



Ignatius Jesuit Centre
A Place of Peace

Ignatius Farm

COMMUNITY GARDEN GUIDELINES 2022

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 plus 2.5 acres in cover crop rotation. As a regenerative organic farm, taking good care of the soil is a top priority. Annual garden plots are rotated with cover crops, and composted as needed each fall, to keep the soil healthy.

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

Thank-you for contributing to the beauty of these lands and collectively caring for the space.

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

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.

Garlic plots are available in 50 or 100 ft², October – August. Reserve at the same time as your annual plot.

ACCESS TO GARDEN PLOTS & 2022 DATES

Garden plots open one field at a time between May 20-31. An email will let you know 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. All new gardeners need to attend an orientation. (see below)

Returning perennial gardeners can access their plots as soon as they have re-registered and paid. New perennial gardeners access plots May 20-31, pending final cultivation. Notification will be by email.

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

GARDEN MARKING & WATERLINES SET-UP

May 9 – 19, Tues, Wed, Thurs mornings – 20 volunteers needed

ORIENTATION: Select one of the group orientations below. The orientation is about 20 minutes and starts at the Info board by the Farm Workshop. It is essential if you are new to gardening at Ignatius, in a field that is new to you, or we haven't seen you in ages! You will find your plot, water access, questions answered, and plants!

SEEDLING SALE: The seedling sale is back in person in 2022, under the white tent opposite the Farm Workshop parking lot. Seedlings available each year vary, but typically we have: tomatoes, eggplant, flowers, cucumbers, leeks, lettuce, herbs, peppers plus seed potatoes, onion sets & seeds. Potential for additional vendors on Saturday May 21. Inquire at farmoutreach@ignatiusguelph.ca.

2022	Orientation	Plant Sale
Saturday May 21	9am, 10am, 11am	9am-noon
Tuesday May 24	2pm, 3pm, 4pm	2-5pm
Friday May 27	2pm, 3pm, 4pm	2-5pm

AMENDMENT ORDER DEADLINES & DELIVERIES

- Straw mulch and tractor buckets of compost are delivered to plots on the following weeks:
 - **May 23**(registration orders), **June 6, June 20** for annual and perennial plots
 - **Oct. 3** for garlic and perennial plots
- Order by 10am on Mondays for mid-week delivery; order forms are on info board
- Compost purchased by the 20L pail is self-serve and can be taken from the nearest pile after payment
- **5 volunteers needed for straw bale distribution on May 26th**

WATERLINES

Wednesday, September 21 and 28 - 5 volunteers needed. 9am-12:30pm

Collect water lines & and store them for the winter.

PLOTS CLOSE & MUST BE CLEANED UP

Monday October 24 - Last day to harvest from annual plots

Remove all vegetables, tools, tomato cages, stakes, string, row cover etc... from annual garden plots.

GARDEN CLEAN & GLEAN

Tuesday October 25 - 12 volunteers needed 9 am start

Collect plot number stakes and other obstructions to tractor work; Glean produce

COMMUNITY GARDENS INFORMATION BOARD – YOUR FAQ ANSWERED!

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

- Map of the gardens, guidelines and garden access information
- Plot assignments
- Water line access and repair information
- Straw mulch and compost Order forms and instructions
- Ignatius Farm news & event info
- Donating extra produce to service agencies, thanks to regular delivery by a gardener!
- A space to communicate 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 FOLLOW IGNATIUS FARM COMMUNITY GARDENS COVID-19 PROTOCOLS AND 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.

RESTRICTED ENTRY

Gardens are for essential food production and not social gatherings.

Only **registered** gardeners who have read, signed the agreement to abide by COVID-19 safety protocols, and follow Ignatius Farm and Public Health COVID-19 protocols may enter the community garden fields. AND

- Have **no** symptoms of illness*
- 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

PHYSICAL DISTANCING

Keep 6 feet away from anyone not in your household.

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. Handwashing stations are located near the main waterline valve for each field (see maps).

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. Sanitizing solution spritzers are available at handwashing stations.

Water valves are a common touch surface used by everyone. Wash your hands and sanitize faucets and water valve before and after each use.

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 / 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.

