



Ignatius Jesuit Centre

A Place of Peace

Ignatius Farm

WELCOME TO IGNATIUS FARM COMMUNITY GARDEN PLOTS

Ignatius Farm - A core part of the Ignatius Jesuit Centre since its beginnings in 1913. Though it was initially purposed with supporting the formation of Jesuit priests, Ignatius Farm has evolved to address the ecological and agricultural challenges of our times and now operates as a community oriented organic training farm.

About Ignatius Farm Community Garden Plots

Ignatius Farm has been offering community garden plots for rent since 1998. The Ignatius Farm Community Garden Plots are the largest serving Guelph, with roughly three acres in gardens each year! As an organic farm, we work to take good care of our soil - annual garden plots are rotated with cover crops, and composted each fall in order to keep the soil healthy and fertile.

Garden plots are...

- Available on the Saturday of the May long weekend. (After cover crops are worked in and garden volunteers have laid out the plots/waterlines. We will email gardeners that week if this should change due to wet soil conditions)
- To grow crops for personal consumption. If you wish to sell crops, you must inform the Farm Manager in advance (Heather Lekx farmmanager@ignatiusguelph.ca) and may not use the Ignatius Farm name in marketing your produce without written permission.
- Are to be maintained in accordance with the Canada Organic Standard.
- Are numbered and assigned at the Spring Field Day. You are welcome to post a decorative sign or garden art to identify your plot.

BARTERING OPPORTUNITIES:

- Eager volunteers can receive a plot free of charge (up to \$145, annual 1000 ft² plot) in exchange for a commitment to one of the following tasks:
 - **Weed surveyor** –involves weekly walkabouts of gardens and reporting on a map any plots of concern
 - **On-call water line support** –involves providing your contact information so that fellow gardeners can contact you to repair leaky water lines.
 - **Administration** – involves communications and registration intake for Community Garden Plots & CSA, spreadsheet work
- Training is provided for all barter positions
- You will be asked to sign a contract detailing your volunteer position – should you, for any reason, become unable to perform your duties, you will be invoiced for the plot fee
- Contact us soon – these spots go fast!

IMPORTANT DATES:

Plot preparations – Tues, Wed, Thurs, May 16, 17, 18 – We need 20 Gardeners to volunteer!

Mark out plots and prepare water lines 9-12:30, 2-4:30pm all three days.

Spring Field Day i.e. garden orientation & plant sale - Saturday, May 20

A tour of your garden area will explain water access, getting compost and mulch, parking areas, the farm notice board, and other important details... like finding your plot!

- **9:30am** - small annual plots (100-300 ft²) in Loyola field
- **10:30am** – large annual plots (>500 ft²) in Sheep Orchard field
- **11:30am** – Biennial & Perennial plots in Main Barn South/Sheep Orchard fields
- **10:00am- 1pm** - Sales of organic seedlings & seed, seed potatoes, onion sets, compost, and straw bales available to community gardeners and the general public

Annual Land Blessing - Sunday, May 28th –10:00 am - 1:30 pm

Beginning at St. Brigid's Villa with an outdoor liturgy, we go on a wagon tour to bless the land. A Eucharist celebration follows, and potluck lunch. Bring water bottle, dishes and your potluck dish.

Open Farm Days –Tuesday & Friday, August 22 and 25, 3:30-6pm

Wagon rides/farm tours, kids' activities, snacks, farmer Q&A, and community!

Water Line clean-up – Tuesday & Thursday, Sept 26 & 28 –Volunteers needed

Collect water lines and store them for the winter. 9:30am 12:30pm, 2-4:30pm

Fall Harvest Celebration, September 30th

All are welcome - share food and celebrate the summer harvest.

Monday October 23- Plots must be cleaned up

All vegetables, tools, tomato cages, stakes, string, row cover etc... must be removed.

Tuesday, October 24- 9:30am – Garden Clean & Glean – We need 15 Gardeners to volunteer!

Collect plot number stakes and other obstructions to tractor work... and glean produce before the gardens are put to bed (ploughed and composted) for the winter.

AMENDMENTS AVAILABLE:

- Certified organic compost - \$5 per 20L bucket, self-serve
- Certified organic compost – \$80 for 325L tractor bucket delivered to your plot
- Small square straw bales - \$8 each
- 4' x 4' round straw bales - \$65 each
- Ideally, reserve amendments with your garden plot registration.
- Compost and bales can be purchased later using order forms on the farm notice board. Leave the order with payment in the locked farm cashbox. **Order by 10am, Mondays, on: May 22, June 5, June 26, and Oct. 2** for delivery of bales mid-week.
- **Use of any other amendments is not permitted unless certified organic and approved by the Farm Manager prior to use.**

PLEASE NOTE AND ABIDE BY THE FOLLOWING GUIDELINES:

- No metal stakes in Annual or Biennial Community Garden Plots due to expensive tractor repairs. Wooden stakes/plant labels are best - plastic inadvertently left behind becomes garbage for the soil, plants and future gardeners.
- Keep rocks out of grass and pathways to reduce mowing hazards! – Leave rocks fist size or smaller in your plot to release minerals into the soil. Larger rocks can go to designated bins.
- Keep your stuff in your plot - tools, mulch, seed trays, tomato cages, and rocks in pathways become hazards for maintenance and your fellow gardeners... so be careful about where you leave them!
- Leave plant material in your plot to return organic matter to the soil. Plant debris (i.e. noxious weeds) that you need to remove from your plot is to be placed in the designated wire cages for later composting.
- Remove all structures, row covers, plastic labels with your final harvest.

