

THE SOUTH RIVER COMMUNITY GARDEN

Rules of the Land:

Garden Do's and Don'ts for a Happy Healthy Harvest

Take only what you grow.

Please don't take someone else's hard work. If your plants aren't yielding much vegetation, ask for help!

Borrow responsibly & respectfully.

Promptly return what you borrow. Tools and supplies have been GIFTED to us. Please treat them with care. Clean all tools before returning to the shed or to their owners. If you suspect you may be the last one to use common property...

- **Clean it up**
- **Tie it up**
- **Lock it up**

Label your possessions.

Garden stuff all looks alike. Write your name on everything to avoid confusion. If you plan to store supplies in the shed, this is an absolute must. Unlabeled property found in the shed will be considered a donation to the borough.

Your stuff. Your responsibility!

Please be advised that the borough is not liable for theft of or damage to your supplies. Take your belongings home.

Keep the gate shut at all times.

Critters will get in and eat your food. We all love critters. But we work hard for our food and would like a chance to eat it ourselves.

No trellises or tall plants over 6' in centrally located plots.

Tall trellises and extremely tall plants (like sunflowers and corn) obstruct the sun, which impede the growth of surrounding veggies. Tomato cages and trellises up to 6' tall are permitted. You may request a perimeter plot for taller plantings. These plots are usually the first to go. Request early!

Tend to your plot.

Neglected plots blemish the landscape and invite pests which affect the garden as a whole. Please commit to your garden by coming 2-3 times a week. If we are unable to contact you, plots left unattended for 2 weeks will be considered abandoned, returned to the borough, and offered to other gardeners. (There is no refund for abandoned plots.) You are also expected to be responsible for prepping your plot before and after the season. Plots must be cleared and covered by the first Saturday in November. If you're struggling or discouraged, ask for help!

Harvest your food.

We know that some of you garden for the joy of gardening, and don't necessarily plan to eat what you grow. If you would like others to harvest (and keep) your veggies, please leave a note in your bed or a post on Social Media. Leaving food to rot on the vine is a waste of food and also attracts pests. If you don't want your produce or can't make it to the garden to harvest, PLEASE alert other gardeners to avoid waste. We will happily keep it or donate it.

Make friends with your Gardeneighbors.

This is a COMMUNITY garden. Food is one of our goals. Friendship is another.

...on the subject of friends...

If you are going on vacation, notify the *Gardenkeepers* and your *Gardeneighbors*. Ask someone to gardensit for you. If you intend to be away for more than 1 week between the months of May and September, please consider returning your plot to the borough to be offered to another gardener, as it may not survive your absence. Two consecutive weeks of neglect will be considered an abandoned plot.

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Communicate. Communicate. Communicate.

Exchange phone numbers. Read emails. Check the communication board. Watch for updates on Social Media.

Ask. Talk. Share.

Ask for help. *Talk* to one another. *Share* your time, tools and talents.

Watch for hazards.

Garden supplies strewn on the ground. Hoses running across the garden. Metal tools heating up in the sun. Sharp objects. Sunburns. Dehydration. Bug bites and stings. If you see a hazard, **address it** and **alert others**.

Volunteering is a must.

Among the many goals of this garden is to beautify and unify our community. In addition to maintaining your garden plot, you are required to volunteer a minimum of 4 hours per season, attend community cleanup events and participate in other garden team-building projects. We understand not everyone can attend everything, but you must assist with garden maintenance and help tackle garden projects as they arise. If your schedule or your physical limitations prevent you from participating, please communicate with garden leadership and arrangements can be made to ensure commitments are kept and everyone helps out! Attendance and volunteer hours will be logged. See Garden Leadership to make sure your hours are documented!

Kill bugs. Not people.

We are growing an organic garden. Did you know it is illegal to use pesticides on property you don't personally own? Plus, some bugs are actually *beneficial* to a garden. We don't want to eradicate the helpers. Our gardeners will adopt best management practices for pest control.

Perennials and invaders are a No-No

Perennials - plants that grow back every year- aren't permitted because they encroach plot plans for next year's gardener.

Aggressive and/or invasive plants aren't permitted because they can kill or overwhelm the originating and surrounding plots. Some common perennial, aggressive and invasive plants include:

- Artichokes (Globe)	- Horseradish	- Rhubarb
- Asparagus	- Kale	- Sorrel
- Berry Bushes	- Mint	- Strawberries
- Garlic	- Radicchio	- Watercress

There will be a garden section dedicated to growing desirable but aggressive or perennial vegetation.

****Please note that perennial herbs are to be potted before they can be added to your plot****

If you're not sure whether your plants are acceptable, please speak with Garden Leadership first!

This is a commitment.

You will not be refunded for changing your mind or your plans. Additionally, breaking your commitments may result in future denial of garden participation.

Grow.

Food. Friendships. Just grow.