MAINTAINING YOUR GARDEN

- Bring home all your packaging (trays, plastic labels, etc.) for recycling/disposal.
- 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. Larger rocks may go in 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: Take home 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 or approved by the Farm Manager prior to use
- Compost and straw orders – can be made online or with forms on the notice board until mid- June.
- 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
- Squish/remove 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.
- Trim the grass and manage weeds 12" into the path from your plot edge.

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. Follow the aforementioned before/after handwashing & sanitizing of valves. To access water:
 - Turn on the main valve for your field
 - Turn on the valve at the barrel closest to your plot;
 - Fill your barrel
 - Turn off the valve closest to your plot
 - **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, call an on-call water-line volunteer to take care of it. Contact information is on the Community Gardens Information Board.
- Use as little water as possible. Mulch helps your soil retain moisture.
- Plots are cultivated before garden opening. Avoid overworking the soil - 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*.
- 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 in or around the gardens, barns, or sheds
- Keep your adjacent path free of weed, tools, litter
- Bring your recycling and garbage home

PARKING:

- **Park in the parking areas by the Farm Workshop or 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 grass ways 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 transitways for tractors with wide and scratchy implements. **We train novice tractor drivers** in our New Farmer Training programs. **Give them space!**
- Pedestrians of all ages take priority at IJC. Watch out for children and those on silent retreats. Enjoy the sounds and views of the land by foot and leave your car in the parking lot!

WASHROOMS:

- Portable toilets are available. See map for locations. Every user must sanitize all touch points after 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 investments in farm infrastructure, cover crops, and other ways to buffer the Farm from extreme weather effects due to climate change.
- Specified donations enable farm opportunities for others:
 - sponsor a *Garden Plot* for school groups, service agencies and others in need
 - sponsor a *CSA Share* or produce for a local family or for service agencies
 - sponsor *New Farmer Training* programming and resources for the next generation of farmers and food advocates
- 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.

FARM COMMUNITY EVENTS (SUBJECT TO CHANGE)

Over the past two seasons, many community members have enjoyed being on the land and helping with farm tasks, so we have created Community Field Days for 2022. Ignatius Farm Community Farm events are open to everyone. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Details for upcoming events will be in the monthly Ignatius Farm E-News and [events page](#). Pre-registration may be required for some events.

Community Field Days:

- March 19: Orchard planning & pruning
- May 7: Orchard mulching
- June 25: Solstice Field day, community trainings (pest management for gardeners), music and food
- July 23: Field & orchard workbees
- August 13: Field workbee
- August 27: Field & orchard workbees
- September 17: Field & orchard workbees
- October 1: Harvest Field day - workbee plus Harvest Celebration (food!) in pm
- October 22: Field & orchard workbees

IGNATIUS NEW FARMER TRAINING PROGRAM

With collaboration from the [Ecological Farmers Association of Ontario \(EFAO\)](#), [Everdale](#) and now the [National Farmers Union-Ontario](#), Ignatius Farm restructured its internship to make this training program available to any new farmer and those interested in farming, gardening, and food advocacy, featuring:

- 40+ online workshops and virtual field days with local farms and food businesses
- Monthly, optional in-person field days at a farm in SW Ontario

Participants begin in April with foundational knowledge, learn about specialized aspects of farming over the growing season, and focus in November on establishing farm businesses.

Join for a single webinar, term, or the entire program. See the curriculum on our [farm training web page](#).

Registration opens in March at [EFAO.ca](#). Contact farmeducation@ignatiusguelph.ca for more details.

RESOURCES

LOCAL SOURCES OF CERTIFIED ORGANIC SEED:

- Ignatius Farm– we will have seed from [Hawthorne Farm](#) at the seedling sale: May 21, 24 & 27
- Annual Guelph Organic Conference tradeshow in January... maybe next year!
- 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
- Carrick Seeds - carrickseeds.ca
- Saturday Seed Co. (here in Guelph!) - www.Saturdayseedco.ca
- Open Source Seed Initiative - <https://osseeds.org/ossi-partners/>

ORGANIC SEEDLING SUPPLIERS:

- Ignatius Farm plant sale May 21
- Trout Lily - troutlilynursery.blogspot.ca
- Brock Road Nursery

CONTACT

Pam Costanzo, Outreach Administrator, all registration questions:
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