

# Co-op Community Garden in Norwich

Adjacent to the Norwich Farmer's Market, on Rt. 5

## Participant Guidelines 2010

These participant guidelines are intended for the health and safety of gardeners and plants.

As a Community Garden participant, I agree to abide by the following rules:

1. Each gardener must remove his/her own personal trash (coffee cups, water bottles, paper bags, etc.). And please be proactive about removing any trash in the common areas (paths, entrance, etc.), whether or not the trash is yours.
2. Opening date is usually immediately before Memorial Day. The precise date, however, depends upon the weather and the availability of the tiller. Gardeners must wait for the coordinator to contact them before planting. In 2009, the coordinator contacted gardeners by sending email when the plots were ready.
3. Gardeners must plant their plots within three weeks of the opening date. Weeds can become overwhelming if the plot is not planted in a timely manner. If a plot is not planted within three weeks of the opening date, the coordinator will notify the gardener and then possibly reassign the plot.
4. Gardeners will plant within the boundaries of the plot, as set by the coordinator, and gardeners will keep plants within those boundaries.
5. Gardeners may use only organic herbicides, pesticides, and fertilizers.
6. Each gardener must weed the pathways around her/his plot. The coordinator recommends using mulch hay (wet, if possible), to cover the pathways around your plot. Try using wet newspaper (for example, 6 to 10 sheets in a pile) on the ground, then covering the wet newspaper with wet mulch hay. Also, gardeners need to keep the paths free of rocks and plant debris. A location for plant debris will be provided.
7. Each gardener will keep his/her plot neat and keep weeds at a minimum. To weed, use a garden rake on the unplanted areas, and hoe weeds between rows, even before the weeds sprout, or while weeds are small. You can also use newspaper mulch within you plot (as well as on the surrounding paths; see #7).
8. Individual gardeners can use plastic mulch as long as he/she has explicit permission from the garden coordinator because the gardener has **COMMITTED TO CLEANING UP THE PLASTIC** at the end of the year. **YOU ABSOLUTELY MUST CLEAN UP ALL PLASTIC BY THE END OF THE SEASON.**
9. For the safety of the plants and of other gardeners, gardeners will leave pets at home.
10. For the peace of other gardeners, do not use electronic sources of music.

11. Gardeners will use the water from the reservoir for plants. Do not drink the water!
12. If a garden plot appears to be abandoned, the coordinator will contact the participant to discuss the situation, and then possibly reassign the plot. The participant forfeits the \$25 cleanup fee.
13. Gardeners must clean up their plots by the closing date. Currently, the closing date is around mid-October. The precise date depends on weather.

## Volunteer Activities

In keeping with other community garden programs in Vermont (for example, the Burlington community garden program), the Norwich community garden program might require that each gardener provide four hours of volunteer time during the summer to improve common/shared areas. Gardeners might typically complete two 2hr volunteer tasks. Volunteer tasks include the following:

- Participate in a work party (approx. 2hrs). Ian and Barb plan to hold work parties to lay cardboard on the perimeter of the garden area, and then cover the cardboard with wood chips, in order to inhibit the growth of weeds. One work party will take place in late spring, and another will take place in mid-summer.
- Cut and/or pull weeds at the entrance area and along the perimeter of the garden (2hrs). Weeding will need to occur multiple times throughout the summer.
- Clean the shed (2hrs). Shed cleaning will need to occur multiple times throughout the summer.
- Clean tools in the shed (2hrs). Tool cleaning will need to occur multiple times throughout the summer.

Also, you can suggest to the coordinators ideas you might have for other volunteer tasks.

## Recommendations

Visit your garden plot often and get to know your fellow community gardeners.

Save your old newspapers so you have them to control weeds in your plot as well as in the pathways around your plot.

A Master Gardener is in charge of the Giving Garden, to provide food for the Haven. He is also available for gardening questions. You can contact him by leaving a note in the mailbox at the garden. You can also call the Master Gardener help line at the UVM extension: 800-639-2230 or 802- 656-5421.

Water is available from the black collection tank. A battery-powered pump moves the water from the adjoining wetland to tank. Please conserve water by watering plants in the morning or evening, rather than in the heat of the day. Apply water at the base of plants where possible.

If you are going to be away for some extended period of time, please find someone else to tend your plot. You can post a note on the bulletin board on the shed to find a fellow

community gardener to tend your plot in your absence, if you like. If you get sick for an extended period of time, have a friend tend your garden, or contact the coordinator.

## Other Information

Each plot is approximately 18 ft by 18 ft.

Co-op administrator of garden: Missy Jordan, [Missy@coopfoodstore.com](mailto:Missy@coopfoodstore.com), 603-640-6323



last updated: March 7, 2009