

Membership and Benefits

1. Fees and Assignment of Plots:

- \$35 annual fee for each 15' X 15' plot
- \$20 one-time initial membership fee per plot

Deadline: Gardeners who participated last season and wish to renew their plot must pay the applicable fee by March 1, 2011. Plots not paid for by this date will be considered vacant and those plots will be assigned to a new gardener on the waiting list.

Assignment of plots: The garden is open only to Cape Elizabeth residents. As vacancies occur, we will try to accommodate placements near friends, if requested. Gardeners may keep the same plot from year to year. When vacant plots are available, assignment of plots will be based on the order of the waiting list. Plots may be shared, but please submit just one application per plot. If plots are shared, submit both names and email addresses so that both gardeners will receive messages. **Second plots** for current gardeners will be available only after all gardeners on the waiting list have been given a plot and for one season only.

2. Garden Plots: Plots are 15' X 15'. Paths are laid out between each plot to provide access with wheelbarrows and hoses. Within each plot, gardeners may plant as they wish provided their crops do not obstruct the paths, wander into other gardeners' plots nor excessively shade a neighboring plot. You may plant both vegetables and flowers as you wish.

3. Benefits: Garden fees will cover the following within the limits of our budget:

- Water, waterline and hose system;
- Bulk purchase of lime, compost, organic fertilizer, and other organic products for gardeners to use on their own plots. Gardeners may wish to have a soil test done to determine what is recommended for their own particular soil as the soil composition varies considerably throughout the garden;
- Compost area for disposal of garden wastes;
- Fence around the garden;
- Wheelbarrows and hand tools

Responsibilities

Remember that the garden is a 'guest' of both the Maxwell family and the Child Development Center – please treat the area with proper respect at all times.

1. Because the garden shares the property with the Child Development Center, extra care is needed when driving/parking at the garden Monday through Friday between the hours of 7:00AM and 5:30PM when the children are present. They are often playing or walking in the area behind the building. Park only to the left as you turn off Spurwink Avenue and walk down the slope beside the building to the garden. Parking behind the building is permitted only on weekends and before or after hours. We ask that your children stay out of the play-yards that belong to the day care center. During several special events at the Center, they need all the parking places and ask gardeners to avoid those hours altogether.

2. The garden also shares the property with Dan and Imelda Maxwell who grow vegetables in the greenhouse and in the field between our garden and Spurwink Ave. Dan and Imelda often have seedlings and vegetables for purchase – watch for signs near the greenhouse. Dan and Imelda also keep chickens; although the chickens are fun to watch, please instruct your children to observe them quietly so they will not stress them. **Please leave your pets at home as they are not permitted in the garden at all** nor in the surrounding fields unless they are on a leash. Even though the chickens are caged, barking and curious dogs are stressful for the chickens. Please monitor your children so that they do not damage neighbors' plots.

3. All plots in the Cape Community Gardens must be ORGANIC. Non-organic fertilizers, pesticides, or herbicides are not permitted. Look for labels stating product is 100% organic. We will try to provide appropriate organic products to deal with particular problems as they arise. A

list of Acceptable and Non-Acceptable Products will be made available. It is not necessary to use organic seeds and seedlings. Garden plots cannot be used to grow produce for sale, rented, or used for business purposes.

4. Gardeners are required to contribute at least 6 hours to the operation of the garden beyond maintaining their own plots and adjacent paths. All gardeners should plan on giving two hours of volunteer time in the spring for preparation and again in the fall for clean-up and an additional two hours sometime during the season. We will schedule a number of workdays to accomplish the spring and fall tasks and attendance at one of the workdays in each season is required.

5. Gardeners are responsible for working their plots by mid-June and tending them throughout the season. Any gardener who will not be using his or her plot for any reason is requested to let a member of the Garden Committee know as soon as possible, so that the plot can be well used for that season.

6. Gardeners are responsible, together with adjacent gardeners, for keeping paths around all sides of plots weeded throughout the season. There are designated areas for weeds and other compostable material. Although there is a trash barrel available for small items, we ask that gardeners dispose of larger wastes and any recyclable items at the transfer station/recycling center.

7. Plots should be planned so that trailing plants do not spread into paths or into other gardeners' plots. Tall crops (pole beans, corn) and, in particular, large sunflowers should be situated on the south side or the middle of your plot so as not to shade other gardeners' plots. Plant the shorter sunflower varieties that are more suitable for our small plots.

8. Gardens must be "put to bed" by the end of October or two weeks after a killing frost – i.e. remove non-biodegradable mulch, weeds and dead plant material (to prevent spread of plant diseases). Gardeners who will be using the plot the following year may leave perennial plants in place. Plants that are still producing may also be left in place.

9. A gardener who will be away or unable to tend his or her plot for an extended time should arrange help from a friend or another gardener and/or contact the Garden Committee. If gardeners will be away when crops are ready to pick, we ask that you notify the Plant-a-Row coordinators so that your plot can be picked and the produce donated to the program. Your plants will do better if the ripe produce is picked on a regular basis.

10. There is **no smoking** allowed in the garden or surrounding area. Tobacco mosaic virus, which can be carried on smokers' hands is a serious threat to tomatoes and other plants.

11. If a gardener is not following these Guidelines, the gardener will be notified and asked to correct the problem within two weeks. Failure to do so means possible forfeiture of the garden plot during the current garden season with no refund of fees.

12. The garden is fortunate to have an easy way to water individual plots. We have to pay for all the water that's used whether used on your plot or wasted through abuse or leaks. This spring, the Garden Committee will prepare information to help everyone learn how to use the watering system wisely – please be careful and use the system as instructed.

13. When there is a serious pest, viral or fungal problem in the garden, gardeners will be asked to more carefully and regularly monitor their plants, so as to contain the problem as soon as possible. When a gardener can't be reached or isn't able to come and deal with the problem, members of the Garden Committee may have to remove diseased or infested plants. Obviously, this is a very difficult choice to make, but it's the only way to protect other plants. We had a

devastating outbreak of late blight our first season on tomatoes and potatoes, which killed many plants and moved very rapidly through the garden. Any gardener who has questions about the guidelines should contact a Garden Committee member.

14. Garden communications are sent via email during the season and are often time sensitive concerning upcoming workdays or pest alerts. Please pay attention to these in a timely manner. We suggest adding the committee members' emails to your address book so that these messages don't end up in your Junk file or get filtered out altogether.

15. Be a good neighbor! If you keep your plot and paths well tended, the entire garden will be healthier, your neighbors will be happier, and you'll make an invaluable contribution to the "community" which is at the heart of our garden. Welcome!