

# BCO Gardens Vegetable Plots Rules & Guidelines for Your Safety and Gardening Success

1. **Orientation:** All gardeners must attend the **2017 Season Orientation and Social on Thursday, April 20, 2017, 7 PM** – location TBD. If you are unable to attend, you may send someone in your place, or must meet with a garden leader before planting.
2. **Plots:** Vegetable plots are reserved for one gardening season, from spring to fall. A gardener has no guarantee that any plot will be reassigned to them the following year(s). Therefore, any plant materials planted, such as perennial herbs, are planted at the gardener's own risk. You may plant only within your assigned plot. All plots are raised beds, varying in size from 4' X 6' to 5' X 10'. \*\* Be aware: right-of-way construction may significantly impact the usage of any garden plot. \*\*
3. **Storage:** Do not store wood, materials, tools, or other supplies in the garden. Any items that the gardener wishes to keep at the end of the growing season (i.e. tomato cages, stakes, trellis, etc.) should be removed at the end of the gardening season.
4. **Neighboring Plots:** Do not take, weed, destroy or help yourself to anything from another gardener's plot. Harvest only from your assigned plot.
5. **Pest Control & Fertilizers:** Only organic means of pest control and/or fertilizer may be used. Herbicides (weed killers) of any kind are strictly prohibited in vegetable plots and in all areas of the garden. If you have questions regarding a fertilizer or pest control product, please contact the BCO Garden Committee *prior* to using.
6. **Plot Maintenance:** You are expected to actively garden and maintain your plot in an acceptable manner. An acceptable manner means that you are *actively gardening* (i.e. digging, sowing, planting, weeding, pruning, watering, harvesting, etc.) *once a week*, at the very least, during the growing season. If you are ill or are on vacation, ask a friend, relative, or another plot holder to water and tend to your plot.
7. **Warning Notices & Plot Reassignment:** A first warning will be mailed to any gardener whose plot looks unattended. The gardener has 10 days to remedy the situation. A second warning will be given via phone call. From the day of the phone call, the gardener will have 10 days to remedy the complaint. If the plot is still not attended – after two warnings and 20 days – the plot will be cleared and will be reassigned to the next person on the waiting list. A notice of reassignment will be mailed and also made via a phone call.
8. **Pathways:** You are responsible for weeding, watering, and taking care of the paths and berms in the garden. They must be kept free of weeds and debris. *The area around your plot cannot be eliminated or planted in, and must remain clear of any objects that would potentially cause injury to yourself or another gardener.* Be considerate of all who walk past – prune, tie back, or transplant errant plants, particularly those that may be thorny.
9. **Discouraged Plants:** No trees are to be planted in a plot. No plants which have invasive root systems should be planted. Perennials may be planted but the gardener should take into consideration that he/she may not be assigned the same plot in following years. Plants that may grow large enough to cast shade must be arranged in a manner that does not allow shade to be cast on another plot. The primary use of the plot is for the planting of fruits and vegetables. All crops planted and harvested must be legal.
10. **Structures & Fencing:** No walls or additional timbers may be used in or on the plot or its boundaries. Only one side of a plot may contain a structure to support climbing vegetation (such as a trellis). Poles, stakes, and other open, airy structures to support climbing vegetation is allowed. Fencing to prevent the invasion of small animals (such as chicken wire) may be used as long as it is not tacked or otherwise fastened to the plot timbers. Fencing material must be staked *inside* the garden plot. The height of any fencing used must not exceed 36" from the ground. All structures in the plot must be marked with red tape or other highly visible marking to ensure other gardeners and passersby can see the object(s). Structures in your plot may not intrude into the area around your plot or into other plots. The timbers that outline the plots shall not be painted, stained, or otherwise permanently modified in any way.
11. **Watering & Hoses:** Until water pipes are established in the garden, watering will be done on a rotation basis by plot gardeners as determined by the watering schedule. Once pipes are established in the garden, please conserve water. The water supply is to be used only by gardeners in caring for their plots and the garden area. No washing of cars or other

personal items is permitted. Please shut off the spigot completely, close the lock, and *neatly rewind the hose after use*. Take special care not to damage another's plants when pulling the hose to and from your plot. Do not leave the hose running unattended for any period of time.

12. **Volunteer:** *We require that you volunteer in the community garden a minimum of twelve (12) hours per season with six (6) hours completed by July 1<sup>st</sup>*. Please donate additional time to the maintenance of the three BCO community gardens. Garden work days are announced at the beginning of each growing season.
13. **Activities in the Garden:** Walking through and standing in or on a garden plot is not permitted. Littering, urinating and defecating are absolutely prohibited. Amplified sound is not permitted unless through personal headphones. No unlawful activities or alcohol are allowed in any part of the garden. Driving or parking of any motorized vehicle in any of the garden areas is strictly prohibited.
14. **Pets:** For the safety of all gardeners, pets are not allowed in, on, or near the plots. Pet owners must obey city leash laws.
15. **Gardeners & Sharing:** The primary gardener of a plot must be at least 18 years old. Gardeners younger than 18 years old must be accompanied by an adult while gardening. If gardeners have chosen to share a plot, the plot shall be divided up as the individual gardeners see fit and agree. No physical structures may be built or installed to designate separate portions when plots are shared.
16. **Gardening Hours:** Gardeners may tend to their plots at their convenience between the hours of 6:00am and 9:00pm. No gardening shall be conducted outside of this time to ensure quiet for our neighbors surrounding the garden.
17. **Personal Use:** The garden and its vegetable plots are for personal and educational use only, and are not for growing of vegetation for commercial purposes or commercial harvesting.
18. **Debris Removal:** Weeds, cuttings, and other debris removed from your garden *must be bagged* and placed in the designated garbage area. *Do not leave or throw debris in any other area of the garden*. No weeds or weed seeds in composter.
19. **Harvest Deadline:** *All crops must be harvested, and beds tilled under or cleared by November 25, 2017*. All non-compostable materials left in the garden after this date will be removed and disposed.
20. **Community Materials:** Tools and/or plants will occasionally be available, but cannot be guaranteed. Each gardener is responsible for providing his/her own plants, tools and other necessary gardening materials.
21. **Changes to Rules and Guidelines:** The BCO reserves the right to change and/or amend these rules at any time. The gardener will be provided with a new copy of these rules and guidelines should changes occur.
22. **Hold Harmless Agreement:** (a) The gardener agrees to all the rules stated herein and releases the Bowmanville Community Organization (BCO), its officials, agents, representatives, and board members, from any claim for injuries and/or damage arising from, or in any way relating to, the gardener's participation in the program, plot or tool use. (b) I agree to indemnify and hold harmless the BCO, its officials, agents, representatives, and board members, for all losses, damages, attorney's fees, costs, or expenses resulting from any injuries or damages which I may suffer during my participation in community gardening activities, including work performed in my plot and in the common garden areas, and from all losses or injuries I may cause another during the course of the activities. (c) I understand my participation is entirely voluntary and will involve moderate physical activity. I agree to participate at my own risk and acknowledge that reasonable physical capacity is required. I also understand that there are risks of accident from participation that may result in injury. To my knowledge, I am not affected by a physical condition or disability that would prohibit me from safely performing in any aspect of the activity. I also understand that if I am injured during my participation in the community garden activities that I will not be eligible for workers' compensation benefits.

I have read completely and fully understand all statements contained herein and agree to abide by the rules and guidelines set forth in this document in item numbers 1 through 22 above.

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Gardener Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Second Gardener Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date