

# 2024 CODMAN COMMUNITY GARDEN RULES AND ETIQUETTE



## FULL GARDEN SEASON CALENDAR

Date	Activity	Notes/Comments
First week in February	Registration Information Sent to Returning Gardeners	
March 1	Registration Forms COMPLETED and SUBMITTED by Returning Gardeners	Plots not reserved by now start to be assigned to new gardeners
March 2	Registration Information Sent to Invited New Gardeners	On rolling basis, per the current waitlist
<b>March 30</b>	<b>Intro to Season zoom session</b>	<b>10 AM, link to be sent out</b>
April 1	Registration Forms COMPLETED and SUBMITTED by Invited New Gardeners	Start going down waiting list to other gardeners
April 10-20 (approx.....pending weather)	Plot Staking Day	Volunteers will receive an email to help committee with staking.
April 10-20 (approx.....pending weather)	Garden is Open Plot Map finalized and posted	Do not start your annual plots until you receive a start invitation from the Garden Committee
June 8	All gardens must be started	DEADLINE! Any gardens not started will be reassigned by the committee.
Nov 4-11 (pending weather) Exact date TBD	End of Season: Vacate Annual Plots	<b>Fall Inspection will be conducted.</b>

## INFORMATION, COMMUNICATIONS & CONFLICT RESOLUTION

**Information:** Garden communications and information will be available in a few different locations: [via Google Docs](#), via our e-mail listserv, via Facebook, and at the kiosk by [the parking lot](#). All communications channels will be updated as needed with events and maps throughout the season. Check the kiosk and various channels for information.

**Welcome to Google Docs for 2024!:** All Garden Committee official documents (including this *Garden Rules & Etiquette doc*, etc.) will be located in a 2024 Google folder for reference and access by gardeners all season. If you need to refer to a Garden policy or guideline, please feel free to download the Garden documents or access the Google Docs folder at any time!

**Gardening courtesy and communication:** A key goal in community gardening is to work together or next to each other in relative harmony. Legitimate complaints or problems with garden policy or operations should be brought to the attention of the Garden Committee. Garden, but conflicts between neighbors should try and be resolved between individuals. The Garden committee is not designed to mediate between gardeners except in very unusual cases,

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and only at the discretion of the committee. We encourage gardeners to exchange phone numbers or email addresses with each other to help with communication between garden visits.

Please be courteous and respectful in all interactions and first work together to resolve any disagreements. Contact the Garden Committee at [codmangarden@gmail.com](mailto:codmangarden@gmail.com) for guideline clarifications. Please do NOT contact farm staff, office staff, or Lincoln town officials. E-mail [codmangarden@gmail.com](mailto:codmangarden@gmail.com) with any concerns. Please be polite and respectful at all times to members of the Garden Committee and remember we're a group of volunteers!

## **PLOT USAGE & MAINTENANCE (Applies to all plots)**

**What to grow:** Organic annual vegetables, fruits, herbs, or flowers, for home consumption and/or donation are appropriate.

**Invasive Plants:** Please do not plant invasive plants like comfrey, bindweed, or Jerusalem artichokes. Be aware that invasives may end up in neighboring plots. If you have a question about a particular plant and whether it is invasive or not, please email the Garden Committee for guidance: [codmangarden@gmail.com](mailto:codmangarden@gmail.com)

### **Getting started no later than June 2nd:**

- Gardeners may start their gardens once the garden has been plowed and staked and a "GARDEN IS OPEN" email has been sent to everyone.
- The plots look beautiful when freshly plowed but **be aware** that weeds will be growing by mid-May, **so start your garden and mulching as soon as practical.**
- **DEADLINE to START:** On **June 2nd** gardens that don't show evidence of being worked on will be turned over to a gardener on the waiting list. There will be **no refund** of fees. We want plots to be used, not neglected or unused. Minimum requirements of "getting started" include obvious activity such as:
  - Weeding, planting, mulching
  - Working the soil in preparation for planting
  - Pathway maintenance

**A "Working Garden":** Because Codman Community Garden plots may be over-subscribed, the Garden Committee will monitor the garden to make sure that plots are "working" and are active. The following describes what constitutes a "Working Garden":

- A plot must be maintained, planted, or mulched, and stay within its boundaries. Plots should not be consistently weedy, untended, or filled with debris. Gardeners are responsible for tending/weeding/mulching or cover cropping their plot throughout the season and keeping it tidy.
- **FYI:** Gardeners should plan to spend around 3 hours per week tending their plot, depending on its size. Begin early in the season, before weeds get out of control.

### **The following constitutes an abandoned or under-worked garden:**

- Large-scale/excessive weeds
- Uncared for, unpicked, or dead plants
- Paths that haven't been attended to

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- Plants growing into other gardens/onto paths

*Gardeners with excessively weedy or abandoned plots are subject to expulsion from the garden, with no refund.*

## **Garden Do's and Don'ts:**

- Do not let tall plants such as sunflowers, trellises with vines, or corn, shade your neighbor's garden.
- Do not plant too close to your neighbor. Small plants will grow much larger.
- Control your vines so they don't grow into other gardens or into the paths.
- Keep your gardens weeded. Don't let weeds go to seed!
- Plan for vacation maintenance.
- Harvest your garden regularly; an un-harvested plot attracts thieves and pests.

