



**Ignatius Jesuit Centre**  
*A Place of Peace*

**Ignatius Farm**

## **COMMUNITY GARDEN GUIDELINES 2021**

Welcome! Ignatius Farm has been offering community garden plots for rent since 1998. The Ignatius Farm Community Gardens are the largest serving Guelph, now roughly 3.5 acres of gardens and additional land for non-garden cover crop years. As a regenerative organic farm, we work hard to take good care of our soil. Annual garden plots are rotated with cover crops, and composted as needed each fall, in order to keep the soil healthy.

You are also key to the care of this land. Ensure that you are fully familiar with the COVID-19 protocols and general guidelines herein, which you have agreed to follow for your garden at Ignatius.

Thank-you for contributing to the beauty of these lands.

Heather Lekx, Farm Manager

### **GARDEN AVAILABILITY**

Ignatius Farm Community Garden plots sell out! Reserve your plot early, or get on the waiting list.

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

Perennial plots are for seasoned gardeners with proven weed management skills. Gardeners manage their own cover crops, soil protection and fertility. They commit to maintain their plot for three or more years, and re-register annually by March 1 to retain their plot. Any removal of perennials from the plot must be bare-root; no top soil may be removed.

### **ACCESS TO GARDEN PLOTS – 2021 DATES**

Annual gardens open one field at a time between May 15-25. You will receive an email when the field you are assigned to is open, along with a field map (link) to assist you in locating your plot. Garden plot number assignments will be posted for 2 weeks on the Community Gardens notice board adjacent to the Farm Workshop parking lot.

Returning perennial gardeners can access their plots after they have re-registered and paid. New perennial gardeners access plots May 25-31, pending final cultivation. Notification will be by email.

**Orientation:** There will not be a large Spring Field Day gathering; The [seedling sale is online](#) with assigned pick-up times; additional plants are for sale certain days. Farm staff will be available to provide orientations at scheduled times. If you are new to gardening at Ignatius, or in a field that is new to you, drop by at one of the following times to know how to access your plot, water etc...

- Friday, May 21, 10-noon, 2-5pm
- Saturday, May 22, 9am-noon - Also a seedling order pick-up; seed & additional seedlings for sale
- Tuesday, May 25, 2-5pm - Also a seedling order pick-up; seed & additional seedlings for sale
- Friday, May 28, 2-5pm - Also a seedling order pick-up; seed & additional seedlings for sale

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

## 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, guidelines and garden access information
- Plot assignments
- Instructions for water line access and repairs
- Order forms and instructions for purchasing additional mulch and compost
- Ignatius Farm news & event info
- How to easily donate extra produce to service agencies, thanks to regular delivery by a gardener!
- 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 x 244 Tuesday, Wednesday, or Friday.

## COVID-19 PROTOCOLS

### **EVERY GARDENER MUST READ AND AGREE TO FOLLOW THESE IGNATIUS FARM COMMUNITY GARDENS COVID-19 PROTOCOLS AND THE COVID-19 GUIDANCE FOR COMMUNITY GARDENS FROM WDG PUBLIC HEALTH**

\*The individual who registered & signed off on the guidelines is responsible for assuring that every person working in their plot understands and follows the protocols. No one may enter the gardens without signing the agreement.

Community garden access for everyone is dependent on everyone following the [COVID-19 Guidance for Community Gardens from WDG Public Health](#). Read those guidelines and follow these protocols:

### **RESTRICTED ENTRY**

Gardens are to be used for essential food production and not social gatherings.

Only **registered** gardeners who have read and signed the agreement to abide by these COVID-19 safety protocols may enter the community garden fields. AND

- Have **no** symptoms of illness\* AND
- Have **not** travelled outside Canada in the past 14 days AND
- Have **not** been in close contact with a confirmed or probable case of COVID-19

Gardeners who do not follow the guidelines will lose garden access.

