

THE SOUTH RIVER COMMUNITY GARDEN PROJECT

Rules of the Land: *Garden Do's and Don'ts for a Happy Healthy Harvest*

Take only what you grow.

Please don't take someone else's hard work. If your plants aren't yielding much vegetation, ask for help!

Borrow responsibly & respectfully.

Promptly return what you borrow. Tools and supplies have been GIFTED to us. Please treat them with care. Clean all tools before returning to the shed or to their owners. If you suspect you may be the last one to use common property...

- *Clean it up*
- *Tie it up*
- *Lock it up*

Label your possessions.

Garden stuff all looks alike. Write your name on everything to avoid confusion. If you plan to store supplies in the shed, this is an absolute must. Unlabeled property found in the shed will be considered a donation to the borough.

Your stuff. Your responsibility!

Please be advised that the borough is not liable for theft of or damage to your supplies. When in doubt, take it all home on a daily basis.

Keep the gate shut at all times.

Critters will get in and eat your food. We all love critters. But we work hard for our food and would like a chance to eat it ourselves.

No trellises or tall plants over 6' in centrally located plots.

Tall trellises and extremely tall plants (like sunflowers and corn) obstruct the sun, which impede the growth of surrounding veggies. Tomato cages and trellises up to 6' tall are permitted. You may request a perimeter plot for taller plantings. These plots are usually the first to go. Request early!

Tend to your plot.

Neglected plots blemish the landscape. Please commit to your garden by coming 2-3 times a week. If we are unable to contact you, plots left unattended for 4 weeks will be considered abandoned, returned to the borough, and offered to other gardeners. (There is no refund for abandoned plots.) If you're struggling or discouraged, ask for help!

Make friends with your *Gardeneighbors*.

This is a COMMUNITY garden. Food is one of our goals. Friendship is another.

...on the subject of friends...

If you plan to go away on vacation, notify the *Gardenkeepers* and your *Gardeneighbors*. Ask someone to gardensit for you. If you intend to be away for more than 1 week between the months of May and September, please consider returning your plot to the borough to be offered to another gardener, as it may not survive your absence. Four consecutive weeks of neglect will be considered an abandoned plot.

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This is OUR space. Care for it.

If you see debris, pick it up. An unattended pile of tools, put them away. A mess in the shed, organize it. If someone's plants look thirsty, offer to water them. Keep our garden space beautiful by looking out for one another.

Communicate. Communicate. Communicate.

Exchange phone numbers. Read emails. Check the communication board. Watch for updates on Social Media. Stay in the loop. Keep others informed.

Ask. Talk. Share.

Ask for help. *Talk* to one another. *Share* your time, tools and talents.

Watch for hazards.

Garden supplies strewn on the ground. Hoses running across the garden. Metal tools heating up in the sun. Sharp or pointy objects. Sunburns. Dehydration. Bug bites and stings. If you see a hazard, **address it** and **alert others**. If you see or have a need, offer to - or ask for - help.

Kill bugs. Not people.

We are growing an organic garden. Did you know it is illegal to use pesticides on property you don't personally own? Plus, some bugs are actually *beneficial* to a garden. We don't want to eradicate the helpers. Our gardeners will adopt best management practices for pest control. We will also offer a class on Integrated Pest Management so you can learn how to kill the bad bugs and spare the good ones!

Perennials and invaders are a No-No

Perennials - plants that grow back every year- aren't permitted because they will encroach on the plot plans for next year's gardener.

Aggressive and/or invasive plants aren't permitted because they can kill or overwhelm the originating and surrounding plots.

Some common perennial, aggressive and invasive vegetables include:

- Artichokes (Globe)
- Asparagus
- Berry Bushes
- Garlic Mustard
- Horseradish
- Kale
- Mint
- Radicchio
- Rhubarb
- Sorrel
- Strawberries
- Watercress

Enclosed in your packet is the most updated **DO NOT PLANT List** for New Jersey.

There will be a garden section dedicated to growing desirable but aggressive or perennial vegetation.

This is a commitment.

You will not be refunded for changing your mind or your plans.

Grow.

Food. Friendships. Just grow.