



Cornell University
Cooperative Extension
Nassau County

East Meadow Farm
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Community Garden Agreement

Cornell Cooperative Extension of Nassau County
East Meadow Farm
832 Merrick Avenue
East Meadow, NY 11554

Rules, Terms, and Conditions for Participation Agreement Valid: April 1, 2026 – October 31, 2026

If accepted as a community gardener, I will abide by the following rules, terms, and conditions:

Use of Community Garden Plots:

1. The community garden plots are used at the sole discretion of East Meadow Farm. I agree to abide by its policies and practices.
2. The fee for the use of the garden plot is \$125.00 per plot, due on completion of orientation.
3. Once plots have been assigned, they must be cultivated by May 1st, with some evidence of planting by May 15th. Community garden plots cannot be left fallow or unused for any period of two weeks or longer during the growing season.
4. At any time that community gardeners will be away and unable to sufficiently irrigate or tend to their plot, arrangements must be made for someone to take care of the plot in your absence so that no produce is let go to waste for lack of maintenance or lack of irrigation. All plot caretakers must complete required risk waivers.

Maintenance of Community Garden Plots

5. Community garden plots may not be extended beyond the current plot boundaries or into pathways or other plots. All plants and trellis structures must remain within the limits of the garden plot and **may not exceed a height of more than four feet**. Community garden plots must be kept free of weeds, pests and diseases.
6. The East Meadow Farm maintenance staff will be responsible for maintaining the spaces between the garden plots. To aid in this effort, mulch or other weed blocking fabric or cardboard will not be permitted.
7. Equipment and supplies may not be left unattended in the community garden area. Household trash may not be disposed of at the East Meadow Farm. Furthermore, garden plots, pathways, and surrounding areas must be kept neat and unobstructed at all times. Garden waste must be disposed of as instructed by the community garden manager and community garden committee.
8. At the end of the season (October 31, 2026), all plants, stakes, weed fabric, fencing, etc. must be removed so that the garden plot contains only soil. All items removed from the plot must be personally stored and not left on the premise as trash or a donation. Community gardeners must receive written permission from the community garden manager to overwinter any crops or apply mulch or cover crops.
9. Community garden plots must be watered in accordance to CCE water-wise guidelines. Hoses must be coiled and returned to the holder after use. If the hose is broken or inoperable, I will notify management by email at nassau@cornell.edu.
10. Automatic watering timers and drip irrigation will not be permitted in the community garden.
11. It is the mission of East Meadow Farm to operate in a sustainable and organic manner. Therefore, only approved organic products may be used in the garden. Any use of pesticides will be prohibited. Please contact the Community Garden Manager for more information on approved products.
12. No illegal, potentially invasive, or poisonous plant may be planted in the community garden plots.
13. All compostable-plant material must be placed in the compost bins as designated by the Community Garden

Manager. Noxious weeds are not compostable and will be defined by the garden manager. Noxious weeds are to be bagged (not exceeding 40lbs) and placed on the west side of the building near the garbage pails.

14. It is the mission of the East Meadow Community Garden to operate in a sustainable manner and to recognize the great resource that the farm's production crops represent. The produce grown in the demonstration gardens are supplied to the farm stand, donated to local food kitchens and used for fundraising. Therefore, produce from the community gardens may not be permitted to rot or go to waste. The Community Garden Manager and the Community Garden Committee reserves the right to harvest produce from any garden not adequately harvested or tended to for donation to local food kitchens.

Code of Conduct

15. All community gardeners are required to attend one of the scheduled community garden orientations before beginning any work in the assigned garden plot.
16. Most communication regarding the East Meadow Farm Community Gardens will be delivered through email. All community gardeners are responsible for reviewing and acting on any new information and updates in a timely manner.
17. All children and guests must be supervised at all times when they are in the gardens. Loud music, or any disruptive behavior (yelling, horseplay, use of profanity, etc.) is not permitted.
18. The East Meadow Farm is a drug and alcohol-free environment. The use of alcohol and/or tobacco/vaping products is prohibited at all times.
19. In the event that someone not affiliated with the garden is believed to be harvesting from plots, without permission, the Community Garden Manager must be notified.
20. Food or plants may not be harvested or removed from other gardeners' plots, unless given permission by the gardener. Any accusation of theft or tampering to community garden plots or East Meadow Farm facility will be subject to disciplinary review at the discretion of the Community Garden Manager.
21. All community gardeners are expected to respect and uphold the rights and dignity of all staff, volunteers, and any individual who participate in CCE programs, recognizing that people's values, beliefs, customs, and strengths differ.
22. Community Gardeners shall encourage participation of and respect for individuals of diverse backgrounds, cultures, and perspectives.
23. Any report of unsafe conditions, accidents, or conflicts must be immediately brought to the attention of the Community Garden Manager. Community Gardeners shall not directly approach anyone believed to be trespassing or engaging in any prohibited activity. In the event of an emergency, community gardeners shall first contact emergency services, and then the Community Garden Manager.

Breaking any rules, terms, and conditions may result in removal from the East Meadow Farm Community Garden program and loss of your plot.

- 1. You will receive one verbal warning from the garden manager.***
- 2. In the event that no response or correction has been made, you will receive written notice.***
- 3. A final notification that you have forfeited your gardening privileges and plot will be issued as a last resort.***

All decisions and responses to disputes made by the East Meadow Farm Community Garden Manager will be final.

I have read and understand and accept these rules, terms, and conditions stated above for the participation in the East Meadow Farm Community Garden program.

Signed: [Gardener] _____

Date: _____ Plot: _____

Approved: [Garden Manager] _____

Date: _____