

**MORRIS PLAINS COMMUNITY GARDEN RULES**  
**(Revised and updated March, 2021)**

*Community gardens are about being good neighbors and good stewards of the resource. These rules are in place to help ensure that everyone will have a successful and enjoyable gardening season. Plan on spending up to two hours per week to properly maintain a productive and attractive garden plot. Weeding is a necessary part of gardening.*

1. The garden will be accessible year-round, to the extent possible, at the Borough's sole discretion.
2. Any garden not under active cultivation by June 15th will be forfeited and reassigned to the next applicant on the waiting list.
3. Hours of operation for the garden will be from sunrise to sunset each day.
4. To help to defray the cost of maintaining the garden the following yearly fee will be charged:

Large Family plot:	\$50.00/year for Morris Plains resident
	\$75.00/year for non-resident
Smaller "Junior" plot:	\$25.00/year for Morris Plains resident
	\$50.00/year for non-resident
5. Gardeners will be "Grandfathered" to their plot. This means that each gardener will be allowed to keep their existing plot from one year to the next. The only requirements for keeping the same plot are that the plot must be cultivated, kept in good order and the yearly fee paid. This rule is meant to encourage gardeners to improve their plots and continue to improve their soil etc.
6. **Plants whose height exceeds five feet are not allowed.** Tall plants shade neighboring plots. When possible, please plant your taller plants at the fence side of your plot to minimize shading of your neighbor's plot.
7. Out of respect for fellow gardeners and surrounding neighbors, no loud music or boisterous behavior will be allowed.
8. No pets are allowed in the community garden.
9. The gates to the garden must be kept closed at all times.
10. Please park only in the designated areas and do not block other gardeners
11. The swinging yellow gate by the bridge must be closed and locked by the last person to leave the garden. This is a town requirement to prevent illegal dumping etc.

12. Both woodchips and mulch will be provided in piles outside the garden fence. The woodchips are ONLY for use on the pathways and not the garden plots. The mulch is ONLY for use on the garden plots - NOT on the pathways.
13. Water spigots are provided in the central pathway of the garden. BE SURE TO TURN THE WATER OFF AT THE VALVE (NOT THE HOSE NOZZLE) when finished watering. The provided hoses will burst if left under pressure in the sun.
14. **The use of raised beds is encouraged**, but not required.
15. Each gardener is responsible for maintaining the 2 foot wide pathway on the MAIN GATE SIDE of their plot. It is suggested that the pathways be lined with newspaper and then covered with woodchips (provided by the town) to help prevent weed growth. This must be completed by May 15<sup>th</sup>, and maintained throughout the season.
16. Each gardener is responsible for keeping the perimeter of their plot clean and weed-free, especially along fence lines.
17. Compostable garden refuse must be placed in the compost bins outside the garden over by the tree line.
18. Recyclable trash must be placed in the Recycling containers near the front gate. Non-recyclable trash should be placed in the trash bins near the front gate.
19. If for any valid reason, your garden will be unattended for 2 weeks or more please EMAIL the Garden Coordinator at "mpcommunitygarden@gmail.com".
20. Failure to maintain your garden plot or path will result in forfeiture.
21. Respect the garden plots of others. Anyone caught stealing from another garden forfeits their garden plot.
22. Indiscriminate use of pesticides will not be tolerated. These are very serious chemicals with serious side effects. There are times when their use may be appropriate, but please use them with caution and only when necessary.
23. If you make arrangements for someone to work in your garden in your absence, please let the Community Garden Coordinator know via EMAIL at "mpcommunitygarden@gmail.com".
24. Anyone found growing illegal drug-producing plants forfeits his/her garden plot and will be reported to the police.
25. At the end of the season, no later than November 15th.), all spent plants and

weeds must be removed and disposed of in the compost bins. Gardeners who do not fully clean out their plot will not be invited to renew the following season.

26. Individual plots must be utilized and maintained by the registered plot owner. If a registered plot owner is not able or does not want to garden in his/her plot (for the entire growing season from March through October), then the plot must be vacated for reassignment to the next person on the waiting list. Gardeners cannot “sub-let” their plots to another gardener. The number of requests for plots is almost always greater than the number of plots available. This rule is meant to ensure fairness in allocating plots and maximize the number of gardeners utilizing the garden.