

EECO Farm Guidelines for Community Gardeners

Greetings to all 2008 Community Gardeners! It is a great pleasure to share the bounties of EECO Farm in our seventh season. The Community Gardens are a key part of the EECO Farm plan.

We hope you will participate in our activities – join the community garden loop, get your questions answered by one of our experts, get help with problems, and get free education on the many facets of organic gardening. Attending our seminars is a great way to meet other gardeners, compare notes and get gardening advice.

So that everyone can continue to enjoy their time at the Farm, and to ensure safety for all, gardeners are expected to follow these guidelines.

1. Community Gardeners must be a Member of the Farm. A garden (and garden fees) can be shared, but each party must be a Member. First-time gardeners are limited to one garden.
2. Garden fees must be paid no later than March 31, and all gardens must be opened by Memorial Day weekend, or the garden may be reassigned, without refund. Year end clean-up must be completed by October 31.
3. Gardening at EECO Farm is on an “at your own risk” basis. Gardeners agree to be careful with tools, to wear shoes at the farm, and to ask for help to avoid accidents.
4. All growing practices shall be in accordance with Northeast Organic Farming Association (NOFA) organic standards and all soil amendments must be approved by the Organic Materials Review Institute (OMRI). You can access the NOFA web site at www.nofany.org, and the OMRI site at www.omri.org/
5. Pesticides, fungicides, etc. must also be approved as organic by OMRI. Be sure to check labels of all amendments and preparations before using them on your garden. Some products claim to be “organic” but are not.
6. **NEW POLICY:** Gardens that become neglected will be cleaned at your expense. If you foresee a problem maintaining your garden, please get in touch with us immediately and we will gladly help you hire someone for a fee to do weeding and watering.
7. Garden trimmings and weeds should be placed in the big green wagon for composting. The grass around the edges of your garden needs to be trimmed, by you, by hand.
8. Community Gardeners must commit to the “No Weeds Go to Seed” policy. If a garden is left untended, we will attempt to contact the gardener, but reserve the right to reassign the garden without refund of the garden fee. Gardeners are asked to weed the surrounding paths as well.
9. All vehicles must be parked in the parking area between the farm road and the fence.

8. Mowing the pathways is a big job. Please help by keeping all your garden material, hoses, bags of fertilizer, tools, anything, *inside* your garden so it doesn't get chopped up by the mower. We are not responsible for damage to items left in the pathways.

9. Water carefully and only when necessary. *Never* leave water turned on when you leave your garden. Keep hoses detached from the water lines so other gardeners can use the faucet.

10. New gardeners will find their patch tilled and ready to plant. Gardens should be worked soon after they are tilled or the soil will compact and require additional tilling. Additional tilling is offered for a fee of \$50 per garden.

11. Gardeners may use some of the farm's hand tools, but may not use the farm's power equipment (sorry, no exceptions!). Borrowed tools must be returned to the tool shed, and must not be removed from the farm. Please tell us if you notice that a tool is damaged.

12. All chairs, buckets, tools, etc. must be removed from your garden and taken home for the winter. We will be happy to help you "put your garden to bed" for the winter – just ask!

EECO Farm Community Garden Committee

Email us a message to
eecofarm@eecofarm.org