



### **EECO Farm Guidelines for Community Gardeners**

Welcome to all 2010 Community Gardeners! It is a great pleasure to share the bounties of EECO Farm in this, our ninth season. The Community Gardens are a vital part of the EECO Farm plan.

We hope you will participate in our activities – attend the Community Garden Full Moon parties, get your questions answered by one of our experts, get help with problems, and get loads of free education on the many facets of organic gardening. Attending our seminars and workshops is a great way to meet other gardeners, compare notes and get gardening advice.

So that everyone can enjoy their time at the Farm, and to ensure safety for everyone, 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 has to be a Member. First-year gardeners are limited to one garden.
2. Garden fees have to 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 has to 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](http://www.nofany.org), and the OMRI site at [www.omri.org/](http://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. “Natural” is meaningless in this context. Some products claim to be “organic” but are not.
6. 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 find someone for a modest fee to help with your weeding and watering.
7. Garden trimmings and weeds should be placed in the big green wagon for composting. Please separate plastic pots, trays, and tags, and take them to the Town dump. These items are NOT compostable, and garbage is your responsibility.
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 are to be parked in the parking area between the farm road and the fence.
10. 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 or cause an accident. We are not responsible for damage to items left in the pathways. The grass around the edges of your garden needs to be trimmed, by you, by hand.
11. Water carefully and only when necessary. Never leave the water turned on when you leave your garden. Please keep hoses detached from the water lines so other gardeners can use the faucet. Tell us if a faucet is leaking so we can repair it.
12. First-time gardeners will find their garden ready to plant. Gardens should be worked as soon as possible or the soil may compact and require additional work.
13. Please resist the temptation to sample produce from someone else's garden. Do not assume that they won't mind. *If it's not yours, please leave it alone.*
14. 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.
15. 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!
16. Dogs and young children must be kept under control and prevented from running over other gardeners' land. Dogs must be kept on a leash, and their waste must be cleaned up and removed.

*EECO Farm is an all-volunteer organization. If you would like to help in any way with our events and programs, please send us an email at [gardeners@eecofarm.org](mailto:gardeners@eecofarm.org) or write to us at*

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*Happy Gardening!*