farm Sharing Garden

Gardener Application

Gardener: _____

Gardening Partner/Group: _____

Gardener Address: _____

Gardener Phone Home: _____ Mobile Phone: _____

Returning Gardener: ___ Yes ___ No Plot Number: _____ (\$25 for first plot)

Total Paid: \$ _____ Check Number: _____

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

_____ I am an advanced gardener and would like to help beginning gardeners. _____ I will need gardening help.

Photo Permission: From time to time, Sharing Gardeners, garden leaders and media will take photos of the Sharing 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 Sharing Garden.

Phone and e-mail: All Sharing Gardeners are required to share their phone number and e-mail address with garden leaders. In addition, a Sharing Gardener phone and email list may be shared with other Sharing Gardeners. Please check here (___) if you DO NOT give your permission to share your phone number and e-mail with Sharing Gardeners.

By signing below, I agree that I have read and understand the *Sharing Garden Rules and Guidelines*, the *Health and Safety Terms*, and the *Gardening Tips and Advice*; and plan to abide by all rules and terms. I understand that neither the Sharing Garden group nor lessee/owners of the land are responsible for my actions. I therefore agree to hold harmless the Sharing Garden group and lessee/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: _____