



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 ft². Larger annual plots and Perennial plots are increments of 500 ft².

Perennial gardeners must be seasoned gardeners who can manage their own crop rotation. They commit to maintain their plot for three or more years, and register annually by April 1 to retain their plot each year.

ACCESS

You will receive your plot assignment after Ignatius Farm receives your signed agreement to follow the **Community Gardens COVID-19 protocols**. No one may enter the gardens without signing this agreement. An email will be sent to you with your plot number and a field map to locate it.

There is no Spring Field Day orientation for 2020.

- There is a staggered opening of the gardens to accommodate physical distancing, and the limitations on staff and volunteers. We aim to post a short video orientation after the fields are completely laid out (May 22). If you are new to gardening at Ignatius, read all of the documents provided thoroughly and bring your map with you on your first visit.
- The seedling sale is online with contactless pick-up days scheduled May 15, May 20, 21, from 11:30am-4:30pm. Seed will be available for self-serve purchase at that time. Bring cash or cheque to deposit into the cashbox provided. Depending on remaining inventory, seedlings etc... may also be available the week of May 25. Notice will be provided through social media.

Perennial garden plots open Friday, May 15 in the afternoon.

Annual plots of 500 sq.ft. and larger can be accessed beginning Saturday, May 16.

100-300 ft² garden plots will be available Friday, May 22 in the afternoon.

You are welcome to post a decorative sign or garden art to identify your plot.

PURPOSE

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

COMMUNITY GARDENS INFORMATION BOARD:

The large cedar farm notice board located by the Farm Workshop parking lot will answer most questions. It includes:

- Map of the gardens and laminated copies of emailed information
- 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.

If you can't find your plot based on the info board and the information provided by email, call 519-824-1250 Monday to Friday. Try extensions 243, 244 or 245 to catch one of our staff in the office since we may be outside!

COMMUNITY GARDENERS AGREE TO FOLLOW THESE GUIDELINES:

ORGANIC

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

MAINTENANCE & TOOLS

- NO metal stakes due to expensive tractor repairs. Perennial gardeners may request exemption by providing stake details to the Farm Manager or Community Garden Coordinator.
- Use wooden stakes and plant labels - plastic becomes garbage for the soil and future gardeners.
- Keep rocks out of grass and pathways (mowing hazards!!). Leave fist-sized rocks or smaller in your plot to release minerals into the soil. Place larger rocks into the designated rock bins.
- Keep your stuff in your plot. Do not leave items in pathways or along the field edge.
- Gardeners must provide their own tools and watering cans.
- Do not remove items from other garden plots. These belong to other gardeners.
- Leave plant material in your plot to return organic matter to the soil. Plant debris of noxious weeds/weeds going to seed can be placed in the designated debris piles for future composting.
- Fall Clean-up: Remove all structures, row covers, and labels from your plot with your final harvest. Leave only plant residue and your numbered stakes at the end of the season
- No Marijuana

PLANTS & INPUTS

- All inputs must be certified organic and approved by the Farm Manager prior to use
- Additional Compost and amendment orders may be made following the instructions on the notice board
- 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
- Organic seeds or plants are highly recommended (see list of sources below)

PEST MANAGEMENT:

- No pesticides
- Squishing/removing bugs or use floating row cover
- Remove all row cover pieces 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. Keep the predators and pollinators!
- See the Pest and Disease Guide for common problems you may encounter.

WEED MANAGEMENT:

- No herbicides
- No black landscape fabric or tarps. *Perennial gardeners may use silage tarps with prompt removal.
- Keep your garden as neat and weed free as possible
- Keep weeds from maturing and producing seed.
- Use straw mulch to suppress weeds and retain soil moisture.
- Weed your plot every 8-10 days 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 without follow-up, your plot will be re-assigned to another gardener.

WATERING:

- Water is available from water barrels throughout the garden as outlined on the maps. There is a main valve for each field, and valves at water barrels running through the centre of each field.
To access water:
 - Wash your hands
 - Turn on the main valve for your field and sanitize it
 - Sanitize and turn on the valve closest to your plot
 - Fill the barrel and use your watering can to do your watering
 - Turn off the valve closest to your plot and sanitize it
 - **Turn off the main valve** and sanitize it
 - Wash your hands
- Hand water with watering cans and refill water barrels that are part way filled to assist the next gardener.
- Do not attach a hose to the water barrels or waterlines.
- If the water barrel is nearly empty, dump it out, give it a rinse and then refill it. This will 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). If you can't address the situation yourself, you may call an on-call water-line volunteer to help. Their information is on the Community Gardens Information Board.

- Use as little water as possible. Mulch helps your soil retain moisture.
- Plots are cultivated and are ready for planting. Avoid overworking the soil - it's valuable to keep some soil structure to encourage healthy soil life and maintain water retention in your plot.
- 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*.
- Bring enough drinking water for your stay at the garden as there will be no access to the Farm Workshop in 2020. 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 may not enter fields and must be leashed at all times
- NO smoking or littering in or around the gardens, barns, or sheds

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 are uneven and must be unobstructed at times. If you need to use them for loading/unloading, it is at your own risk. Do not park on or adjacent to them.
- Roadways near the barn and drivesheds are major thoroughfares for tractors with wide and scratchy implements. We train novice tractor drivers as part of our Farmer Training program. Give them space!
- Pedestrians of all ages take priority at IJC. Watch out for children. Enjoy the sounds and views of the land by foot and leave your car in the parking lot!

WASHROOMS:

- There are portable toilets for 2020! See the map for locations. Every user must sanitize the toilet after each use.

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
 - *Farmer Training* - sponsor programming and resources for organic agriculture interns and training programs

- 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– we will have seed for sale from Hawthorne Farm during the pick-up times from the online seedling sale: May 15, 21, 22 from 11:30am-4:30pm
- 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 online plant sale](#)
- Trout Lily - troutlilynursery.blogspot.ca
- Brock Road Nursery

CONTACT:

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