HARPSWELL COMMUNITY GARDEN* at MITCHELL FIELD

Member Guidelines

Member gardeners will tend their own plots. In addition, it is expected that they will assist in maintaining common areas. Members and their families are asked to donate *six hours over the course of the season*.

Our garden is first and foremost a community. Our rules are based on the simple principle – ‘be a good neighbor’ If you tend your plots well and contribute time to the maintenance of the common areas, you will help build and also benefit from our community.

New Members: If you would like, we are happy to give you a brief orientation to the garden in addition to this. Contact Judith Stanton at 376-7888 to make arrangements.

Benefits
- Garden Plot sizes 10x10 or 10x15 (up to two if available)
- Water
- Compost (bulk purchase each spring)
- Fencing around entire garden, play and orchard areas
- Access to communal garden shed, wheelbarrow and tools (Obtain lock combination from Judith Stanton 376-7888 jws77@me.com)
- Compost bins for garden waste disposal
- Herb Garden: Near the front gate – this is for use by all gardeners.
- Skillins Discount of 20% on your community garden purchases IF you tell the cashier before she/he starts ringing up (some exceptions and restrictions apply).

Plot Design and Seasonal Maintenance
- Plant tall crops at the south side or center of plot so not to shade neighbor’s plots.
- Place structures (trellises, hoops, fences, supports) at least one foot inside plot edges
- Gardeners are responsible for tending their plot throughout the season, including weeding and harvesting. Weeds that are allowed to grow spread their seeds into other plots and the paths.
- Gardeners are responsible, with adjacent gardeners, for keeping the paths next to their plots weeded.
- Pests do not respect boundaries, so please prevent, monitor and control them on your plot.
- You are expected to weed the paths surrounding your plot.
- Plots must be cleared of all summer structures and crops by October 31 or two weeks after first killing frost.
- All non-biodegradable mulch, weeds, dead plants, trellises and other structures must be removed at the end of the season. Returning gardeners may leave perennial plants and structures in place.
Community Volunteer Contribution

- A schedule of work days for the spring and fall tasks will be emailed to gardeners and volunteers and publicized on the Town website.
- You may contribute your 6 hours of volunteer work per season by maintaining paths, mowing the areas surrounding the garden, turning the compost, or taking on a special project.
- Please record your volunteer hours in the log book on the table in Garden Shed or via email to Judith Stanton, jws77@me.com. It is important that we track these in-kind contributions. Similarly, if you contribute materials to the garden (tools, plant material, etc), please let Judith know the value.

Children and Pets

- We welcome and encourage children to participate in the garden community.
- A picnic table, sandbox and play structure inside the garden fence are available to children attending the garden with their parents or other adults.
- Well-behaved pets on leash are allowed in the garden, but please make sure it is always leashed and restrained from stepping on beds.

Organic Gardening Basics

- Non-organic fertilizers, pesticides or herbicides are not permitted. See Attachment A for list of acceptable/unacceptable products.
- Product labels must state that product is 100% organic.
- Smoking in not permitted in or near the garden. Tobacco mosaic virus, which can be carried on people’s hands, is a serious threat to tomatoes and other plants.
- Wood that is pressure treated, painted or treated in any other way is not permitted.
- Good prevention, monitoring and control practices will assist with pest and disease management. Please take infested and diseased plant material from the garden – do not compost them.

Compost Bin

- Garden waste and food scraps only (NO meat, milk, fish or bones)
- Fill bin on far right side first
- Weeds go in pile to the right of the bin NOT in it.

Water

- A new irrigation system will hopefully be completed by the end of this season. In the meantime, we have a well with battery-powered pump and storage that brings water into an above ground tank and from there to a spigot within the garden. Use water can or bucket. After use, please refill the storage tank. The tank can also be filled with the hand pump. If you turn on the pump, please monitor it and turn off when full and/or when you leave the garden. Otherwise the battery will die and keep pump out of commission for a few days.
**Equipment**

- The shed has a combo lock. Please be sure to lock the doors when you leave.
- Hand tools, wheelbarrows, watering cans, etc. are stored in the garden shed. Please clean soil and debris off the tools before you store them to prolong their life.
- A small first aid kit is located on the card table inside the door.
- Lawn mower – if you will be using the riding lawn mower, you will need to sign a waiver (at Town Office) and fill in the log which is under a special tab in the volunteer log book.

**Forfeiture**

- If these guidelines are not followed or a plot is unused, untended or neglected, the gardener will be notified and asked to correct the problem within two weeks.
- Failure to correct a problem means the possible forfeiture of the plot during the current garden season. In cases of forfeiture, fees will not be returned.
- If you are going to be away during the season or for other reasons are not able to tend your plot, we suggest you request a garden “buddy” to look after it for you, including harvesting.
- If you know you will not be harvesting for your own use, please email us so it doesn’t go to waste. Volunteers will harvest whatever you specify to donate to the Mid Coast Hunger Prevention Program and Harpswell Food Mobile.

**Communications**

- Our primary modes of communication are through email and our Facebook page.
- To facilitate communications we will distribute a plot map with everyone’s name, email and phone number. If you wish to opt out from sharing this information, let Judith know.
- Members of our core group are responsible for the following:
  - **Overall Coordination**: Judith Stanton 207-376-7888 jws77@me.com
  - **Common Garden**: Mary Ruchinskas 833-2375 mruchinskas@gmail.com

**Bulletin Board**: You may post notes, comments, etc on the bulletin board inside the garden shed if you wish.
**Attachment A**

**Acceptable/Unacceptable Products**

To maintain the organic integrity of the Harpswell Community Garden, do not use products that are listed in the "Unacceptable" column below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Acceptable</th>
<th>Unacceptable</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• BT, M Track, MVP</td>
<td>• Miracle Gro, Miracid, Peters, etc.</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Messenger</td>
<td>• 5-10-5, 5-10-10 and variations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• NEEM</td>
<td>• Rotenone</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Insecticidal soaps</td>
<td>• Sevin</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Pyrethrum</td>
<td>• Diazonin</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Summer Oil</td>
<td>• Malathion</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Seaweed/fish preparations</td>
<td>• Methoxychlor</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Garlic, hot pepper, “kitchen” mixes</td>
<td>• Pyrethrin</td>
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<tr>
<td>• PRO GRO fertilizer</td>
<td>• Slug bait with metaldehyde</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Diatomaceous earth</td>
<td>• Sabadilla</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Serenade</td>
<td>• Copper</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Spinosad</td>
<td>• Chemical formulations</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Sulfur</td>
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<td>• Wood ash</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Manures (non carnivorous)</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Rock powders (lime, rock phosphate, greensand, granite dust)</td>
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</tbody>
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Liquids may be applied by hand-held trigger spray bottle only

If you want to use a product that is not on either list, but you're unsure about it, please ask the Plot Coordinator.

*Harpswell Community Garden is a Town-sponsored recreational program administered by a group comprised of two members of the Mitchell Field Implementation Committee and other volunteers from the community at large, with funding support from the Harpswell Heritage Land Trust.*