

COMMUNITY GARDENS

GUIDELINES & REGULATIONS



Disclaimer

Agency partners do not assume responsibility for mishap of injury on state property, nor are the agency partners responsible for accidental or intentional acts of vandalism or other unforeseen harmful garden acts by person(s), animal(s), or weather.

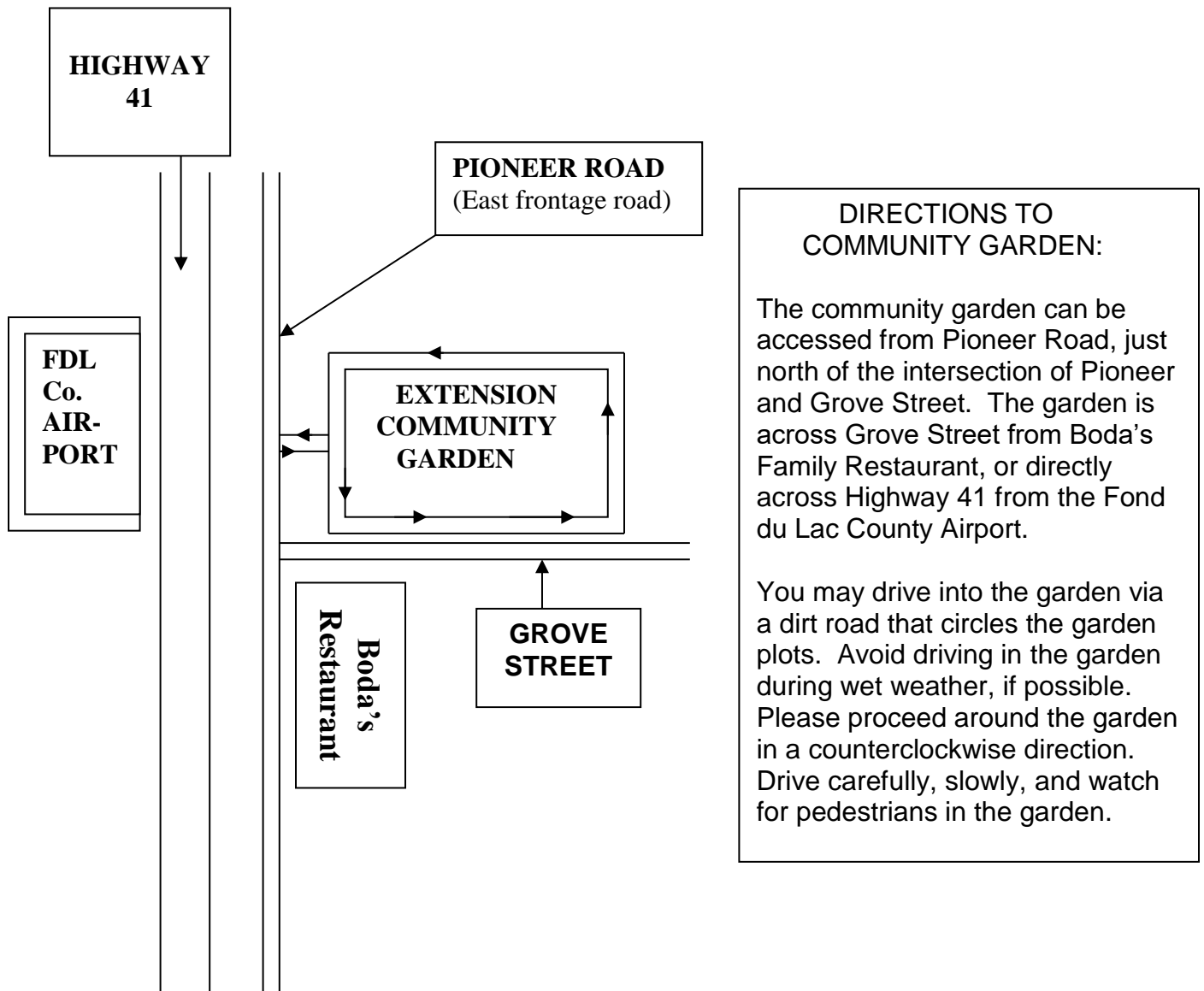
Garden plot renters agree to follow the guidelines and regulations established for the garden season. Any incidents occurring on their plots or at the garden site shall be their liability.

An EEO/AA employer, University of Wisconsin-Madison Division of Extension provides equal opportunities in employment and programming, including Title VI, Title IX, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act requirements.

Cooperating Agencies

Extension Fond du Lac County
227 Administration/Extension Building
400 University Drive, Fond du Lac, WI 54935
Phone: 920-929-3172

Fond du Lac County Master Gardeners and other educators help develop educational programs for gardeners on a wide range of topics from general gardening to food preservation.



