



The Newark Street Community Garden Association

Growing since 1974

USPS: PO Box 5628, Washington DC 20016

WEB: www.newarkstcommunitygarden.org

LISTSERV: <https://groups.io/g/Newarkstcommunitygarden>

EMAIL: president@newarkstcommunitygarden.org

Maureen Spagnolo, President.

Rules (Simplified) for the Newark St. Community Garden Association

The Purpose of these Rules is to support a community of gardeners who respect their neighbors and garden in a way that does not infringe on others in the garden and makes no negative impact on the environment.

NOTE: The City Department of Parks and Recreation requires that you sign their Waiver before beginning to garden. (The waiver is signed by paying your dues.)

2. Use of the Garden Plots:

1. The Newark St Community Garden is an organic garden.
2. Your assigned plot is for your personal use only and you must play the major role in working it.
 - a. Please expect to spend several hours a week weeding and maintaining your plot.
 - b. Our experience suggests that new gardeners should not put a lot of money into beds until they have a season's experience under their belts.
3. Make sure you have made arrangements to care for your plot when away.
 - a. If away more than three weeks, you must notify Rules of the arrangement you have made to maintain your plot. (Plots untended for three weeks may be considered abandoned and be reassigned.)
 - b. You may also post a request for help from the community on the NSCGA Listserv.

Rule 2.3. The Garden rules are enforced by regular monitoring of the garden and contacting gardeners whose plots need attention by notifying them by email and phone. The City DPR requires that gardeners maintain an email address and phone number that are monitored at least weekly (unless you do not do email).

From May 1st to November 30th, the garden will be inspected on a regular basis as follows and citations will be given for rule violations. The table below lists the criteria used by Garden Monitors.

Item	Criteria
Your boundaries	Must not be altered in any way without consent of the Board.
Your plot marker (2x2 stake)	Keep it clearly visible at the front left corner of your plot.
Your boundaries with other plots	Keep weed-free and clearly marked. Maintain a 6-inch buffer so roots from your plants do not interfere with your neighbor. (Some neighboring plots have agreed to remove their common fence. If you do, lay down something to demarcate plots. Removing common fences makes weeding easier.)
Common paths bordering your plot	Keep totally free of weeds and plants, no matter how pretty, and well-chipped.
Area inside your plot	Keep neat and tidy. (Clutter attract rats and other rodents.)
Paths inside your plot	Weeds (vertical and horizontal) should be kept to a minimum. (Weeds in flower, no matter how pretty, or going to seed must be immediately removed.)
The cultivation area	At least 50% of your plot area should be under full cultivation by June 1 st . (This is the most generous limit in the area, but we like to see a bit more than 50%.) Weeds should be kept to a minimum.
Raised beds	Metal beds encouraged. They look neat for many years and can be recycled. No bright colors. Make sure they do not interfere with access along fence base for weeding. (See the



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On your fences	Keep clear. No climbing vines (Many are invasive species).
Fence properties	Temporary, less than 6 feet tall. MUST BE BIRD-FRIENDLY.
Fence materials	Dark or earthy colors only. NO BRIGHT OR FLUORESCENT MATERIALS (INCLUDING BRIGHT GREEN). NO CONCRETE FOOTINGS.
Gates	NO CONCRETE FOOTINGS , height less than 6.5 feet tall for top cross support.
Streamers and Flashers	Not allowed anywhere.
Trees	Not allowed inside your plot or on the fence line.
Shrubs, rose bushes etc.	Allowed but must be kept under 6 feet tall and well-trimmed.
Trellises	Keep less than 6 feet tall. Temporary so can be taken down in winter.
Winter Gardening Structures	Keep less than 3 feet tall, plastic covers well anchored.
Standing water, ponds, birdbaths	Not allowed (mosquitos).
Furniture	Outdoor only, minimal size and number, unobtrusive, no bright colors.
Grills, etc.	Not allowed in plots or garden area, only picnic area.
Drainage channels, ditches, etc.	Keep no deeper than 6 inches. Must not interfere with neighbors.
Garden materials, excess wood, etc.	Only short-term storage and minimal amounts.
Trash	Garden has no trash bins. Take trash home (Attracts rats).
Children	Must be supervised at all times.
Dogs	Not allowed in garden areas.
Newark St Garden Tools	Must be CLEANED and returned to shed immediately after use.
Hoses and watering	Cannot water unattended. Do not leave hoses under pressure (they can rupture).
Stuff in other plots	CANNOT be removed without approval of Board member.
Planting stuff outside your plot	CANNOT be done without approval of full Board.
Compost bins	Not allowed in plot, use communal one at bottom of garden.
Three or more citations per season.	Your plot may be reassigned.

