



# Ignatius Jesuit Centre

*A Place of Peace*

## Ignatius Farm

# COMMUNITY GARDEN PLOTS GUIDELINES

Welcome! 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.

### **AVAILABILITY:**

Ignatius Farm Community Garden plots sell out! Reserve your plot early to avoid disappointment.

Annual plots are sized as 100, 200, 300 and 500 ft<sup>2</sup>. Larger annual plots and Perennial plots are increments of 500 ft<sup>2</sup>.

Annual and new perennial garden plots are available for planting as of Spring Field Day on the Saturday of the May long weekend. 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 each year.

### **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](mailto: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 Spring Field Day on the May long weekend 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 and compost
- Ignatius Farm news & event info
- A space for communicating with your fellow gardeners

## COMMUNITY GARDENERS AGREE TO GARDEN ACCORDING TO THE FOLLOWING GUIDELINES:

- Metal stakes are not permitted in garden plots due to expensive tractor repairs. Perennial gardeners may request special exemption and provide stake details to the Farm Manager or Community 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 must be deposited 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.
- Tools borrowed from the tool shed must be returned after each use and cannot remain in your plot overnight. These tools are meant to be shared among all gardeners throughout the season.
- Do not remove tools from other garden plots. Since shared tools are to be returned to the garden shed after each use, all tools left in a gardener's plot are their own personal property.
- 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 debris piles for future composting.
- Remove all structures, row covers, and plastic labels from your plot with your final harvest. Leave only plant residue in your plot at the end of the season
- Gardeners cannot grow marijuana plants in their plots

### PLANTS & INPUTS:

- No synthetic fertilizers
- No biodegradable or plastic mulch
- Only use compost approved for organic production
- No Genetically-Modified Organism (GMO) plants or seeds
- No treated seeds
- All plant and soil treatments/amendments must be certified organic and approved by the Farm Manager prior to use
- Organic seeds or plants are highly recommended (see list of sources on page 4)

### PEST MANAGEMENT:

- No pesticides
- Squishing/removing bugs and using floating row cover are approved pest management techniques.
- All row cover pieces must be removed before the end of the season
- Diatomaceous Earth (pure, unheated) may be used for soft-bodied insects.
- All pest management methods including botanical pesticides must be certified organic. Many products labelled 'natural' are not organic – Ask first!
- Don't kill insects indiscriminately. You want to keep the predators and pollinators!
- See the Pest and Disease Guide on the website for common problems you may encounter.

## **WEED MANAGEMENT:**

- No herbicides
- No black landscape fabric or tarps. \*Perennial gardeners may request an exemption.
- Keep your garden as neat and weed free as possible
- Keep weeds from maturing and producing seed. Mulch is a good weed suppressant.
- Weed your plot every 8-10 days (even though it may appear unnecessary at that point) with a sharp hoe and it will be easy!
- Trim the grass and manage weeds 12" into the path from your plot edge to avoid damage to your crops as a result of mowing.

## *WEED PATROL*

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 will be mowed, 'cleaned and gleaned', or re-assigned to another gardener.

## **WATERING:**

- Water is available from water barrels throughout the garden. Instructions are provided at Spring Field Day.
- 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 waterline is leaking, simple repairs can be done by gardeners with the tools provided at the farm notice board (green bin) and in the Community Gardens Shed (white bucket). If you can't address the situation yourself, you may call an on-call water-line volunteer to help. Their information is on the Farm Notice Board.
- 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 attach a hose to the water barrels or waterlines.
- 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
- 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, or sheds
- Discard plant debris and rocks - if it must be removed from your plot - in the designated areas. Look for the signs!

## **PARKING:**

- Do not drive on the lawns. Stick to the 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.

### **DONATIONS: SHARE THE ABUNDANCE!**

- Donations to Ignatius Farm are welcomed and needed. Tax receipts are provided for donations over \$20. 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 in need
  - *CSA Shares* - sponsor produce for a local family or for 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 from Hawthorne Farm!
- Annual Guelph Organic Conference tradeshow in January
- The Stone Store

#### **ONLINE SEED SUPPLIERS:**

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

### **ORGANIC SEEDLING SUPPLIERS:**

- Ignatius Farm Spring Field Day!
- Trout Lily - [troutlilynursery.blogspot.ca](http://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:**

Pam Costanzo, Registration questions:

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