

University of Wisconsin-Madison Division of Extension

Garden Plot Rules and Guidelines

Things to remember:

In General the garden plots **may not open before the third weekend of May**  
ANNUAL GARDENS WILL CLOSE on the **third weekend of OCTOBER**

**Reporting theft, vandalism, suspicious persons and other illegal non-emergency activities.**

If you are gardening and see people that you do not recognize harvesting in nearby plots please call the municipal police or county sheriff and report the problem.

To assist the police, note the vehicle make, color and the license plate number, if applicable.

At Firefly Ridge and Rawson Av gardens, the phone # for the Milwaukee County Sheriff dispatcher is: **(414) 278-4788**

**All other gardens call non-emergency police at: (414) 933-4444**

**Oak Creek at Forest Hill is 414-766-7699 crime stoppers or 414-762-8200 dispatch**

**NOTE: In the case of a personal threat call 911.**

**No Orange fencing is allowed. Green and black and wire fence, OK. Fencing.** All fences in annual plots must be removed each year before the end of the season. Fall clean up can begin on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of October, and continues until winter weather sets in.

**NO unattended sprinklers are to be allowed at hose ready sites. Hand watering with a hose end sprayer or drip tape is recommended for larger gardens. Unattended sprinklers will be removed.** The cost of water at the few hose ready sites has risen to the point of requiring that there be no use of **unattended overhead sprinklers** during the growing season. If there is a leaking or dripping faucet, or other water related problems, please report it quickly to the garden office so we might fix the problem in a timely manner. *We have no control over low water pressure, or County turning off the water at some point for other problems down the line.*

**Do not use plastic mulch or carpet for weed suppression in annual gardens.** Newspaper or brown paper would be a better choice for weed suppression. Burlap does not decompose soon enough to be left in an annual non-permanent plot. Non-decomposing materials get caught up in our equipment and requires mechanical removal and sometimes costly repairs.

**Garden pathways** are to be maintained by the gardening community. Paths must be kept weeded. Pathways should have no planted material growing on them. All vegetable plantings should be kept inside your fence or garden plot area. Please be sure that all paths to water and other plots are passable and not fenced off.

**No Littering.** We must insist that you pick up your garbage, and remove it every visit to the garden. We do not have the staff to pick up the food wrappers, plastic bags, dirty diapers, etc. Please take ownership and pride in your garden space and respect the community at large.

**No Burning of anything in your garden plots. *Fires are discouraged***

**Trees,** large shrubs and tall structures that obstruct light in other garden plots Including fruit trees, are not allowed in any permanent or other plots.

**Dog Owners: we prefer no dogs. If dogs must come to the gardens they must be leashed.** Dogs in garden areas may create a health hazard, such as harmful bacteria on garden produce or the remote possibility of a dog bite. Garden debris, pesticides and other harmful materials may be lying in the garden areas and could be harmful to your dog.  
**Loose dogs + community gardens are not a good mix.**

**Milk jugs and other water containers must be removed and taken away, at the end of the gardening season.**

***Please do not use bushes as your personal bathrooms. Please plan accordingly, enough said***

**Parking (at Timmerman, FireFly Ridge, Kohl Farm, Oak Creek, and Forest Hills)**

on the garden road is allowed if a second vehicle can pass by. Please be courteous to your fellow gardeners.

**Garden Plot Appearance.** Milwaukee County has made several complaints to us regarding storage and messy garden plots. We would like to prevent problems with Milwaukee County, our landlords. Please report garden plots, that are seemingly not maintained or those that seems abandoned, to the garden rental office. Describe the approximate plot location and we will investigate further. A letter will be sent with a warning to clean up, a description of the problem and a expected date of compliance. *If clean up is completed by garden staff gardeners will not be allowed to garden in the community plots,* and a fee will be assessed.

**No Gleaning of left over crops.** Gleaning is defined as gathering any usable parts of the crops that remain after the harvest. UW Extension Milwaukee County does not allow gleaning. Please observe this policy

Garden Rental office contact : Phone number 414-615-0538  
email : [garden.rentals@ces.uwex.edu](mailto:garden.rentals@ces.uwex.edu)

Mailing address: University of Wisconsin-Madison Division of Extension  
Garden Rentals  
6737 W. Washington St., Suite 2202  
West Allis WI 53214

## ***Gardening Resources***

- **Horticulture Team Website**

<http://hort.uwex.edu>

With links to:

*Wisconsin Garden Facts Sheets*

*UW Insect Diagnostic Lab*

*Plant Disease Diagnostic Lab*

*Turf Disease Diagnostic Lab*

*Soil & Plant Analysis Lab*

- **Gardening Publications**

[http:// learningstore.uwex.edu](http://learningstore.uwex.edu)

Print single copies of Extension publications,  
order on-line or by phone at 1-877-947-7827.

- **Soil Testing**

<http://uwlabs.soils.wisc.edu>

On-line or by mail.

- **Master Gardener Volunteers**

**Wisconsin MG Assn. Website**

[www.wimastergardener.org](http://www.wimastergardener.org)

**Milwaukee & Waukesha Co.**

(SouthEast Wisconsin Master  
Gardeners, Inc.)

[fyi.uwex.edu/sewmg](http://fyi.uwex.edu/sewmg)