



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 of gardens each year! As an organic farm, we work hard 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.

AVAILABILITY:

Ignatius Farm Community Garden plots sell out! Reserve your plot early to avoid disappointment. Annual and new perennial garden plots are available for planting as of the Spring Field Day 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.

Perennials gardeners must be seasoned gardeners who can manage their own crop rotation. They are expected to maintain their plot for at least three years, and must register annually, no later than April 1, to retain their plot

PURPOSE:

Garden plots are meant to grow crops for personal consumption. If you wish to sell crops, you must inform the Farm Manager, Heather Lekx, in advance (farmmanager@ignatiusguelph.ca / 519-824-1250 ext. 243). You may not use the Ignatius Farm name in marketing your produce without written permission.

MAINTENANCE:

All garden plots must be maintained in accordance with the Canada Organic Standard.

ASSIGNMENT:

All garden plots are numbered and assigned to gardeners at the Spring Field Day in May when the fields are opened. You are welcome to post a decorative sign or garden art to identify your plot.**Farm Notice Board:**

The farm notice board located by the Farm Workshop parking lot will assist you in the event that you are unable to attend the Spring Field Day orientation. It includes:

- Map of the gardens and plot allocations
- Instructions for water line repairs

- Order forms for additional mulch/compost
- A locked box for depositing payments and requests for compost and mulch
- Ignatius Farm news & event info
- A space for communicating with your fellow gardeners

COMMUNITY GARDENERS AGREE TO GARDEN ACCORDING TO THESE GUIDELINES:

- Stakes and labels: No metal stakes in any garden plots due to expensive tractor repairs. Perennial gardeners may request special exemption if they provide stake details to the Farm Manager or Garden Coordinator. Wooden stakes and plant labels are recommended. 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 fist-sized rocks or smaller in your plot to release minerals into the soil. Larger rocks go into the designated rock bins.
- Keep your stuff in your plot. Tools, mulch, seed trays, tomato cages, and rocks in pathways become hazards for maintenance and your fellow gardener so be mindful about where you leave them.
- Leave plant material in your plot to return organic matter to the soil. Plant debris like noxious weeds that need to be removed from your plot is to be placed in the designated wire cages for future composting.
- Remove all structures, row covers, and plastic labels with your final harvest
- Gardeners cannot grow marijuana plants in their plots (other weeds are also discouraged; see below for weed management guidelines!)

PLANTS & AMENDMENTS:

- No synthetic fertilizers
- No biodegradable or plastic mulch
- Only use 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
- All plant or soil treatments/amendments must be certified organic and approved by the Farm Manager prior to use
- Organic seeds and/or plants are highly recommended (see list of sources below)

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. There are many friendly bugs in the garden that will help you manage the less desirable ones.

- See the Pest and Disease Guide on the website for 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
- No black landscape fabric or tarps
- Keep your garden as neat and weed free as possible, and keep weeds from going to seed. Mulch is a good weed suppressant
- 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 is easy with a sharp hoe and will keep you ahead of your weeds
- Trim the 12" grass at your plot edge to avoid damage to your crops as a result of mowing

Please note: 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 mowed or 'cleaned and gleaned' by another willing gardener.

WATERING:

- Water is available from water barrels throughout the garden. Instructions are provided at the Spring Field Day and on the farm notice board near the parking lot.
- Please hand water and refill water barrels that are part way filled 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 notice board and in the Community Gardens Shed. If you can't address the situation yourself, you may call an on-call water-line volunteer to help.
- 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 that you are last one there, turn it off anyway! Anyone else needing water can turn it on and then off again.
- Do not drink the water. 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:

- 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
- Pets are welcome but must be kept 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!

PARKING:

- Do not drive on the lawns. Please 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 kept to road standards for use by cars. 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! We train new tractor drivers as part of our Farm Internship program. Give them space!

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 Store area of the workshop.

DONATIONS: SHARE THE ABUNDANCE!

- Donations to Ignatius Farm activities are welcomed and needed. 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, cover crops, and resources which help the farm to buffer 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:

- Ignatius Farm Spring Field Day – we will have seed for sale
- Annual Guelph Organic Conference tradeshow in January
- 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 Seeds - www.johnnyseeds.com
- TourneSol - www.fermetournesol.qc.ca/products/seeds

- Urban Harvest - www.uharvest.ca
- William Dam - www.damseeds.ca

ORGANIC SEEDLING SUPPLIERS:

- Ignatius Farm Spring Field Day! This year we will be selling seedlings produced by Ignatius Farm
- Trout Lily - troutlilynursery.blogspot.ca
- Brock Road Nursery

GARDENING BOOKS:

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

CONTACT:

Registration questions

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