

Berlin Community Garden
Rules and Regulations
January 2024

General:

The garden is open sunrise to sunset early May through Columbus Day.

Gardens are intended for household use only.

Donation of produce and flowers to the Berlin Food Pantry is encouraged.

Parking in lot only.

No smoking inside the garden fence.

No pets are allowed inside the garden fence..

Children must be supervised at all times and not allowed to wander throughout the garden.

Gardeners are responsible for any guests brought into the garden.

No one should enter another gardener's plot without permission. Do not remove tools, hoses, etc from another gardener's plot.

Last person in the garden, no matter what the time of day, is responsible for confirming that there is no water left running and all gates are closed.

Community Garden Obligations:

All gardeners must attend a mandatory meeting at the beginning of the season. The meeting time will be announced prior to the official opening of the garden. It is the gardener's responsibility to contact the manager if they are unable to attend the scheduled meeting and make arrangements to meet with the manager **before** working in their plot.

All gardeners are expected to participate in at least 3 work days for maintenance work around the garden during the season. These sessions are not for gardeners to work on their individual plots, but to complete general maintenance chores that need to be done throughout the season.

Plot assignments:

New gardeners may only request a 10' x 10' plot their first year. After a successful season the gardener may request a larger plot for their second year.

Plots will be assigned in late April/early May to Berlin residents. Each household may not have more than one plot unless there is a surplus. In early May, any remaining plots not assigned to Berlin residents will be assigned from the wait list to gardeners applying from neighboring communities.

Gardening Requirements:

All gardens are organic. No chemical fertilizers, herbicides, insecticides or fungicides. Natural controls for pests and diseases must be used. Remember your bugs, diseases, etc affect everyone's garden. Look for pests and diseases early and control them organically!

It is highly recommended that you spray your plants with an organic insecticide BEFORE bringing them into the garden.

Soil improvements may be made using only organic matter. An allotment of composted manure is provided for each plot.

It is the gardener's responsibility to contact the manager should a problem with maintenance arise. Gardeners are expected to keep their plots clean, reasonably weeded, and harvested. If a plot remains untended, begins to become over grown with weeds, and there has been no communication from the gardener, the plot will be reassigned or tarped to control the weeds.

All gardeners are responsible for mulching and keeping their half of the pathway that surrounds their garden weed free. All pathways must be mulched. Wood chips are provided by the town.

A "mulch day" will be the first scheduled work day called at the beginning of the season. The last work days will be the final cleanup in October. In between, gardeners are expected participate in other work days as announced by the garden manager to meet their obligation.

All gardens must be planted by June 1. If not, the plot will be reassigned to a wait listed gardener. Plots are not transferable.

The perimeter fencing should not be used to support any plants, vines, stakes, trellises, etc. Do not hang or store tools in the fencing.

No amplified sound, except through headphones.

No direct planting of perennial plants, invasive plants, and those that can become a nuisance through excessive seeding or running roots are allowed. Perennial plants may be planted in pots and must be removed at the end of the season.

No permanent fixtures may be installed in a plot. All stakes, trellises, string, plastic and/or landscaping cloth used for weed control, and plant supports must be removed at the end of the season.

All rocks removed from the garden should be placed in the metal rock bins located on the shed side of the garden. No vegetation or dirt should be placed in the rock bins

Only spent vegetation and weeds from the plots should be put on the vegetation debris pile located on the shed side of the garden. Do not leave spent vegetation in pathways.

At the end of the season, all plots should be put back into the condition they were received in the spring. All rocks, vegetation, weeds, plant supports, etc, removed and soil turned.

Tools:

There are communal tools and wheelbarrows available for use behind the shed. They must be returned daily after use making them available to other gardeners. They should not be kept in your garden.