Plants & Amendments:

- No synthetic fertilizers.
- Purchase the compost approved for organic production if you wish to further amend the soil.
- No Genetically-Modified Organism (GMO) plants or seeds and no treated seeds
- Plant or soil treatments must be certified organic for that usage, or are not permitted.
- Organic seeds and/or plants are highly recommended (see list of sources below)
- Multi-season crops are only permitted in the designated areas of Biennial and Perennial plots.
- Organic seedlings, seed and onion sets and seed potatoes will be available for sale at the Spring Field Day.

Pest Management:

- No pesticides
- Squishing/removing bugs and using floating row cover are approved pest management techniques. Diatomaceous Earth (pure, unheated) may be used for soft-bodied insects. **All other methods including botanical pesticides must be certified organic.** Many 'natural' products do not meet organic regulations - ask first.
- All row cover pieces must be removed before the end of the season.
- Don't kill insects indiscriminately – know your friends and foes! There are many friendly bugs in the garden that will help you manage those less desirable ones.
- See the pest and disease guide at the end on the most common problems you will encounter. If you do not recognize an insect or plant problem, ask your neighbour or look it up!

Weed Management:

- No herbicides and no black landscape fabric or tarps
- Keep your garden as neat and weed free as possible. Keep weeds from going to seed.
- Weed your plot every 8-10 days (even though it may appear unnecessary at that point) and it will be easy! – weeding when undesirable plants are small, i.e. before they have three leaves, is easy with a sharp hoe, and will keep you ahead of your weeds
- Mulch is a good weed suppressant
- Trim the 12" grass at your plot edge to avoid damage to your crops as a result of mowing

- Volunteers do periodic weed patrols. If your plot is found to be populated with weeds or not tended, you will receive a notification to weed your plot within a given timeframe. If you receive multiple notices, your plot may be subject to mowing or being 'cleaned and gleaned' by another willing gardener.

Tips on Keeping a Pest and Pathogen Free Community Garden Plot

- Keep your plot weed free.
- Remove diseased/dead plant debris which can harbor fungal and bacterial pathogens. Put infested plant material in the waste bin instead of the compost. Sanitize potting trays, materials and tools that came in contact with the diseased plant with soapy water. Diseases can spread quickly between plants.
- Avoid touching nightshades (tomatoes, potatoes, peppers, eggplants), beans or cucurbits (squash, zucchini, cucumbers) when wet to prevent disease transfer from plant to plant.
- If you are a smoker, always wash your hands between smoking and touching your plants, as you can transmit Tobacco Mosaic Virus to your nightshades.
- Provide the right conditions and nutrient supply to your plants—healthy plants are much less likely to be affected by pathogens and pests while stressed plants are a target for pest and pathogen attack.
- Ask questions! If you don't know about a plant problem, look it up, or ask a fellow gardener. Keeping tabs on your garden keeps problems in check. Help each other out with garden tasks!

Watering:

- Water is available from water barrels at the garden. Instructions are provided at the Spring Field Day and on the farm notice board.
- Please hand water and refill water barrels part way to assist the next gardener.
- If the water barrel is nearly empty, dump it out, give it a rinse and then refill it – This helps to minimize mosquito populations.
- If a water line is leaking, simple repairs can be done by gardeners with the tools provided at the farm information board and in the Community Gardens shed. On-call water-line volunteers should be notified if you can't address the situation.
- Use as little water as possible (mulch helps your soil retain moisture)
- Turn off the water when you leave in the evening – if you are not sure if you are last, turn it off anyway! Anyone else needing water can turn it on and then off again.
- Please note that the water provided to the gardens has not been tested or treated for drinking water purposes in accordance with the *Safe Drinking Water Act, 2002*
- Refill your reusable water bottles in the kitchen of the Farm Workshop during business hours. The Ignatius Jesuit Centre has a 'no bottled water' policy (no single use water bottles).

Be a nice neighbour:

- Please do not walk in anyone else's garden
- Keep your plants and tools within your plot (remember to leave space at the plot edge for plants to grow and to walk on) – Train or trim your vines to stay inside your plot!
- Do not shade your neighbour's gardens without their permission
- Pets are welcome but keep pets on a leash at all times
- No smoking or littering in or around the gardens, barns and sheds.
- Discard plant debris and rocks from your plot in the designated areas – look for the signs!

