



# Ignatius Jesuit Centre

*A Place of Peace*

## Ignatius Farm

# COMMUNITY GARDEN GUIDELINES 2026

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 4 acres of gardens plus 3 acres in cover crop rotation. As a farm practicing regenerative organic agriculture, 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-Land Manager

## GARDEN TYPES

Annual plots are 100, 200, 300, 500 or 1000ft<sup>2</sup>. Annual plots rotate field locations with cover crops. Spring Field day to late October.

Perennial plots are increments of 500 ft<sup>2</sup>. Gardeners manage their own cover crops and soil care.

Garlic plots are 50 or 100 ft<sup>2</sup>, 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. Returning perennial gardeners can access their plots early in the spring if re-registered/paid. New perennial gardeners access their plot on the Spring Field Day or upon notification.

Removal of perennial plants 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 with advance written approval. Contact [registration@ignatiusguelph.ca](mailto:registration@ignatiusguelph.ca) before install for permissions.

## ACCESS TO GARDEN PLOTS & 2026 DATES

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

If your desired plot size or type is sold out, email [registration@ignatiusguelph.ca](mailto:registration@ignatiusguelph.ca) to go on the waiting list.

Connect with your garden community at the Spring Field Day, by volunteering or come to a meet-up!

GARDENS OPEN ON THE **SPRING FIELD DAY: SATURDAY, MAY 16**

## GARDEN MARKING & WATERLINES SET-UP

**May 5, 6, 7 & 12, 13, 14 mornings - 20 volunteers needed. Contact Pam and join the fun!**

**SPRING FIELD DAY: SATURDAY, MAY 16** includes 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. Answers to your FAQ are also found on the notice board!

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

**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 16. Inquire at [farmoutreach@ignatiusguelph.ca](mailto:farmoutreach@ignatiusguelph.ca)

| 2026            | Orientations    | Plant Sale  |
|-----------------|-----------------|-------------|
| Saturday May 16 | 9am, 10am, 11am | 9am-12:30pm |
| Thursday 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 18**(registration orders), **June 1, June 15** for annual and perennial plots
  - **Oct. 5** 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 21**

## WATERLINE REMOVAL

**Tuesday, September 22 & Thursday, September 24, mornings - 5 volunteers needed**

Collect water lines & and store them for the winter.

## ANNUAL PLOTS CLOSE & MUST BE CLEANED UP

**Monday October 26 - 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 27, 9 am - 12 volunteers needed**

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

## COMMUNITY GARDEN MEET UPS

Join the Farm Team and fellow gardeners to get to know each other, discuss gardening and share gardening stories. Meet under the white tents by the Farm Workshop.

**Tuesday June 16, 5:30-6:30pm & Tuesday July 21, 2:30-3:30pm**

# 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](mailto: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. If there is not a full ingredient list, don't use it! Send label to [farmoutreach@ignatiusguelph.ca](mailto:farmoutreach@ignatiusguelph.ca)
- Compost and straw - order online or with forms on the notice board until mid- June.
- No synthetic fertilizers
- No 'biodegradable' or plastic mulch.
- No woodchips in annual plots; Annual garden plots may mulch with untreated straw, hay, leaves, or plant residue that will decompose to soil within the year;
- 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 organic. Many products labelled 'natural' are not organic and don't disclose all ingredients – 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:**

- Use straw mulch to suppress weeds and retain soil moisture
- 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 by fully weeding every 7-10 days
- Keep weeds from maturing and producing seed.
- 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, i.e. 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 others on the trails and roads. 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](mailto:pcostanzo@ignatiusguelph.ca) 519-824-1250 ext.244

Lisa Conroy, Farm Educator [farmeducation@ignatiusguelph.ca](mailto: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](mailto: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

- *Community Care Box* purchases provide produce to those in need as well as you! Direct donations for food security amplify our ability to gift vs. charge for produce
- To cover the cost for a particular individual or group, contact the Farm Outreach Administrator

## **IGNATIUS NEW FARMER TRAINING PROGRAM**

The New Farmer Training Programs reflects Ignatius Farm's long-standing commitment to forming new growers who care for soil, people, and local food systems. Each year, we offer a series of workshops and field day programming designed to evolve to meet the needs of emerging farmers while staying rooted in the values that have guided Ignatius Farm since its beginnings. Watch the newsletter for opportunities or follow us on social media. Many community gardeners participate in this program!

To ask questions, contact [farmeducation@ignatiusguelph.ca](mailto:farmeducation@ignatiusguelph.ca).

## **EVENTS**

Check out our [website event page](#) for a range of events, workshops, and learning opportunities throughout the year, connect to conservation, regenerative farming, spiritual programming and integral ecology.

## **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 - <a href="http://carrickseeds.ca">carrickseeds.ca</a>       | Open Source Seed Initiative - <a href="http://osseeds.org/ossi-partners/">osseeds.org/ossi-partners/</a> |
| Hawthorn Farm - <a href="http://hawthornfarm.ca">hawthornfarm.ca</a>       | Saturday Seed Co. (here in Guelph!) - <a href="http://Saturdayseedco.ca">Saturdayseedco.ca</a>           |
| High Mowing - <a href="http://highmowingseeds.com">highmowingseeds.com</a> | Tourne-Sol - <a href="http://fermetournesol.qc.ca/en">fermetournesol.qc.ca/en</a>                        |
| Johnny's Seeds - <a href="http://johnnyseeds.com">johnnyseeds.com</a>      | Urban Harvest - <a href="http://u harvest.ca">u harvest.ca</a>   |
|  | William Dam - <a href="http://damseeds.ca">damseeds.ca</a>   |

## **TOOLS**

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