All gardeners must sign the Garden Waiver (Contact 920-929-3172 for additional copies). Gardeners acknowledge neither Fond du Lac County nor Extension is liable in case of accident, theft, or vandalism.

GARDEN RULES

Location

The garden is located on the Northeast corner of Pioneer (east frontage road) and Grove Street.

Parking

Designated areas will be made available along the west end of the garden and along the roads through the garden area. Please use discretion in spring when the ground is soft or when there is excessive rainfall. **In spring and during wet times, there will be no driving onto garden roads until they have hardened up and dried off.**

Plot Size & Boundary Stakes -NO gardening before the Gardens officially open and you see a stake identifying your plot number in front of your plot (west corner) and stakes at the four corners of your plot.

The garden plots are marked by stakes with your garden plot number listed. **Plant your garden between the marked areas. (please stay two feet within the boundaries of your plot next to your neighbor).**

Walk only on walkways and on your own plot. Leave areas wide enough for you to walk around the border of your own plots. Anyone walking in someone else's plot is trespassing.

If string is used to mark areas, **it must be removed** at the end of the growing season. String left on the garden site causes problems with equipment used to till in the fall. **Tall crops** (corn, sunflower, trellised plants) may be grown, but they must not shade another gardener's plot.

Toilet Facilities

Toilet facilities will be available at the garden site from garden opening to garden closing. **Please use these facilities.**

Garbage

There is no garbage pick-up at the garden site. All plastic, paper and other refuse must be taken home.

Pets

Pets are not allowed in the Community Gardens.

GARDEN SAFETY

Security

For the safety and security of our gardens, we encourage you to keep a close eye on children and fellow gardeners. If possible, garden with a family member or friend. Recommended gardening times are sunrise to sunset. Gardens will be open from the hours of **6:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.** **Gardeners need to be off the premises by 9:00 p.m.**

If you should have concerns about any activity at the community gardens that seems unusual or out of place for the garden area, please contact law enforcement and report it as soon as possible (**dial 911**). Of course, reports of any incidents must also be brought to the attention of **Patty Percy Fond du Lac County Community Garden Coordinator at Extension (Phone 920-929-3172).**

Parents must keep children within the garden site and provide supervision. Children may not enter surrounding private properties. Some areas may be marked as “Off Limits” or “No Trespassing”. Gardeners are asked to keep within the Community Garden area at all times. Please observe these rules. Your cooperation will make gardening enjoyable and safe for all concerned.

Authorized People

Only you, people you invite to accompany you, Extension staff, or other authorized personnel with business at the site are permitted in the garden site.

Policing

We have had minor problems with theft of vegetables. Anyone caught harvesting someone else’s produce or vandalizing someone else’s plot will lose the privilege of using the garden site. Your cooperation is necessary to keep this problem to a minimum. Please respect your neighbor’s garden plots as well as the neighbors whose homes and property are located next to the community gardens. Vehicles and tillers may not be driven on the buffer zone near neighbor’s lots. If you notice any problems please report them to **Patty Percy, Community Garden Coordinator** (Extension at 920-929-3172).

PLOT PREP AND MAINTENANCE

The garden plots were tilled once in the fall and will be tilled again in the spring when the moisture content allows good soil preparation. Gardeners may use walking type rototillers in their plots. However, be careful not to overwork the soil since it often results in over-compaction of the soil and poor vegetable growth. Adding organic material (composted materials such as lawn clipping, leaves, decomposed plants and composted manure) is the best way to improve soil quality.

NEW RULE REGARDING TRANSPLANT MATERIAL

In an effort to make sure plants are free of jumping worms, do not bring transplants into the garden site that have been grown in your home lawn or garden. ONLY plants that have been grown in potting mix or from a reputable retailer.

Water for Gardens

Water for garden plots will be available from 3 large water tanks. Extension staff will make every effort to keep the water tanks filled as time and conditions allow. **Do not hook up water hoses** to garden tanks.

Water conservation is important, please be sure tank faucets are shut off completely. Please limit use of water for washing feet so water is available for other gardeners.

Garden Neglect & Weed Control

Gardens and walkways/roadways must be kept free of all weeds. Weeds are unsightly and spread seeds to adjacent garden areas and cause hardship to other gardeners. Hoeing to control weeds and thinning vegetables to the proper recommended distances will conserve moisture. Gardeners with neglected garden plots will be notified first by word of mouth, phone, or mail that they must take care of all weeding within two (2) weeks. If a gardener does not comply, arrangements will be made to mow off the garden plot and will lose the privilege of using the garden site. **Gardeners are expected to control weeds and grass two feet around their plot area to help keep weeds down and rabbits under control.**

Mulching

Straw, leaves, and newspaper may be used as mulch to suppress weeds and conserve moisture. Be sure to cover newspapers with grass or leaf mulch to prevent them from blowing away. Gardeners must recycle plant material within their own plot. Any other materials used for

mulch must be removed at the end of the season. Such materials can get caught in our plowing equipment and require mechanical removal which can incur costly repairs.

