



Ignatius Jesuit Centre

A Place of Peace

Ignatius Farm

COMMUNITY GARDEN GUIDELINES 2024

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 this place of peace, creating beauty, and caring for this land.

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 & 2024 DATES

Garden plots open at the Spring Field Day – Saturday, May 18. The May farm e-news covers the details. All new gardeners need to attend an orientation (see below). 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 access their plots once re-registered/paid. New perennial gardeners access plots as of the Spring Field Day, 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 6, 8-9 & 13-14, 16 mornings – 20 volunteers needed. Join the fun!

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 for sale!

SEEDLING SALE: The seedling sale is 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 18. Inquire at farmoutreach@ignatiusguelph.ca

2024	Orientations	Plant Sale
Saturday May 18	9am, 10am, 11am	9am-12:30pm
Tuesday May 21	2pm, 3pm, 4pm	2-5pm
Friday May 24	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 21** (registration orders), **June 3**, **June 17** for annual and perennial plots
 - **Oct. 1** 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 23**

WATERLINE REMOVAL

Wednesday, September 18 & Thursday, September 26, mornings - 5 volunteers needed

Collect water lines & and store them for the winter.

PLOTS CLOSE & MUST BE CLEANED UP

Monday October 28 - 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 29, 9 am start - 12 volunteers needed

Collect plot number stakes and other obstructions to tractor work; Glean produce from annual plots.

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
- A space to communicate with your fellow gardeners.

If you have questions about your plot based on the info board, an orientation, or emailed information, call 519-824-1250 x 244 Tuesday, Wednesday, or Friday.

COMMUNITY GARDENERS AGREE TO FOLLOW THESE GUIDELINES:

PURPOSE

Garden plots are 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.

SANITATION

Self-screen for illness before coming to community garden plots. If you are unwell, stay home to get better.

Wash your hands before and after touching common surfaces (e.g. water valves), and using the portable toilet. Handwashing stations are located near the main waterline valve for each field (see maps).

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 be exempted - stake details must be given 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 provide their own tools and watering cans. If you have tools to share, these can be stored in the unlocked side of the Community Gardens Shed. Tools must be returned after each use.
- Do not remove items or harvest 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. Send label to farmoutreach@ignatiusguelph.ca
- 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 Cannabis
- 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 7-10 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. If you receive multiple notices without follow-up, your plot will be re-assigned.

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:
 1. Turn on the main valve for your field
 2. Turn on the valve at the barrel closest to your plot;
 3. Fill your barrel
 4. Turn off the valve closest to your plot
 5. **Turn off the main valve**
 6. Use your watering can from the barrel 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.
- ALWAYS maintain the AIR GAP between the water line end and the barrel/watering can being filled, i.e. no submerged ends to avoid contamination. NO hose attachments 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 will help 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, in a refillable container. The Ignatius Jesuit Centre has a 'no bottled water' policy (no single use water bottles).

BE A NICE NEIGHBOUR:

- Garden peacefully: no radios, speakers or mobile phone use on speaker phone
- Stay out of others' garden plots
- Train or trim your vines to stay inside your plot

- Avoid shading 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 or near barns.** Those with physical limitations are provided plots in the Loyola field, with car access at your own risk. If you do not have a physical limitation, protect the grass trails from erosion; Walk to your plot.
- Do not drive on the lawns or grass trails. Grass trails are for pedestrians and farm vehicles, are uneven and must be kept unobstructed.
- Use the carts provided to bring heavy items to your plot. Lock Code is provided at Orientation.
- **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:

- A portable toilet is located opposite the Loyola Field waterline valve. Sanitize after use and wash hands.

ROOT & CONNECT DEEPER!

To become more involved in the farm through volunteering, field days, working shares, donations, training programs, or working with us, reach out! farmoutreach@ignatiushguelph.ca or 519-824-1250 x244

DONATE: SHARE THE ABUNDANCE!

Donations to Ignatius Farm are welcomed and needed. Tax receipts are provided for donations over \$20. Make your donation [online](#), by cheque payable to *Ignatius Jesuit Centre*, or drop by.

- Donations go to the Farm Resilience Fund unless otherwise advised. This fund invests in farm infrastructure, cover crops, and buffering the Farm from extreme weather/climate change.
- Specified donations sponsor farm opportunities for others:
 - *Garden Plot* for school groups, service agencies and others in need
 - *CSA Share* or produce for a local family or for service agencies
 - *New Farmer Training* and Small Plot Agriculture resources for the next generation of farmers and food advocates
- To cover the cost for a particular individual or group, contact the Farm Outreach Administrator

IGNATIUS NEW FARMER TRAINING PROGRAM

With collaboration from the [Ecological Farmers Association of Ontario \(EFAO\)](#), [Everdale](#) and the [National Farmers Union-Ontario](#), Ignatius Farm restructured its Farm Immersion 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@ignatiushguelph.ca for more details.

FARM COMMUNITY EVENTS

Ignatius Farm Community Farm events are open to everyone. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Community Field Days involve work bees to participate in farming activities. Details for upcoming events will be in the monthly Ignatius Farm E-News and [events page](#). Pre-registration is required for some events.

2024 COMMUNITY FIELD DAYS (SATURDAYS)

- March 3 Orchard planning & pruning
- April 18 Farm Launch at Loyola House
- April 27 Orchard mulching
- May 18 Spring Field Day - garden orientations & plant sale with BBQ
- June 8 Field & Orchard Workbee AM; Pest Identification Workshop PM
- July 13 Field Workbee & Orchard Summer Pruning workshop
- Sept 14 Field & Orchard Workbee
- Sept 24 & 27: Apple picking & cider pressing at CSA
- Oct 5 Field & Orchard Workbee followed by Stone Soup Celebration
- Nov 2 Field Workbee

LOYOLA HOUSE FOOD RETREATS

January 24, May 15, Sept 25 & Nov 22-24.

RESOURCES

LOCAL SOURCES OF ORGANIC SEED & SEEDLINGS:

Ignatius Farm- we will have seed from [Saturday Seed Co.](#) at the seedling sale: May 18, 21 & 24
Guelph Organic Conference annual tradeshow in January (seeds)
Guelph Farmers Market
The Stone Store
Brock Road Nursery

ONLINE SEED SUPPLIERS:

Carrick Seeds - carrickseeds.ca	Open Source Seed Initiative - osseeds.org/ossi-partners/
Cottage Gardener - cottagegardener.com	Saturday Seed Co. (here in Guelph!) - Saturdayseedco.ca
Eternal Seed - eternalseed.ca	Tourne-Sol - fermetournesol.qc.ca/en
Hawthorn Farm - hawthornfarm.ca	Urban Harvest - u harvest.ca
High Mowing - highmowingseeds.com	William Dam - damseeds.ca
Johnny's Seeds - johnnyseeds.com	

CONTACT

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