



Gardening Guidelines 2014

1. The Regional Community Garden is located in the meadow behind the historic Pratt House at 19 West Avenue, Essex, CT. The property is owned by the Essex Historical Society. Due to the historic nature of the Pratt House museum property; all changes or additions to the property including structures and grounds, must be approved by the Essex Historical Society and Historic New England Inc. prior to installation.
2. Plot registration is a first come first serve basis with a priority given to the previous year's gardeners.
3. Each plot of 10' x 10' is \$35.00. Checks should be made out to **River COG** (Lower Connecticut River Valley Council of Governments). This is required with the signed waiver and application before gardening is started. Unclaimed/unworked plots will be reassigned after June 1. In this event, the plot fee will not be returned. Each gardener is responsible for their own plot ie., soil, weeding, maintaining. Tend to your own plot only. Do not go into another gardeners plot unless prior permission is given by them.
4. Gardening hours are between 8 a.m. and dusk, please be respectful of the neighbors when at the garden.
5. All the buildings around the garden property are off limits. If there is a situation that you should need to go to the Pratt House, gardeners should walk by the driveway to the front of the Pratt House. No one should be walking through the tenant's private patio area in the rear of the house.
6. Bring your own drinking water. Restrooms are at town hall and available during town hall hours.
7. There is limited parking. Pratt house is open for tours every Saturday and Sunday in the summer thru the end of Sept from 1-4. There is a docent present on the weekends and there is a tenant who lives in the house. The tenant has two cars and usually parks straight to the end of the driveway (on the side of the red house). Please leave the parking closest to the barn for visitors. Driving onto the field should only be for unloading heavy materials and for gardeners with walking disabilities. Once the materials are unloaded please return vehicle to the required parking area.

There are some events when the Historic Society will need all of the parking spaces. If you want to garden during an event, please park at the town hall and walk over.

8. Family members are welcome at the garden site. Please supervise those less than 18 years of age. Pets are not allowed in the garden area. The use of tobacco or alcohol is prohibited in the garden area as well as playing radios and boom boxes.
9. Plot corners are clearly marked with stakes. Please do not remove the stakes during the season. Individual fencing of plots is allowed as long as they do not block the sun from neighboring gardens. Be considerate of your neighbors. Do not allow sprawling or tall crops to interfere with others. Harvest only from your assigned plot. Keep insects and weeds under control.
10. Gardeners are required to volunteer in the spring to help prepare the garden for planting and, in the fall to help clean up the garden for the winter. Gardeners are also responsible to help maintain the area between the two fences and the walkways.
11. Organic gardening only in community garden. There are Master Gardeners who can help with any questions. There is no need for additional fertilizers, no herbicides or non-organic pesticides at any time in the gardens. Do not use products like Preen or RoundUp. Dispose of weeds and plant materials in designated compost areas. No debris should be left at the plots.
12. Please conserve the use of water. Use what water is needed and turn off the hose when you are finished. Unattended watering is not permitted. Notify the garden administrator if there are any leaks in the hose or problems with the watering line. If there is a leak in the water line, the water can be turned off down by the house. Please turn the water off and contact the garden administrator.
Mulch gardens with leaves, non-treated grass clippings, or hay to reduce water evaporation.
13. Notify garden administrator if you are no longer able to tend your plot; will be absent for a long period or time; or have asked a friend to tend your garden. If you have additional produce and wish to donate it to the Soup Kitchens, please notify administrator.
14. The tool shed in the garden is for storing all garden supplies and tools. Please be considerate of others, space is limited. The combination is: 1225. Please make sure that the shed is locked when you leave.
15. The corridor between the split rail fence and the inner fence and, the walkways and community areas in the garden shall be maintained during the growing season. This is one of the responsibilities of having a garden plot.
16. The summer garden should be cleaned and climbing frames moved to the shed as soon as a hard frost occurs and plants have died. Fall and winter plantings should be cleaned up after their season is