

# Chelmsford Community Gardens

## Letter of Agreement

Community Garden plots are available to anyone over age 18. Chelmsford residents have priority, followed by applicants from other towns. Handicapped or elderly gardeners have priority for Garden C plots.

Garden renters in good standing from the previous year may renew their plot by the Annual Opening Meeting (last Sunday in January). After that time, plots will be offered to those on the waiting list. Only one plot per address will be assigned. If the wait list is exhausted, any available plots will be offered by lottery after June 1 to be used for one season only.

Please direct any concerns or maintenance issues within the garden area to the Community Garden Advisory Committee at [sunnymeadow01824@gmail.com](mailto:sunnymeadow01824@gmail.com).

It is each gardener's responsibility to read and agree to the following guidelines:

1. Gardens are for household use or donation only, with the exception of charity plots to benefit the community. **NO COMMERCIAL GARDENING ALLOWED!**
2. Non-profit organizations that use a garden plot for the benefit of their clients, participants, or individuals served must provide a current Certificate of Liability Insurance naming the Town of Chelmsford, 50 Billerica Road, Chelmsford, MA 01824 as an additional insured. The certificate must be submitted prior to the start of the gardening season and maintained in effect for the duration of the organization's participation in the Community Garden program.
3. Plots must be worked by the person renting and not by or for a third party. Gardeners cannot transfer their plot to another person/organization.
4. Gardeners must donate 4 hours of service annually to maintain the garden community. Service hours will be recorded and may include mowing, clearing fences, litter pickup, painting, or participation in scheduled work parties.
5. Gardeners must clear their plots of weeds and begin planting by June 1. After this date, plots may be reassigned with no refunds.
6. Gardeners must keep weeds reasonably well under control throughout the season. Dense weeds over 12" high will provide cover for animals and spread weed seeds, affecting adjacent plots.
7. Gardeners with plots abutting the white fence must keep the fence area trimmed of weeds on both sides. Inside the fenced area must be clear 12" from the fence to avoid damage to the fencing, deter animals, and allow access for fence repair and maintenance. Vining vegetables that spread (i.e., squash) must not be allowed to climb the fence.
8. Water plants judiciously to conserve this important resource. Hand water by can or hose, and do not leave water running unattended. No timers, soaker hoses, sprinklers, drip irrigation, or rain barrels are allowed.

9. Only organic amendments such as compost, manure, bone meal, fish emulsions, etc. are permitted. Non-organic pesticides, fertilizers and fungicides are not allowed.
10. Plants must be kept within plot boundaries and away from neighboring plots. Structures or tall plants such as corn and asparagus must be at least 12" inside plot boundaries and not shade plants on adjacent plots. All permanent structures (to remain more than one season) at Sunny Meadow must be submitted to the garden committee for approval by the town prior to installation, in order to comply with the conservation restriction at Sunny Meadow.
11. No invasive plants are allowed, including mint, morning glories or perennials that spread. Controlled plants, including hemp, are not allowed.
12. Keep walkways clear. Do not put weeds, hoses, plant materials, rocks, trash, watering cans, etc. in the walkways.
13. All weeds and plant material that is to be discarded should be dug in or put in the designated place for composting.
14. Take trash home with you. There is no trash collection in the garden.
15. Return all tools to the Community Garden shed and keep wheelbarrows inside the garden fence area. Do not remove from premises.
16. Children are welcome but must be under adult supervision.
17. Dogs are not allowed inside the fenced garden areas.
18. Plots must be cleaned up by October 31. This includes removing ALL dead plant material to the compost pile. Remove plastic plant markers and anything else that cannot be put in the compost. Remove anything that will blow around, such as plastic or cardboard. Failure to clean up your plot will result in you losing the option to renew next season.

I agree to the terms in this Letter of Agreement.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Print Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Plot # (if returning)