\*If you are ill, assess your symptoms at [covid-19.ontario.ca/self-assessment](https://covid-19.ontario.ca/self-assessment)

## **PHYSICAL DISTANCING**

Keep 6 feet away from anyone not in your household.

If gardeners in immediately adjacent plots show up at the same time and can't keep 6' apart:

- Gardeners with odd numbered plots have priority access on odd-numbered days
- Gardeners with even numbered plots have priority access on even-numbered days

## **SANITATION**

Wash your hands before coming to the garden and when you go home. At the garden, use the cold-water handwashing stations before and after touching common surfaces.

Bring your own hand sanitizer with you; wipe your hands clean before sanitizing.

Sanitize surfaces that you touch before and after use. Use 2% bleach solution or 5% hydrogen peroxide or >70% alcohol without synthetic additives: Spritz and air dry, or wipe with saturated cloth. Bring your own if you have it.

Handwashing stations are located near the main waterline valve for each field (see maps). Sanitizing solution spritzers are located at the handwashing stations.

**Water valves** are a common touch surface used by everyone. To access water:

1. Wash your hands
2. Turn on the main valve for your field and sanitize it
3. Sanitize and turn on the valve closest to your plot
4. Fill the barrel and use your watering can to do your watering
5. Turn off the valve closest to your plot and sanitize it
6. Turn off the main valve and sanitize it
7. Wash your hands

## **PORTABLE TOILETS**

Every user must sanitize all touch points after every use.

## **TOOLS & EQUIPMENT**

Bring your own tools, watering cans etc...

The Community Gardens Shed is locked and access is restricted to trained waterline volunteers and IJC staff.

Some gardeners have relied on the donated shared tools in the community gardens shed in the past. If you have tools that you can donate to another gardener who needs them, put a note on the Community Gardens Information board with your contact information on it.

# COMMUNITY GARDENERS AGREE TO FOLLOW THESE GUIDELINES:

## 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](mailto:farmmanager@ignatiusguelph.ca) / 519-824-1250 ext. 243). You may not use the Ignatius Farm name in any marketing without written permission.

## 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 Outreach Administrator.
- 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.
- Keep your plot pathway edge trimmed/weed-free
- 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

## PLANTS & INPUTS

- Inputs must be certified organic and approved by the Farm Manager prior to use
- Additional compost and straw orders - follow 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)
- No Marijuana
- No invasive plants, regardless of medicinal or edible value

## 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, follow the aforementioned before/after handwashing & sanitizing at each step:
  - Turn on the main valve for your field
  - Turn on the valve at the barrel closest to your plot to fill your barrel
  - Turn off the valve closest
  - **Turn off the main valve**
  - Use your watering can to do your watering
- Hand water with watering cans and refill water barrel half-way to give the next gardener watering a kind head-start.
- 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 just half-way**. 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 toolbox). 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 is no access to the Farm Workshop. 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 neighbouring 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:**

- **Park in the parking lot outside the Farm Workshop or by the labyrinth, not at the field.**  
Those with physical limitations will be provided plots in the Loyola field where car access is permitted at your own risk. If you do not have a physical limitation, protect the grassways from erosion; Walk to your plot.
- Do not drive on the lawns.
- Grass-ways are maintained for farm machinery, are uneven and must be kept unobstructed. 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 programs. 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! 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 or the Outreach Administrator.

### **RESOURCES:**

#### **LOCAL SOURCES OF CERTIFIED ORGANIC SEED:**

- Ignatius Farm– we will have seed for sale from Hawthorne Farm during the seedling sale: May 22, 9-noon, May 25 & 28, 2-5pm
- Annual Guelph Organic Conference tradeshow in January... usually!
- 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 online plant sale](#)
- Trout Lily - [troutlilynursery.blogspot.ca](http://troutlilynursery.blogspot.ca)
- Brock Road Nursery

### **CONTACT:**

Pam Costanzo, Outreach Administrator, all registration questions:  
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