Notice Board:

- The farm notice board is located by the Farm Workshop parking lot
- It includes:
 - Maps of all the gardens and plot allocations
 - Farm news
 - Instructions for water line repairs
 - Order forms for additional mulch/compost
 - A locked box for depositing payments and requests for compost and mulch
 - A space for communicating with your fellow gardeners

Parking:

- Do not drive on the lawns (i.e. between the gardens) – stick to roadways
- Park in the parking lot outside the Farm Workshop unless you have a physical limitation which prevents you from walking to your plot.
- Grass-ways are maintained for farm machinery and not to car/road standards. Use of grass driveways for loading and unloading is at your own risk.
- Grass driveways must remain open for farm machinery.
- **Do not park on the roadways near the barn and drivesheds** – these are major thoroughfares for tractors (with wide and scratchy implements)!

Washrooms:

- An outhouse is located at the bottom of the row of spruce trees near the Loyola House plots (close to the Stations of the Cosmos behind the greenhouse).
- You may also use a washroom in the Farm Workshop during business hours (there is one accessible washroom in the Farm Workshop)

Newsletter:

- If you would like to contribute to the Ignatius Farm newsletter, please email csaoutreach@ignatiusguelph.ca with your recipes, garden stories and pictures!

Donations: Share the Abundance!

- Donations to Ignatius Farm activities are welcomed! Tax-receipts are provided. Donations can be made by cheque, payable to *Ignatius Jesuit Centre* or [online](#).
- Ignatius Farm will direct donations towards the Farm Resilience Fund unless otherwise advised. This fund enables us to invest in farm infrastructure and resources which enable the farm to buffer the extreme weather effects of climate change.
- Specified donations enable farm opportunities for others:
 - *Garden Plots* – sponsor plots for school groups, service agencies and others
 - *CSA Shares* - sponsor produce for local families or service agencies.
 - *Internships* - sponsor programming and resources for Organic Agriculture interns
- If you would like to assist with the cost of a plot for a particular individual or community group, please contact the Farm Manager.

RESOURCES:

Local sources of certified organic seed:

- Annual Guelph Organic Conference tradeshow, U of G (Jan 28-29, 2017)
- The Stone Store

Online Seed Suppliers:

- Cottage Gardener - www.cottagegardener.com
- Eternal Seed - www.eternalseed.ca
- Hawthorn Farm - www.hawthornfarm.ca
- High Mowing - www.highmowingseeds.com
- Johnny's - www.johnnyseeds.com
- TourneSol - www.fermetournesol.qc.ca/products/seeds
- Urban Harvest - www.uharvest.ca
- William Dam - www.damseeds.ca

Seedling Suppliers:

- Trout Lily - At our Spring Field Day, at the Guelph Farmer's Market and online at troutlilynursery.blogspot.ca
- Brock Road Nursery

Gardening books - these resources are full of great information:

- How to Grow More Vegetables - John Jeavons
- The New Organic Grower - Eliot Coleman
- Rodale's Vegetable Garden Problem Solver - Fern Marshall Bradley

CONTACT:



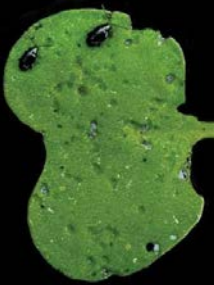


Registration questions

farmregistration@ignatiusguelph.ca 519-824-1250 ext.245






Heather Lekx, Farm Manager

farmmanager@ignatiusguelph.ca (519) 824-1250 ext. 243

QUICK REFERENCE GUIDE TO GARDEN PESTS:

Insect name	Photos	Crops affected	Methods
Mexican Bean Beetle		Beans	Squish at any stage.
Colorado Potato Beetle		Nightshades (potatoes and eggplant especially)	Squish eggs; Knock of plant into bucket and dispose
Flea Beetle		Brassicas (broccoli, kale, cauliflower...)	Row cover crop immediately after planting.
Cucumber Beetle		Cucurbits (cucumbers, summer & winter squashes)	Row cover from planting until flowering; Squish eggs (and beetles while still sleepy/cold)
Squash Bug		Cucurbits	Keep plant debris out of gardens; squish eggs on bottom of leaves, squish bugs! (They smell...)

COMMON GARDEN DISEASES:

Disease	Photo	Characteristics
Early Blight		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -creates a 'bullseye' pattern on older foliage -premature defoliation -fruit/tuber rot -stem lesions
Late Blight		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -lesions on leaves which turn brown and shrivel -spores can be visible as powder surrounding lesions -fruits have dark lesions
Downy Mildew		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -yellow spots forming in leaves, often close to veins which turn brown -fruit is undersize and deformed -kills crop very quickly
Powdery Mildew		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -powdery splotches of white or grey on leaves and stems -easy to identify
Fusarium and Verticillium Wilts		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -later infections cause foliage to turn a dull grey-green and wilt, followed by a general yellowing and defoliation -early infections can cause seedling damping-off