

## Stearns-Davis Community Garden, Amherst NH Gardener Guidelines (1 of 2)

The following guidelines have been established by the members of the Stearns-Davis Community Garden Committee. Gardening can be a fun and rewarding hobby for you and your family but it does require work. A regular commitment of time for maintaining your plot, by keeping weeds and pests under control, is not only necessary but essential for a successful organic gardening experience. Please read the guidelines and direct any questions or comments to the Garden Committee.

1. All gardeners are required to complete an application form. For Amherst residents, a non-refundable plot fee of \$45 for a 10'x20' plot is required. Non-residents cannot be accommodated due to high demand from residents. One garden registration per household/family will be accepted.

Annual Registration Dates (Check days/hours of operation at the Amherst Parks and Rec. Dept.):

January 2-31:

Gardeners that had a plot the previous year, that are in good standing, can register for a 10'x20' plot from January 2 to January 31. The registration must be done **in person or over the phone** with the Amherst Parks and Rec. Dept. (not the website).

February 3-28:

Amherst residents may register for a single plot with the Amherst Rec. Dept. via the website, phone or in person.

2. Opening and closing the garden each season is a large task that goes faster with many hands to help. Please indicate whether you will help with opening (April 25<sup>th</sup>) or closing (October 18<sup>th</sup>). Gardeners who don't attend either work day will not be allowed to sign up as a returning gardener the following year. If you know you won't be able to make either date, contact the Garden Committee before the season to make other arrangements to help with maintenance during the season.

3. Keep your plot and the adjoining pathways tended all the way to the fence line. Contact the Garden Committee as soon as possible if you need help or plan to discontinue use of your space. There is a waiting list for gardeners who were not assigned a plot due to the limited number available. Any paid gardener who has not shown an interest in working their plot by June 1<sup>st</sup> will be refunded their fee, and their plot will be offered to the first person on the waiting list. Plots abandoned after June 1<sup>st</sup> may be assigned to another gardener without refund.

4. Water lines, with a valve for each plot, are provided for irrigation purposes. It is each gardener's responsibility to provide his/her own materials and system for irrigation. For new gardeners, information will be available on how to get started. Some parts may be available for a nominal fee. This equipment must be removed from the garden after the growing season. To ensure that there are no leaks in these systems, water will be turned on for testing during the first two weeks of May at specified dates and times. It is expected that all leaks will be fixed during this time period. No additional testing periods will be scheduled after that and a regular watering schedule will begin after this test period.

5. Plant tall plants and vines in the center of your plot where they will not interfere with your neighbor's plot or the walkway.

## **Stearns-Davis Community Garden, Amherst NH Gardener Guidelines (2 of 2)**

6. No individual permanent structures or fences are allowed.
7. Planting invasive species or illegal plants is prohibited.
8. Use only organic fertilizers and mulch materials. When in doubt, check with Garden Committee.
9. The application of most fungicides, insecticides, pesticides and herbicides (weed killers) to the garden plots is prohibited. There is a certified organic garden on the site next to the Community Garden which could lose its certification because of potential drift from our plots. Gardeners should contact the Garden Committee if they have a pest issue. Most likely other plots have the same issue and it can be addressed for the entire garden.
10. At the end of the gardening season (closing date will be announced), all dead plants and non-plant materials (string, wire, wood, metal, plastic, etc.) must be removed and disposed of properly and all gardens left neat and tidy. If your garden is not cleaned-up by the posted clean-up date, you could lose your gardening privileges for the next season. No over-wintered crops are allowed.
11. Pick up litter when you see it. Do not put debris or rocks on the adjoining properties.
12. Please put weeds and dead plants in the compost bin. Do not leave them in the pathway. Any diseased plants or seedy or invasive weeds are to be bagged and removed from the property so as not to contaminate the gardens.
13. Do not apply anything to or pick anything from another person's plot without their express approval. If you are going to be away, let your fellow garden neighbors know if there are vegetables that will need picking.
14. When finished gardening for the day, please return tools to the shed.
15. Smoking and chewing tobacco is not allowed. Cigarette butts can transmit tobacco mosaic virus to tomatoes and eggplants.
16. Pets and fires are not allowed in the garden area. Alcohol is not allowed on all Town land.
17. Children are very welcome in the garden but must be accompanied by an adult and must be supervised at all times.
18. For your safety, only garden during daylight hours.
19. Report theft, vandalism and unusual activities to the Amherst Recreation Department at 673-6248 or to the police when appropriate.
20. No produce may be sold at the site.
21. Violation of Gardener Guidelines: If any of the guidelines are violated you will be contacted by phone or email and have one week to address the violation. After one week, if the violation has not been remedied, you may lose your gardening privileges.

Garden Committee Email Address: [StearnsDavisGardenCommittee@gmail.com](mailto:StearnsDavisGardenCommittee@gmail.com)