



“Get Rooted” in Stratford Community
Gardens
Rules and Guidelines for Gardeners



1. **Chemical Free** - Community garden is for chemical-free gardening only. Synthetic pesticides, including synthetic fertilizers, insecticides, herbicides and fungicides are not permitted.
2. **Garden at Own Risk** - The use of garden plots shall be at the risk of the gardeners. The Town of Stratford or Community Garden Committee assumes no responsibility or liability for use of this space, and is not responsible for injury, vandalism or theft.
3. **Hours of Operation** – The community garden is officially open from May 1 to November 15 from dawn to dusk. Children under twelve (12) years of age must be accompanied by an adult.
4. **Plot Rentals** – Members responsible for an individual plot must pay a \$25 (6x12ft plot) OR \$35 (10x16ft plot) annual, non-refundable rental fee to the Town of Stratford. A plot will be subsequently allotted for use between May-November of that year. One plot per household.
5. **Mandatory Attendance of Initial Garden Meeting**- each gardener must attend the initial garden meeting for review of community garden rules and regulations. Failure to attend meeting, or subsequent meeting with town/watershed representative (in case of inability to attend initial meeting), may result in loss of garden plot.
6. **Plot Neglect or Lack of Planting** – if the rented garden plot has not been planted or tended to by the gardener by July 1 of each year, without notice or explanation from gardener, the plot will be reallocated to next person on waiting list. In this case, the plot rental fee will not be refunded to original gardener.
7. **Surrendering of Plot** – if a gardener has planted his/her plot and is unable to continue to garden or maintain, the community garden committee will give the next person on the waiting list the opportunity to take over the plot for the remainder of the season. *Reallocation or renewal for the next gardening season will be determined on a case-by-case basis.*

8. **Plot Renewal** - At the end of each season, members will have right of first refusal for the next gardening season. They will have two opportunities to renew:
 - I. **Early bird renewal** for the subsequent gardening year, with fees paid in full on or before October 31 of the current gardening year.
 - II. **Regular renewal**, with fees paid in full on or before March 31 of the new gardening year.

For example, gardeners from 2017-18 can secure their plot for 2018-19, if they have paid in full on or before October 31, 2017 (early bird) or March 31, 2018 (regular). If fees have not been received by March 31, 2018, the gardener forfeits their plot to the next eligible gardener on the waiting list, without exception.
9. **Maintenance of Plots** – Plots must be worked on throughout the gardening season and be kept in a tidy manner. Weeding must be conducted on a regular basis to avoid excess weeds and seeding of undesirable plants in garden. Laneways and pathways are to be kept clear of obstacles. Tools and personal property must not be left on-site overnight. If you have a maintenance concern, please contact the Town of Stratford. Lack of maintenance may result in loss of plot or security of plot in subsequent years.
10. **Plot Size and Assignment** – Individual plot size is 6x12ft, large family plot size is 10x16ft, and group/community organization plots are 10x40ft. Additionally, 10x12ft plots with attached children’s plots are available. If a plot is not used or if it is unattended for more than two (2) weeks it will be reassigned to another gardener by the Town of Stratford or Community Garden Committee. No enlarging or expansion of plot space is permitted.
11. **Holidays/Absenteeism** – If a gardener is going to be away for more than two (2) weeks, he/she must make arrangements to have an alternate gardener tend to the plot or notify the Community Garden Committee so alternate arrangements can be made.
12. **Harvest** – Crops must be harvested once they are mature. If a gardener cannot use all of his/her harvest, please consider donating to friends, family or a local food bank. Pick only from your assigned plot unless given permission from other gardeners to pick elsewhere.
13. **Fall Clean-Up** – Plots must be tidied and prepared for winter by no later than November 15 of each year. After November 15 any crops, equipment, or materials remaining shall be disposed of at the discretion of the Town of Stratford. Any renter who did not clean up and prepare the plot by November 15 may be denied a plot for the next gardening season.
14. **Waste Disposal** – All waste (garden and man-made) and recyclables must be placed in appropriate containers.
15. **Parking**- Parking is permitted in designated parking lot only. No unauthorized vehicles will be permitted within the garden area.

16. **Pets** – No pets are allowed within the designated garden area with the exception of service dogs.
17. **Water** – Please use only the minimum amount of water required; keep watering times to early morning or evening.
18. **Perennials**- Perennials are not permitted in community garden plots.
19. **Prohibited Plants** – Potatoes, illegal plants, plants that grow taller than 4ft, and highly invasive species will be strictly prohibited. Please contact the Community Garden Committee, watershed group, or PEI Invasive Species Council at <http://peiinvasives.ca/pei-invasive-species-council> for more information.
20. **Music/Radio** – Loud music is prohibited. Gardeners are to be conscious and courteous of other gardeners.
21. **Structures and Decoration** – The use of tires are not permitted within garden plots. Maximum height of any garden structure is 3ft.
22. **Vandalism** – Please report any vandalism to the Town of Stratford at 569-1995.
23. **Smoking/Alcohol** – Smoking and alcohol are strictly prohibited in or around the community garden.

These rules may be amended from time to time by the Town of Stratford and Community Garden Committee, without notice.

The community garden and surrounding area will be inspected weekly by the Town of Stratford and/or the Community Garden Committee. Plots found to be severely neglected and/or weed infested will be closed immediately. In the event of non-compliance with the above rules, a verbal or written notice will be sent to the gardener, and/or a general notice will be posted in the Community Garden by the Town of Stratford and Community Garden Committee. If at the end of a two (2) week period the problem has not been resolved, the plot will be reassigned or closed and gardening privileges will be revoked.