

Menomonie Community Garden

Garden Rules 2024

(updated 2/2024)

All current and prospective MCG Gardeners **must sign** that they received, read, and agree to the Garden Rules to rent a garden plot. Rules may be modified or updated by the Board as needed.

As an MCG Gardener, I agree to:

1. Pay the non-refundable rental fee that correlates with the number of plots requested.
2. Not garden until all fees are paid, a Rental Agreement is signed and received by MCG, plot(s) assigned, and the garden officially opened. Exceptions may include No-Till and Raised Bed plots.
3. Quickly address neglected or improperly cared for plot(s) when contacted by the Board. Notify the Board if the plot must be abandoned by email at menomoniecommunitygarden@gmail.com. There are 10 days to address concerns before actions are taken. The applicant will have a probation year the following season. If the plot continues to be uncared for, future applications will not be honored.
4. Respond to correspondence from MCG when required.
5. Not allow my plot(s) to become overrun by weeds. All gardeners must keep weeds down throughout the growing season.
6. Maintain any common area immediately surrounding the plot(s), including adjacent pathways and fences. Keep these areas clear of all trash, litter, and weeds.
7. Remove all trash to your own home for disposal or recycling. No trash facilities in the Garden.
8. Keep a regular maintenance schedule throughout the growing season and arrange for someone to care for your plot during any significant time away.
9. Use only garden products (pesticides, herbicides, and sprays) labeled for "Organic Use".
10. Remain on-site while watering. Limit overhead/arc watering to minimize water waste. Abide by the City of Menomonie water conservation requirements.
11. Use the garden compost area for depositing garden waste and weeds only. Composted waste will not include plastics or any food waste other than fruits or vegetables grown in the garden.
12. Only harvest food grown in my own plot(s) unless given permission by other plot owners.
13. Supervise my children or group activities I host within the common area and their garden.
14. Keep pets on a leash in the owner's garden plot and remove pet waste from the garden.
15. Notify MCG as soon as possible (menomoniecommunitygarden@gmail.com) if my plot(s) must be abandoned.
16. Only garden during daylight hours when the garden is open as determined by the MCG Board.
17. Remove all plants, stakes, cages, trellises, and any other inorganic materials used for gardening at a date set by the MCG Board. Choosing not to clean up after the growing season may result in the loss of gardening privileges for the next growing season.
18. Dispose of my own corn and sunflower stalks at local disposal sites. Corn and sunflower stalks may not be added to the garden's compost pile.
19. Only enter the garden site with a vehicle to deliver or load equipment or plants/produce.
20. Not drive around the perimeter of the Garden or park in non-designated areas.

21. Growing illegal or poisonous plants is prohibited.
22. Not resell any produce grown in the garden. Produce from gardens is for personal use only.
23. Woody branching plants and plants like asparagus CANNOT be planted in individual garden plots. This includes any trees or bushes.
24. Plants grown in my plot shall not encroach upon another gardener's plot(s) or plants. I will not grow plants right on the edge of my plot if the mature plant spills over into another gardener's plot.
25. Report a water leak to the Garden Steward or an MCG Board member immediately (phone numbers in the shed).
26. Maintain a cordial and collaborative atmosphere for all gardeners. I will not bully, harass, threaten, or exhibit angry displays toward other MCG gardeners.
27. Refrain from picking raspberries from the raspberry patch. Each row is tended by a designated volunteer who has first access to the berries when they come into season. The rest of the garden will be notified when berries are available to all remaining gardeners.
28. Abide by the instructions provided for harvesting rhubarb (put leaves around the base of plants to reduce weeds) and asparagus (cut with a sharp knife BELOW the soil surface if the stalk is 6" or taller only). These are the only common gardens at the MCG.
29. Respect that the Garden Manager/Steward is not required to solve all of my garden-related problems but has a very limited set of duties that they are responsible for. Garden Manager/Steward duties primarily include: opening/closing the garden, scheduling plowing, dealing with water-related issues, purchasing gas for lawn mower, and coordinating garden planned improvements/upgrades. As a garden member, I will assist with the general maintenance of the public areas of the garden as needed/able (mowing, painting, installing posts, etc.)
30. Recognize that the Board members are volunteers and do not manage the work of the garden full-time.

As an MCG Gardener with a NO-TILL PLOT, I agree to the General Garden Rules listed above and the following. I agree to:

1. Not use my No-Till plot for storage during the summer growing season. The entire plot will be actively planted and managed.
2. Not install any permanent structures in my plot. All decoration, landscape boxes, and trellis must be removable if needed.
3. Not use wood chips for paths or walkways.
4. Keep weeds from encroaching on neighboring plots. This is especially important in the no-till section of the garden.
5. Not plant any plants considered invasive (mint, asparagus) or with woody stems (raspberries) that invade other garden plots over time.
6. Not allow my plants to grow up the fences surrounding the garden.
7. Decide in the fall if I will return to my plot the following year. If I am not planning to return, then I will remove all decorations and personal items from the plot before winter. If the plot is not renewed by the designated Garden Opening date the following year, and items remain in it, they will be deemed abandoned. The MCG Board will dispose of or distribute the items, and I agree to waive all rights to these abandoned items.