



## 2026 NON-ORGANIC GARDEN PLOT RULES AND REGULATIONS

The rules and regulations for the Non-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. **Garden plots are to be used for gardening only and are available April 15 through October 31 from sunrise to sunset.** You may not begin gardening BEFORE April 15. The plots will be plowed and staked by the start of the season.
2. **Gardens must be kept clean and well-maintained.** The 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. **The application of either herbicides or raw (unprocessed) manure is strictly prohibited.** Insecticides and fungicides may be applied in the non-organic garden plots with care. Persons wishing to use these must maintain a two-foot unplanted border within their garden to prevent drift.
5. Structures: (Structures may not shade another garden 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.
  - c. Single, 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 garden 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.
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. **No food or feed should be left inside or outside of the garden plot for the purpose of feeding stray animals or vermin.**
10. **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 in compliance with these guidelines, the renter will be notified. If the plot is still in unsatisfactory condition when it is checked again, the gardener may lose their priority renewal and/or gardening privileges for the upcoming year.
11. The renter is responsible for clearing all non-plant material (fence, weed fabric, etc.) by October 15. Failure to do so may result in loss of priority renewal ability and/or additional clean-up costs charged to the renter. The boundary stakes placed by the Parks Department must remain in place throughout the season. Do not remove these at the end of the season.

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, and the gardener assumes full liability.

**County of Lancaster Department of General Services  
Parks and Recreation Division**

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**Lancaster County  
Board of Commissioners**