**Erdman Farm Community Garden**

Email: contact@erdmanfarm.com

**Guidelines**

Version May 2020

**Welcome to Erdman Farm!** The following guidelines are meant to improve the gardening experience for everyone using our Community Gardens.

**Becoming part of a community:**

Greet your garden neighbors when you arrive and the owners if they are present. Help others in need. Ask for help when you need it. Share your garden knowledge with others, especially new gardeners.

**Parking**

Parking space is available near the house and buildings in designated sites. Please use these sites if available. A small area is available near the gardens. Please use this area only when transferring material/harvested vegetables from the garden to your vehicle.

**Pets**

Gardener’s pets are not allowed in the garden area, even on a leash. Pets are allowed in non-garden areas. Please remove your pet’s waste and ensure your pets do not negatively affect the use of the garden by other members or disturb the chickens.

**Weed and Pest Control**

Erdman Farm is a pesticide free garden.  No insecticide, herbicide, fungicide or synthetic fertilizers are allowed. Compost and organic fertilizers are allowed and encouraged. No till or minimal till is encouraged. Rototilling destroys soil structure and is unkind to earthworms and beneficial soil fungi.

Waste plant material can be left on the soil of your garden site or placed in the compost bin. No plastic or any other garbage should be left on the site.

**Hoses and Watering**

* You will be shown how to turn on and off the irrigation system. Ensure it is turned off when you leave. I recommend you use a reminder on your phone or some other visual/auditory reminder to prevent leaving it on (speaking from experience and having to drive back out to the farm…….)
* Irrigation trenches or handheld nozzles may be used. Be aware the water is coming out of the creek and avoid using hand held nozzle prior to harvesting vegetables that will not cooked before eating (e.g. lettuce and other greens). Wash all produce before consuming.
* Do not leave water running unattended.
* If others want to use the hose, limit your time to 10 minutes and take turns with other gardeners.
* Take care not to damage other gardener’s plants. Ensure you know where your hose is at all times for its entire length, particularly when moving or pulling on the hose.
* Do not drink the water from the watering hose. Do not allow your pets to drink the water from the hose.
* Wash all produce with potable water in your home prior to consumption.
* Irrigate using trenches rather than overhead or sprinkler when possible, particularly prior to harvest.

**Tools:**

Some basic tools are located nearby for gardeners to use. Please return tools after each use to the storage area and ensure it is locked when you leave. Shared tools are not to be removed from the garden site. Please take your own tools home when you are finished working in the garden.

**Planting Courtesy**

Plant tall plants, such as corn and sunflowers, 6 feet away from any plot next to yours as tall plants will shade your neighbor’s garden.

Control spreading plants, like cucumbers and squash so they do not spill onto other garden plots. Use a climbing trellis or plant away from adjacent gardens.

**Plants that are not allowed in Erdman Farm vegetable garden plots.**

* Bushes (example: roses and raspberries).
* Shrubs and trees
* Cannabis
* Discuss planting of any perennials with the owners of the farm prior to planting. **We may help you fine a suitable location on the farm.**  They will become the property of Erdman Farm if you leave the Community Garden.

**Fall Clean Up**

A compost bin will be available to gardeners for plant material clean-up.

All non-plant materials must be taken home with you at the end of the growing season including, but not limited to; pots, fencing, plastics, paving stones, loose boards, tomato cages, decorations, plant pots, string, bags, and cans.

Permanent structures/materials are not allowed in garden plots.

**Smoking and garbage**

Smoking at Erdman Farm is discouraged but allowed. You must bring your own ashtray. Leaving cigarette butts or other garbage on the farm outside of appropriate containers will results in being asked to permanently leave the farm.

**Garden Misuse**

* garden plot abandonment. If you can no longer care for your plot, let us know and we will discuss further plans to assist, transfer or take over the plot.
* letting weeds go to seed
* not keeping pathway next to plot clear of weeds
* not taking care of diseased plants
* growing prohibited plants
* using chemicals (pesticides, insecticides, herbicides and synthetic fertilizers)
* taking or damaging things from other gardens.
* bringing your pets into the garden or allowing them to disturb other gardeners or farm animals
* being disrespectful to other gardeners
* planting tall plants next to your neighbour’s plot
* putting up permanent structures without permission
* not clearing out your garden before Thanksgiving at the end of the season
* If you are absent for an extended period, please arrange for someone to look after your garden. If you need some help, talk to other gardeners and make plans to look after each other’s gardens, or contact the owners of Erdman Farm.

**Penalties for garden misuse**

You may be asked to clean up your garden within a certain time frame.

You may be asked to take a smaller garden plot the next year.

You may lose your garden.

We will give you some time and notice if issues arise, we do realize that life happens. But if you get a final notice after a fair warning, you may be asked to leave.

**Plot Allocation:**

Erdman farm community gardeners rent their gardens from May until October one year at a time.

Garden plots will be allocated as follows:

Returning gardeners in good standing. Returning gardeners can request the same plot or request a change. Increasing plot size or moving to another plot will depend on availability.

New gardeners will be offered available plots, first come first serve.

Gardens are not transferable.

Date:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Gardener’s name- print \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Signature\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Cell phone \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_