



ORGANIC GARDEN PLOT RULES AND REGULATIONS 2023- 2024

These rules and regulations for the Organic Garden Plots ensure that all participating gardeners have the opportunity for a positive gardening experience, that garden plots remain an asset to the community, and that all plots are used in a productive manner. By renting a plot, the gardener agrees to follow these rules and regulations.

1. **Organic garden plots are to be used for gardening only** and are available November 1 through October 31 from sunrise to sunset. (Please note that organic plots are not plowed and are rented in their existing condition.)
2. **Gardens must be kept clean and well-maintained.** Weeds must be kept under control, spent plants removed, and crops harvested.
3. No woody trees of any size may be planted in the Garden Plots. Shrubs may not shade other garden plots.
4. **Chemical applications of any kind are prohibited in these plots.** The application of raw (unprocessed) manure is also prohibited.
5. Structures: (Structures may not shade another gardener's plot.)
 - a. Fences must be secure, stable and in good repair. Fencing shall not obscure the view of any portion of the garden plot. Fences and their immediate surroundings must be kept clear of weeds.
 - b. Lean-to shelters or shade stands of any kind are not permitted in the garden plot.
 - c. Non-permanent structures such as raised beds and deck box containers are allowed.
 - d. Simple trellis structures without solid walls or roofs are permitted if they do not shade other gardens.
 - e. The use of glass is not permitted in the garden plots.
 - f. Materials needed for gardening may be stored at the plot in an orderly fashion. **Equipment storage compartments are permitted but may not be more than 3 feet in height.** Excess items not used for gardening purposes may not be left in plots.
 - g. Garden furniture is limited to a single 4-foot round or square table, 2 lawn chairs and a collapsible umbrella. The umbrella must be collapsed when not in use.
 - h. Composting bins are permitted but may be no larger than 4' high and cannot have roofs.
6. Irrigation:
 - a. A water spigot is provided for garden plot use. Hoses may not be attached to the spigot.
 - b. **Water storage containers must be tightly covered or turned upside down after use;** open, standing water is strictly prohibited.
 - c. Water storage tanks (i.e. barrels or cubes) may not be stacked on top of each other.
 - d. In the event of a drought condition as determined by the Lancaster County Emergency Management Agency, the Department reserves the right to turn off the water.
7. Trash barrels are provided for your convenience. Rocks, weeds, plant packaging materials, etc., should NOT be placed in these barrels. Please take these items with you for disposal.
8. Dogs must be leashed in the garden plot area and may not enter other plots.
9. **Garden plots will be periodically inspected** by Park Staff throughout the gardening season to ensure that these rules and regulations are being followed. If a plot is not maintained in compliance with these guidelines, the renter will be notified. If the plot is still in unsatisfactory condition when it is inspected again, the gardener may lose their priority renewal and/or gardening privileges for the upcoming year.
10. If a renter is not returning the following season the renter is responsible for clearing all non-biodegradable material (stakes, fence, wire, lumber, etc.) by October 31. Failure to do so may result in additional clean-up costs charged to the gardener.

The Lancaster County Department of Parks and Recreation is not responsible for lost, stolen or damaged items in the garden plots. Use of the County's garden plots is solely at the gardener's own risk.