

## **2020 COMMUNITY ALLOTMENT GARDEN GUIDELINES**

*(Agreement needed by April 11)*

This document is partly a legal requirement to fulfill conditions for the garden's continuation. But it's not a formality. It contains crucial information every gardener should be aware of.

Your agreement to these guidelines, is **needed by April 11**, if you wish to be a member of the 2020 Perth Community Allotment Garden. If you do wish to be a member, and you agree to the conditions below, please send an email to **allotment.gardens@thetablecfc.org**. We'll contact people who don't use email or who are not fully conversant in English. (Our number is below.)

The garden's location in a light industry setting probably wouldn't be the first choice. But using what's available to develop bounty is part of what gardening is. We hope this season the overall garden can be more beautiful, functional and fun to work in. One part of that will be opportunities for mutual support - group composts for example for those who wish to contribute.

A short bi-weekly email will keep you updated on all things garden.

**Here's to a productive and learning-rich year at the garden!**

### **Site Access and Maintenance**

#### **Access**

In the event you cannot maintain your plot for any reason, please contact Andrew (contact details below). Abandoned plots are not part of the agreement. You may lend your plot to someone else for this season only, but you must inform us and let us know who that is. You cannot give your plot to another person.

The Perth Community Allotment garden is for the personal use of the participating gardeners. No commercial growing!

The Garden site is open every day from dawn to dusk. The site has a grass drive along the south side that can be used to drop off materials and tools etc to your plot(s). Please use for drop off only, not parking. The drive is a Hydro One access point and needs to remain clear. Parking is available on Rogers Road anytime and there is an empty lot adjacent to the site that could probably be used on weekends only.

Our agreement with the Town of Perth for use of the land requires that we keep the garden site "clean and well organized". Please keep this in mind for your own plots and help keep the common areas neat and clean as well. Please remove your garbage. There are no waste bins on site.

At the end of the growing season plots need to be cleared of materials and tools.

### **Rocks**

**IMPORTANT!** Rocks ruin the lawn mower, can be ejected from it at high speeds and are a danger to walkers. **Do not place rocks, even small ones on the paths.**

Rocks can be placed in the rock bins or stored inside your plot if you have a use for them. Small ones can be thrown in the woods.

### **Compost**

A new mutual use composting method will be available for those who want to participate. Details coming.

### **Water**

A new water distribution method is in development.

Guidelines and tips:

- To water plots, please use any of the 3 water containers available on site to fill your watering cans.
- When the water containers are low, please fill with the hose provided and always remember to turn off the tap when done. The tap is located at the far end of the site.
- Don't leave the tap running unattended!
- On hot, sunny days it is highly recommended to water in the early morning or early evening only when evaporation points are less.
- Consider mulching your plot(s) to help retain moisture
- Heavier but less frequent watering promotes better root growth, allowing plants to find water from the soil more effectively.

### **Pesticides**

In accordance with Provincial regulations the use chemical/synthetic pesticides to control non-invasive weeds and pests is prohibited. Gardeners should use only manual and/or natural methods if necessary.

If you are buying plants from a store or nursery, please make sure they are not treated with insecticides, most notably neonicotinoids. The tag on the plant should indicate if treated. In keeping with the garden site remaining pesticide free, there is a strong link to these chemicals causing the collapse of bee colonies. We need bees! If you are not starting your plants from seed, please buy wisely. Local farmers markets are a safe resource.

Don't put diseased plants in the common compost area. Dispose of away from the garden site.

### **What NOT to Plant**

Don't plant anything that is highly invasive or likely to spread aggressively up and/ or around the perimeter of your plot(s).

If you'd like to plant nut or fruit trees and/or shrubs , talk to Rob or Andrew about where they might go near the site.

### **Your coordinators this year**

Rob Deroche "has two green thumbs and is a font of knowledge and inspiration about gardening." (**so says his** co-coordinator). He will often be at the site and happy to speak with you.

Andrew C. MacDonald, 613.200.7647 has a white thumb which he hopes to green up this season. He'll be less often at the site but visible still and looking forward to meeting you. Andrew will handle the administrative functions of the garden under Rob's direction.