## **Pathways: *Important for safety/accessibility and everyone's responsibility!***

- Paths must be at least 2½ feet wide, level, and weeded or mowed.
- No plastic or carpet should be used.
- Cardboard or paper must be covered by mulch (not woodchips) and leveled.
- ***Whether you use abutting paths or not, it is your obligation to keep your half of any path by your garden passable.***

**Tools:** Garden tools are available under the barn for everyone's use during daylight hours. **Please clean and return all tools** when you are done with them and not leave them in your plot. Notify the Garden Committee about any tools in need of repair. Wheelbarrows and carts are available in the toolshed for use with transporting gardening tools and items.

**New faces/garden helpers in your garden:** If you are on vacation or will be away for a period of time, please let your fellow gardeners and/or garden committee know that you are away and have allowed someone else to take care of your garden. Please make sure they are aware of the garden rules and etiquette if they are not already gardeners at Codman.

## **GARDEN OPERATIONS & LOGISTICS (Applies to all plots)**

**Organic Gardening:** **Codman Community Garden is an organic garden.** No chemical pesticides or insecticides or synthetic fertilizers are permitted for use. All materials, sprays or other garden supplies must be OMRI-certified. Please use organic fertilizers, and/or compost from a trustworthy compost provider.

**Hoses:** Water in the gardens is turned on by early April and shut off by mid- to late October. Gardeners can use their own hoses in their plots or coordinate to share hoses with garden neighbors. Hoses can be run along the pathways with the hose end left near the spigot for convenience, but please be careful with hose placement and make sure that all hoses that run along pathways to the spigots are obscured or tucked in along the side of the walkways so as to avoid tripping hazards. Splitters can be attached to spigots for multiple-hose shared usage. **Please disconnect hoses from shared faucets before you leave for the day to make it easier for others.**

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**Water Conservation & Use:** Since water conservation is a priority, we recommend soaker hoses and hand watering. Hoses should not be left unattended when on, and all faucets turned off when you leave. No sprinkler use between 10a.m. - 3p.m.

**Water Leaks /Plumbing:** Problems should be reported to Paul Simmons via email: [somerville.psimmons@gmail.com](mailto:somerville.psimmons@gmail.com). **Large leaks** such as broken pipes will be referred to the CCF staff for assessment and repair.

**Stealing Food or Entering Gardens without Permission:** Pilferage/theft remains an ongoing problem, as it was last year. Get to know your neighbors! If you don't recognize someone who is wandering around the garden (particularly inside the plot inner pathways), don't hesitate to ask if they are a gardener – fellow gardeners shouldn't be offended. Please educate visitors that plots are private and that visitors need to stay on the grass pathways. Fellow gardeners are not allowed to enter other garden plots, walk through plots, or take any items without express permission of the plot owner.

**Composting:** There is a community compost pile at the corner near Doherty's garage, but the first place is to compost plants in your own plot (or bring them home to compost). **DO NOT** throw plants over the stone wall or other areas that abut the garden plots. If you get early or late blight on them **remove these and any other diseased plants from your garden and throw them in the trash** to avoid infecting more of your or other gardener's plants. Do not throw plastic, metal, etc. in the compost pile.

**Rocks:** You can use rocks from the base of any of the permanent faucets. At the end of the season, place **LARGE** rocks (5"+) back at the base of either faucets or the stone wall.

## **PARKING**

Garden parking is available at the top lot located at corner of Lincoln and Codman Roads. Park adjacent to the perennial plots and around the perimeter of this area – NOT in the middle. Don't block access for others who may need to load or unload.

- **DO NOT park or drive onto the grass in the Garden lanes & pathways.**
- **DO NOT drive your vehicle down into the Codman Farm barnyard area past the Farm Store.**
- **Do NOT park at the gas station and then walk to your garden.**

## **CHILDREN & PETS**

**Children:** Please don't let small children roam gardens/farm area unattended.

**Dogs/pets:** Dogs must be leashed so as not to run through the garden or get into other garden plots. Please ensure that your pet doesn't disrupt/crush/soil other gardener's plants. It should be obvious, but please pick up and dispose of all pet waste.

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## **END OF SEASON PROTOCOL**

By late September, it's time to start fall cleanup as the garden starts to wind down. This involves the following:

- Remove unused inorganic items (fencing, fabric mulch covering, rocks, hoses, stakes, etc.)
- Pull up diseased plants and dispose of them off-site.
- Prepare to clear/close your garden by the early November
- Optionally, prepare your soil to plant a green cover crop (ie. winter rye). If you wish, lime and manure for next season.

### **For No-Till and Perennial plots:**

- There is limited winter storage in perennial or no-till plots. Chairs, pots, tools, compost bags, etc. must be removed by the end of the season. Please keep perennial areas tidy, and keep cages/fences lying down, weeds cut down.

Depending on the weather, **the first or second Saturday in November** is the deadline for cleaning up your plot/s. Remove all non-biodegradable materials from all annual plots by this date. Hills must be leveled and trenches filled in. Start cleanup early, and be thorough. If your plot is not cleaned up by the deadline, you won't be able to continue gardening at Codman Community Gardens. **You can continue to harvest for as long as practical.**