

Howell Organic Community Garden Member Guidelines

2018 Growing Season

By paying your annual fee I agree to participate in this year's community gardens and follow guidelines as set forth in this document.

Guidelines are as follows:

1. I will use only organic materials when mulching, fertilizing and treating my plants for pest control. Items marked as OMRI certified are acceptable.
2. Use of growth hormones such as Miracle Grow along with harmful pesticides and/or weed control products **are prohibited**.
3. Participation in monthly meetings is encouraged. This year we anticipate 8 monthly meetings. It is highly recommend you attend at least 5 of them. If there is extenuating circumstances please let us know. Meetings are held the last Tuesday of each month at either the HOCG or the Howell Twp. Thelibrary's address is 318 Old Tavern Road, Howell, NJ. Emails are sent out as a reminder.
4. Respecting not only the land, but the other members of the garden is necessary to create an easy going friendly atmosphere, please do your best to maintain relationships with the other members.
5. Any crops grown and harvested will not be sold for personal gain and therefore cannot be sold commercially.
6. All members are to have something planted in their plots by May 30 and will continue to have crops planted for the duration of the growing season.
7. No more than 1/4 of a plot may be planted with crops 4' tall at maturity. If planting tall crops (again over 4') ensure that it will not shade neighboring plots so as not to interfere with what they are growing. No invasive plants like mint, will be planted. Planting of corn is not allowed, either.
8. Any structural changes such as trellises that over 4 feet tall should first be discussed with the garden leadership.
9. Harvesting of another members crop is not allowed unless permission has been given. All crops should be harvested upon maturity. There will be community coolers that will be for excess produce, these can be for food banks or other members of the gardens.
10. It is the responsibility of each member to take care of their plots and surrounding areas.
 - a. Weeds will be kept to a minimum in your plot and in yours surrounding pathways.
 - b. Any diseased or infested plants will be removed promptly to avoid infecting neighboring plots.
 - c. Produce will be harvested when ready, no produce will be allowed to rot and fall on the beds. Your bed may be another person's plot next year and we want to make sure there are no diseases.
 - d. If any plants are diseased or pest infested they must be promptly removed from the premises so as not to affect other gardeners. We suggest that a plastic bag or container always be available for such purposes.
 - e. Owner of an unkempt plot will be emailed a warning letter sent by the HOCG Garden Shepherd

to clean it up. The time frame will be two weeks to do so. If this does not happen the President will phone them. If within a week later the plot is not tended to the Garden Shepherd will clean up the plot and the owner will forfeit the plot with no money being refunded to them. Donations from the plot's harvest will be included in the PAR weekly harvest.

f. If going on vacation or will be away for an extended period, please work with other members to help keep your plot maintained (watered and weeded). Members have been very helpful in doing this in the past.

11. All trash and litter will be removed from the premises. We do not have trash pick-up, so what you bring in you must in turn bring back out.
12. If you abandon your plot for any reason you will notify the leadership committee so that we can take the necessary steps to assign the plot to a potential member. Should this happen annual dues will not be refunded. Members cannot transfer their plots to another gardener.
13. Pets are not allowed, neither is smoking on premises.
14. Work days to open and close the season will be requested for all members. Specific work dates will be decided upon and all members should pick from those days to participate. You should choose at least one day (minimum 2 hours) to open the season and one day volunteer (minimum 2 hours) to close the season. Those workdays will be posted. However, if you cannot make a workday, a list of items shall be posted via President/Vice President, that you can work on at your convenience to fulfill your minimum Fall and Spring Hours of 2 hours each. These items may be partially completed. Your volunteer time is very important toward HOOG maintenance.
15. The workday list to work on at your convenience is for general maintenance in areas such as perimeter walkway around individual plots, Plant a Row for the Hungry (Perimeter Garden inside) garden, entrance to garden, driveway and mulch areas. You should not plant mono crops, Crop rotation for each plot is necessary for healthy soil.
16. All members are to ensure that water is used efficiently. All hoses are put back in place and faucets and spigots are shut off before leaving the garden.
17. Plot renewal applications will be accepted from January 15 2018 through February 15, 2018. If you so wish you can request the same plot, we will do our best to accommodate location request. Returning members will be given preference till February 15, 2018, after that all plots are opened up for all.
18. Hours of operation are 7:30 AM – dusk.
19. Members will ensure that gate is locked and secure before leaving (to prevent pests and deer entering the fenced area).

20. I understand that HOCG and its current members along with the garden leadership committee and Township of Howell are not responsible for my actions. I agree to hold the aforementioned harmless for any liability, damage, loss or claim that occurs in connection with the use of the garden by me or any guest that I bring on to the premises.
21. ***Each year, every member will submit a new application (all previous applications are invalid) and sign a copy of these guidelines to be attached to the application.***
22. We thank you for your participation and look forward to a bountiful growing season.
23. Regular meetings and workdays will be scheduled as follows (weather permitting)

Date	Meeting/Work days
April 14, 2018, rain date April 15, 2018	Orientation meeting & first work day (clean up and mulch walkway)
Date	Meeting/Work days
Last Tuesday March through October	Regular meetings (on an as needed basis)
Date	Meeting/Work days
04/16/18	Water will be turned on
Date	Meeting/Work days
TBD	Suggested clean-up day & putting garden to bed for winter.
Date	Meeting/Work days
TBD	Open work days for cleanup of garden, soil amendment and mulching walkways (if necessary after the October meeting).

Original Guidelines created June 15, 2015, revised December 11, 2017 and are subject to change.