

2025 GARDEN SEASON—RULES & REGULATIONS

These rules are intended to help all gardeners grow fresh, healthy plants in a thriving garden, to help create a sense of community among gardeners, and to help the Eatontown Community Garden be a good neighbor in the Borough of Eatontown. These rules are subject to change at any time as deemed necessary.

1. **Plots/Season:** Large plots measure four feet by twenty feet. Small plots measure four feet by ten feet. A maximum of (1) plot per household is allowed, choose size at registration. The garden season begins March 15 and ends in November. Gardeners will have the right to garden their plots for the season in compliance with these Rules and Responsibilities. Household and family members may garden with the gardener.
2. **Applications:** All gardeners, returning or new, must apply each season. **No gardener will receive access to the garden lock combination for the season until completed application and payment are received and acknowledged by the Recreation Office.** Returning gardeners must register by March 31st to renew their plot location. Returning gardeners who do not submit completed applications with payment before March 31st are subject to the loss of their plot. To the extent possible, gardeners will maintain their rights to plant their same plot year after year.
3. **Fees:** Fees are payable to "Borough of Eatontown," and marked "Eatontown Community Garden" and must be made with the application. Large Plot—\$25, Small Plot—\$15. This fee will be refunded in the event that no plots are available. No other expenses incurred by the gardener will be refunded or reimbursed.
4. **No Transfers:** Gardeners may not transfer plot gardening rights to others without the written consent of the Recreation Department.
5. **Gardeners may only plant and store items inside their assigned plot area.**
6. **Utilization:** Gardens will be planted promptly. Plots not planted to at least fifty percent usage by June 1st are subject to reassignment. At any time during the season, plots that appear abandoned in the opinion of the Recreation Department are subject to corrective action and/or reassignment if not corrected upon notice. Commercial operations are prohibited. If you have surplus of vegetables or fruits, please contact the Eatontown Food Co-Op or St. Dorothea's Food Pantry.
7. **Planting:** Planting of invasive species is prohibited. Common mint, catnip, Jerusalem artichokes, comfrey, raspberries, tobacco, and cannabis are examples of prohibited plants. Keep tall plants such as corn or sunflowers at the center of your plot to prevent shading on neighboring plots. Be mindful of distancing when planting to avoid growth into neighboring plots and aisle-ways.
8. **Garden Aisles:** There are aisles between Gardner's plots. Gardeners are required to maintain and weed their plot as well as the boarding aisles. Keep plot boundaries weeded and trash free. Keep plot edges and fencing free of weeds that will go to seed. Aisle-ways must be debris free.
9. **No power equipment** allowed by the gardeners.
10. **Children/Pets:** Pets or other animals may not be brought into the Garden. Children under the age of 13 must be accompanied by an adult at all times.
11. **Waste Material:** Plant refuse piles are set up for the weeds and diseased plants. The location to dump these items will be clearly marked. Please do not discard trash or kitchen scraps in these piles. Dispose of trash properly by taking it home. We "carry in and carry out" our trash. Place all vegetative materials in the clearly marked bins/piles.
12. **Compost and Wood Chips:** Homemade compost is prohibited. Compost will be provided for the garden by the Department of Public Works in April and again in July. Wood chips are to be used to layer in the aisle-ways to reduce weeds. Please use compost conservatively by applying only where you are planting/growing. **Do not use wood chips inside your plot.**
13. **Water:** Water spigots at the t-stands and the hydrants must be turned off when not in use. Unattended watering is not permitted.
14. **Chemicals:** The use of herbicides (weed-killers) and pesticides is strictly prohibited. Biodegradable mulch, such as compost, leaves and hay, are encouraged. Carpet mulch is not allowed. Non-organic materials are prohibited. Black plastic is allowed, but must be removed at the end of each season.
15. **Plot Markers:** The stakes that mark your plot's corners have an assigned plot number and must be left in place all season. Each plot will be rented with cornered stakes to mark your plot. Additional stakes are the responsibility of each gardener should they wish to have more.
16. **Structures/Fixtures:** Raised beds beyond 6" in height are prohibited. Containers are also prohibited. No pots, planters, bottles, etc. are to be used for planting. Fences, lattice, or similar structures above 5', measured from the ground, that significantly restrict light and airflow are prohibited. All structures and fixtures must be removed on abandonment or termination.
17. **Community Storage Shed:** There is a shed on site for community use. If you use the garden's tools, please clean and return them to the storage area when done. All items in the shed are community property and are for community use. Do not leave or store personal items in the shed.
18. **Garden Access:** All gardeners will be provided with the gate lock combination once registered and paid. Please keep this code confidential. It is important to keep the gate closed at all times. Lock the gate when you are the last to leave.
19. **Parking:** The roadway into the garden is for drop-off only. There are handicapped parking spots. Handicap placard must be displayed. All overflow parking must be done at the Gerry Tarantolo Park parking lot.
20. **Do not touch other gardeners plots without permission.**
21. **Compliance with the Law:** Gardeners will comply with all applicable laws and governmental regulations in all activities relating to the Garden.
22. **Failure to Comply/Termination: Failure to comply with these rules will result in termination of plot usage rights.**
23. Please be courteous and respectful of your neighbors and fellow gardeners. Lastly, make sure to be safe and have fun!