GENERAL CITATION SCHEDULE			
Day Zero	First Citation	Email Text	The garden is routinely inspected and plots contravening one or more of the above rules will be emailed a Citation. You need to respond with a plan or explanation or fix the issue within the week. Email to Rules@newarkstcommunitygarden.org . It is your responsibility to monitor your email and phone.
Day 7	Second Citation	Email Text	If you do not respond and your plot is still in violation, you will receive a Second Citation by email followed by a phone call/voicemail notifying you that your plot may be reassigned unless you respond with a plan or explanation or fix the issue within the week.
Day 14	Third Citation	Email Phone	If you still do not respond and your plot is still in violation, you will receive a Third Citation by email followed by a phone call/voicemail notifying you that your plot will be reassigned in one week unless you appeal to the Board. Your appeal should address why you have not corrected the violation and you have not responded to our request for information. Email appeals to Rules@newarkstcommunitygarden.org .



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Day 21	Asked to leave		If we have not heard from you and your plot is still not compliant, we will ask you to relinquish it.
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Special rules apply to the start and end of the season since these dates are known in advance.

Beginning of season is May 1st.

Why	Rules require that you demonstrate effective utilization of your plot by clearing weeds, by working the soil no later than May 1 st , by having the majority of the plot under cultivation by June 1 st and by keeping the plot weed-free throughout the season. It is your responsibility to monitor your email and phone.
May 1	Your plot must show signs of being utilized. If not, you will receive an Official Citation by email with a heads-up by text message, or tag on your fence.
May 7	If you have not responded to the first Citation and your plot is still fallow, you will receive a Second Citation by email (with a heads-up by text message and/or tag on your fence) notifying you that your plot will be reassigned in one week. You may appeal within the week to the Board as to why your plot should not be reassigned. Appeals should address why you have not cultivated your plot and have not responded to our request for information. Email appeals to Rules@newarkstcommunitygarden.org .
May 14	If we have not heard from you and your plot is still not compliant, it will be reassigned.
New midseason members	You have two weeks to make a good faith effort to clear and cultivate the plot. If not done, the plot will be reassigned without further notice, (unless prior arrangements were made with Rules).

Winterize your garden by November 30th, except those areas being used for fall/winter gardening.

Why	Garden plots must be neat and have a pleasing, unobtrusive appearance during the off-season in consideration of our neighbors. It is your responsibility to monitor your email and phone.
November 30th	Your plot must be cleared of all garden materials and structures. Old crops, fruit, and any remaining weeds must be removed from the plot. Trellises and other tall structures may be dismantled and stowed flat on the ground. Bags of garden materials, stakes, hand tools, and other small items structures need to be removed from the plots or stored in a dark or gray box less than 3 feet high. Tomato cages may be stowed neatly in one corner of the plot. Winter gardening protective structures less than 3 feet high are permitted. If your plot, except for any areas used for fall/winter gardening, is not winterized, you will receive a Citation by email (with a heads-up by text message and/or tag on your fence).
December 7th	If you have not responded to the Citation and your plot is still not winterized, you will receive a Second Citation by email (with a heads-up by text message and/or tag on your fence) notifying you that your plot will be reassigned in one week unless you appeal to the Board as to why your plot should not be reassigned. Appeals should address why you have not winterized your plot and have not responded to our request for information. Email appeals to Rules@newarkstcommunitygarden.org .
December 14th	If we have not heard from you and your plot is not compliant, it will be reassigned.