

South Kingstown Community Garden Rules



The South Kingstown Community Garden is operated collectively by its gardeners on land donated by the Town of South Kingstown. Our continued use of this land depends on maintaining a good relationship with the community, the surrounding neighborhood, and the school district. We must all respect the interests of our fellow gardeners and the surrounding community. Residents of South Kingstown will be given priority access to available garden space in the event of the existence of a waiting list.

To promote this and to ensure that the needs of the garden and the requirements of ongoing use, as well as all relevant town ordinances are met, the South Kingstown Community Garden requires all gardeners to agree and abide by these rules.

Rules, Terms and Conditions for Participation

- 1. Planting/Cleanup Deadlines:** Gardeners must clean and prepare plots by May 15th. Any Plot not prepared by that date is considered abandoned and can be reassigned without refund. All plots must be cleared by the end of the season. Steward or board will contact you if your garden is not tended to by May 15th.
- 2. Use of Chemicals:** Gardeners are committed to organic methods of gardening and pest control and will agree to use only organic pest solutions in the garden. Use of non-organic pest solutions is grounds for immediate forfeiture of privileges and loss of plot payment.
- 3. Service Commitment:** Gardeners will perform a minimum of 6 hours of service to the garden April to October. Gardeners are responsible for ensuring that their minimum service hours are completed by October and recorded in the log book. (Service hours take place outside tending to your personal plot.)
- 4. Transferability:** gardeners may not transfer or sublet their plot unless a written request for a single year transfer has been approved by the garden board. Permission will not be granted more than once.
- 5. Expected Conduct:** To retain gardening privileges and plot, gardeners agree to:
 - a) **Act in a manner considerate and respectful** of the rights, needs and safety of other gardeners and the community at large, with courtesy toward all.

- b) **Tend plot regularly** to control weeds and provide an attractive, cared-for appearance, keeping all plantings within plot boundaries. **No plot may be excessively weedy, untended, or filled with debris.** Any plot with numerous mature weeds that are going to seed or a plot that shows no obvious maintenance for 3 weeks will be presumed abandoned and is subject to immediate forfeiture without refund.
- c) **Maintain path around your plot** regularly, keeping free of rocks, weeds, and all obstacles, including encroaching or overhanging plants (e.g. raspberries). An approved method of maintaining public paths is mulching with wood chips over cardboard, newspaper, or landscape fabric. Carpeting, roofing materials, plastic and other inorganic materials are prohibited.
- d) **Conserve Water.** Unless you are using drip irrigation, do not leave water flowing into plot unattended. **Overnight watering is not allowed.**
- e) **Keep your plot free of climbing vines and trees.** If an adjacent plot's gardener complains of excessive shading by anything on your plot, you must come to an agreement or remove it.
- f) **Pick and remove your ripe produce** promptly. If you are unable to, or will be away, please contact the garden steward and/or leave a note on the Kiosk Board for your produce to be picked. ***All gardeners are expected to donate a portion of their produce to the Jonnycake Center of Peace Dale's food pantry.***
- g) **Respect the garden's property and assets.** Use equipment and tools responsibly and treat them with care. Return them to the shed cleaned (remove loose dirt) and store them neatly and securely for the safety and convenience of fellow gardeners. Gardeners are free to use their own tools as they see fit.
- h) **Put compostable materials only** in the designated garden compost areas. Never dump debris or garden materials anywhere other than the compost area. Do not put invasives such as Black Swallow Wort or Poison Ivy in the compost. Invasives should be bagged and placed in dumpster or off site.
- i) **Do not enter or remove anything from others' plots** except with permission or on garden business.
- j) **Supervise your guests and visitors, especially children while they are in the garden. You are solely responsible for their behavior.**
- k) Do not allow pets inside the garden.
- l) **Always close the garden gates** and, when you are the last to leave, lock them.
- m) **Respect school property.** When parking by the roadside, keep your car off the grass.

- n) **Minor gardeners under the age of 18 are welcome to manage a garden plot with signed consent from a custodial adult.**
- o. **The SKCG will be monitored by the South Kingstown Police Dept.** Due to the close proximity to Broad Rock Middle School, you may be asked, at times, to identify yourself.

Complete the current Garden Season Membership application Form: Please ensure the Garden Committee has your current address, phone number, and e-mail address.

Optional: you can also provide contact information for a substitute to manage issues regarding your plot if you are unavailable (on a lengthy vacation, traveling for work, etc.).

Signed Agreement and Fee: The Membership Application (which includes your signature of agreement with the rules listed above) and fee is due by March 15th. Please mail it along with your check (made out to South Kingstown Community garden) to P.O. Box 5206 Wakefield, RI 023880. Your plot may be reassigned unless you have communicated to the Board your interest in maintaining your plot prior to the deadline. After the deadline date, available plots will be offered to those next on the waiting list and advertised to the public.

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