



Ignatius Jesuit Centre
A Place of Peace

Ignatius Farm

COMMUNITY GARDEN GUIDELINES 2025

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 TYPES

Annual plots are 100, 200, 300, 500 or 1000ft². Annual plots rotate field locations with cover crops.

Perennial plots are increments of 500 ft². Gardeners manage their own cover crops, soil care and fertility.

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

PERENNIAL GARDEN PARTICULARS

Perennial plots are for seasoned gardeners with proven weed management skills and who will do their own soil care. They commit to maintain their plot for three or more years, and re-register annually in the fall to retain their plot. Removal of perennials from the plot must be bare-root; no top soil may be removed. Shrubs and trees must be dwarf varieties. Restricted use of silage tarp, with notification and prompt removal, is permitted only in perennial gardens. Woodchip mulch is only permitted in perennial gardens. Some structures permitted. Contact farmanager@ignatiusguelph.ca before install for permissions.

ACCESS TO GARDEN PLOTS & 2025 DATES

Ignatius Farm Community Garden plots sell out! Reserve your plot in early winter. After registration, you will receive the monthly farm e-newsletter with garden updates.

If your desired plot size or type is sold out, email registration@ignatiusguelph.ca to go on the waiting list.

Gardens open at the Spring Field Day – Saturday, May 17 with orientations, plot assignments, and the seedling sale. 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 their plot on the Spring Field Day or upon notification.

GARDEN MARKING & WATERLINES SET-UP

May 6, 7, 8 & 13, 14, 15 mornings - 20 volunteers needed. Contact Pam and join the fun!

ORIENTATION: Select one of the group orientations below. Meet at the Info board by the Farm Workshop. The orientation is about 20 minutes - 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: Under the white tent opposite the Farm Workshop parking lot. Seedlings available each year vary, but typically we have: tomatoes, eggplant, flowers, cucumbers, lettuce, herbs, peppers. Additional food, plant and seed vendors on Saturday May 17. Inquire at farmoutreach@ignatiusguelph.ca

2025	Orientations	Plant Sale
Saturday May 17	9am, 10am, 11am	9am-12:30pm
Wednesday May 21	2pm, 3pm, 4pm	2-5:30pm

AMENDMENT ORDER DEADLINES & DELIVERIES

- Order Straw mulch and compost online or using forms on the Info board
- Mulch and tractor buckets of compost are delivered to plots on the following weeks:
 - **May 19**(registration orders), **June 2, June 16** for annual and perennial plots
 - **Oct. 6** for garlic and perennial plots
 - Order by 10am on Mondays for mid-week delivery
- 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 22**

WATERLINE REMOVAL

Tuesday, September 23 & Thursday, September 25, mornings - 5 volunteers needed

Collect water lines & and store them for the winter.

PLOTS CLOSE & MUST BE CLEANED UP

Monday October 27 - 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 28, 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
- Donating extra produce to service agencies
- News & event information; 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 contact 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.

If you can no longer use your plot, let us know promptly so that we can make it available for others. There are no refunds after gardens open. Advance cancellations may be refunded with a \$15 administration fee, or you can choose to receive a charitable tax receipt for the full amount!

SANITATION & WASHROOMS

- Pack In. Pack Out. You are responsible for taking your garbage home, promptly. Keep your plot tidy and the farm ecosystem beautiful. The workshop waste bin is only tipped monthly and is not for general use.
- A portable toilet is near the Farm Workshop entrance opposite the Loyola Field waterline main valve.
- 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

- You are welcome to post a decorative sign or garden art to identify your plot.
- Bring home all your garbage and packaging (trays, plastic labels, etc.) for recycling/disposal.
- NO metal stakes due to expensive tractor repairs.
- 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, signs/art, row covers, and labels from your plot with your final harvest.
 - Leave plant residue and your numbered stakes at the end of the season.
 - If your plot clean-up requires particular staff time to clean up or damages equipment, you will be invoiced accordingly.

PLANTS & INPUTS

- Inputs must be certified organic or approved prior to use. Send label to farmoutreach@ignatiusguelph.ca
- Compost and straw - order online or with forms on the notice board until mid- June.
- Avoid woodchips in annual plots
- No synthetic fertilizers
- No 'biodegradable' or plastic mulch. Annual garden plots may mulch with untreated straw, hay leaves, or plant residue that will decompose to soil within the year, not woodchips
- 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 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) is suitable 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 personal waterlines. **DO NOT RISK contamination of the water supply.**
- 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 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 lots 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. 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!

CONTACT

Pam Costanzo, Outreach Administrator: pcostanzo@ignatiusguelph.ca 519-824-1250 ext.244

Heather Lekx, Farm Manager hlekx@ignatiusguelph.ca (519)824-1250 ext. 243

Lisa Conroy, Farm Educator farmeducation@ignatiusguelph.ca (519)824-1250 ext. 244

ROOT & CONNECT DEEPER! – RESOURCES & OPPORTUNITIES

Get involved with Ignatius Farm through volunteering, field days, donations, training programs, or working with us. Reach out! farmoutreach@ignatiusguelph.ca or 519-824-1250 x244

VOLUNTEER WITH IJC ... CARING FOR IJC LANDS TAKES MANY HANDS

- Come explore the wide range of Ignatius volunteer connections
- Be a key part of the community tending this place of peace and connect with the land, building relationships through rewarding & meaningful work
- IJC volunteers exchange skills, find friendships, and help care for forest trails, gardens, landscapes, farm and restoration projects

DONATE: SHARE THE ABUNDANCE!

Donations 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 enable the farm to invest in farm infrastructure, cover crops, and buffering the Farm from extreme weather/climate change.
- Specified donations sponsor farm opportunities for others:
 - *Community Gardens* for individuals/families in need, school groups, or service agencies
 - *New Farmer Training* and *Small Plot Agriculture* program subsidies support 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. Since 2020, Ignatius Farm NFTP has offered online workshops and field days with local farms and food businesses, where participants learn foundational agricultural knowledge, dive deeper into core regenerative farming practices, and learn farm business planning. Due to funding limitations, 2025 will roll out a leaner program. See the curriculum information on our [farm training web page](#) and register at [EFAO.ca](#). Contact farmeducation@ignatiusguelph.ca for more details.

EVENTS

Check out our [website event page](#) for a myriad of land-based events and retreats, including food retreats featuring our own Farm Educator, Lisa Conroy, Ignatius Farm produce, and the Loyola House kitchen team!

LOCAL SOURCES OF ORGANIC SEED & SEEDLINGS:

Ignatius Farm Spring Field Day featuring
 Ignatius Farm seedlings
[Saturday Seed Co.](#)
 Ignatius Farm Small Plot Agriculture - various tenant businesses
 Guelph Organic Conference annual tradeshow in January (seeds)
 Guelph Farmers Market, The Stone Store, Goodness Me, 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	

TOOLS

Check out the [Guelph Tool Library](#). They loan tools to members - lending is the new spending!