There will be no composting areas at the garden site. Do not bring household waste to your community garden plot.

Garden Fertilization

Gardeners will be responsible for the fertilizing their own plots. This will allow individuals to do organic gardening. Gardeners may apply any organic matter (such as composted plants and manure) to meet the nitrogen needs of their crops.

NEW Rule regarding soil amendments

Only use purchased soil amendments or composts that have been heated to appropriate temperatures and duration following protocols that reduce pathogens. Do not move soil or compost from your home lawn or garden to this community garden site.

Pesticide Use & Disposal

Pesticides are chemicals used to kill or repel pests. Pesticides include herbicides (which kill weeds), insecticides (which kill insects), and fungicides (which kill fungi).

Pesticides are poisonous and pose a threat to animals, plants, and insects beyond the target pest. They can also be harmful to beneficial insects, such as bees and butterflies. For this reason, and because highly toxic insecticides and herbicides may drift to neighboring garden plots, insecticide and herbicide use in the community garden is **limited** to the following:

Acceptable Insecticides ALL use of any pesticide is restricted to days of NO Wind Drift.

- Botanical insecticides (Ryania & Pyrethrin)
- Insecticidal soaps and oils
- Microbial insecticides (Bt-Dipel, Thuricide, M-One and Lepinox)
- Mineral insecticides (diatomaceous earth)

Also very limited use of Sevin garden dust but this is a manufactured inorganic pesticide.

Again, please be very cautious when using powders so that it does not drift into your neighbor's plot. If you are unsure of whether an insecticide is allowed in the community gardens, please contact Extension's Community Gardens coordinator at 920-929-3172.

Gardeners using unacceptable pesticides will be given only one warning. Continued use of unacceptable pesticides after warning will result in loss of your garden plot and the privilege of using the garden site.

Herbicides (which kill weeds) such as Roundup, are not allowed in the community gardens! Gardeners may apply any organic matter (such as composted plants and manure) to meet the nitrogen needs of their crops.

GARDEN MISCELLANEOUS

Dates Gardens Available

Garden plots will be prepared, staked and available for planting in **early May** as weather permits. Please do not attempt to plant gardens before being notified by mail informing you of your plot location and opening date.

Fall Clean-up

Garden plots will close **mid-October**. It is the responsibility of the community gardeners to clean up their garden site. Plant material and any other organic matter may be left on the plot. Please topple any large stalks and leave them on your plots.

Prior to the garden close date, all stakes, string, fence, water jugs, plastic material and tomato cages must be removed from the garden plots and taken home.

Any gardener who fails to comply with the garden clean-up policy will lose the privilege of using the garden site.

When you receive the fall mailing of the newsletter stating the date of 'Garden Close', please have your plot cleaned up. Generally the person who is hired to do the tilling will be in the garden shortly after garden close date to start working the soil. This cannot be done with any debris left on garden sites- everyone has to comply with the clean-up, or we will lose the privilege of using this site to garden.

Garden Advisory Committee

A garden committee will be organized to process garden policy and decide on matters of concern. Representation on the garden committee will consist of garden renters, staff from Extension and members on the County Board. Any matter of dispute will be reported to **Patty Percy, Community Garden Coordinator**, (Extension at 920-929-3172) and will be resolved by the Garden Advisory Committee.

Garden Cancellations & Mailing Updates

If, for any reason you cannot plant or care for your garden, contact the Extension Office immediately so that your garden plot may be reassigned. **There will be no refunds after June 15.** To get garden mailings in a timely fashion, always inform Extension of any change in name, address, or phone number.

EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS

Vegetable Varieties

Community Gardeners are encouraged to use recommended vegetable varieties in the gardens.

Publication A1653 "Vegetable Cultivars and Planting Guide for Wisconsin Gardeners" may be picked up from the Extension Office or printed on-line at

<https://cdn.shopify.com/s/files/1/0145/8808/4272/files/A1653.pdf>

Gardening Information/Education

All relevant information about garden dates, garden maps and educational workshops will be sent out by regular mailings or via email.

Patty Percy, Community Garden Coordinator, will be available for garden counseling at the Extension Office between the hours of 1:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons. Phone: 920-929-3172.

Various Extension garden publications may also be found at

<https://learningstore.extension.wisc.edu/>.

Click on "Lawn & Garden" to view categories.

The Extension Fond du Lac County website found at <https://fonddulac.extension.wisc.edu/> lists local Master Gardener and other horticulture activities. Click on "Horticulture".

Other useful information can be found on the Fond du Lac County Master Gardener Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/groups/fdlcomastergardeners/#> = .