

HERITAGE FARMS RULES & REGULATIONS

FEES AND PLOTS

Heritage Farm is a community garden for the use of only Brandermill residents in good standing. Gardeners can officially garden at Heritage Farms plots after reading, signing the agreement and paying rental fee.

Current plot renters that wish to renew their plot must return coupon and payment by February 28th, any plots not paid will be reassigned. Current plot renters have first refusal to my plot for the following season. Should an established gardener wish to change their plot, they will have first choice of any open plots for the season after March 1st. Plot is not transferable. Resident may rent more than one plot for the year. An updated Plot Layout will be posted at the Heritage Farm bulletin board listing the occupied and available plots for the year.

START OF SEASON

Gardens must be positioned into their new spots, prepped and cleared of all weeds by May 1st. Something must be planted in the garden by June 1st.

The planting deadline is June 1st. Plots that are unplanted by the planting deadline are assumed abandoned and will be forfeited without a refund. Plots not planted will be open to people on the waitlist.

PLOT MAINTENANCE EXPECTATIONS

Gardeners must maintain plots (including adjacent aisles) throughout the growing season. Gardeners must maintain the plots on a regular basis; including planting, watering, weeding, and harvesting. Gardeners who do not maintain their plots will not be eligible for a plot in the following year.

Plots must be keep planted, harvested and weed free throughout the whole season. Gardeners are responsible for their plots.

Only the resident may maintain the garden plots. If for any reason (health, vacation, work or other) you will be temporarily unable to maintain your plot, you may appoint a substitute gardener to help you. You must notify the BCA office the dates, name and contact information of the substitute gardener.

If a plot is left unattended for more than 2 weeks, without a substitute gardener, the plot will be re-assigned. Rent fee will not be refunded, is forfeited for cleanup.

Gardeners will not make any permanent changes to their plot.

Both the access and perimeter paths must be free of garden materials and debris so as not to create a hazard nor to impede their maintenance by BCA staff.

UNCLAIMED OR NEGLECTED PLOTS

If a plot becomes unkempt, the BCA Staff will send a 2 weeks' notice to the plot renter via postal address or email. If at the due date there is no update at the plot, it will be re-assigned, and any produce will be donated to charity. Rent fee will not be refunded, is forfeited for cleanup.

END OF SEASON MAINTENANCE

Gardeners must clear annual vegetation, dead plants and weeds by December 1st. Cover crops may be left on plots. All dead plants and weeds should be removed and disposed of.

COMMUNITY SERVICES

Thefts and trespassers are an ongoing nuisance for Heritage Farms. Signs are posted stating it is private property however it does not keep out those determined to break the law. If a gardener sees a trespasser, please contact the police at their non-emergency number (804-748-1251). If at any time you feel threatened, please call 911. The BCA has no plans to secure the garden with lock and key. Visibility and location make it accessible to trespassers.

The water resource at the Heritage Farm is provided by the Brandermill Country Club, which comes directly from the reservoir. Occasionally water service may be interrupted throughout the season, usually due to maintenance or repairs to irrigation. Please report any interruptions to BCA staff, service is usually repaired within 24 hours. The BCA Maintenance staff cuts water service on in the spring and cuts water service off before the first freeze.

Compost bins are located at both ends of Heritage Farms but are not for the use to dispose of wood, other lumber, weed cloths, plastic, wire, or any other non-organic gardening materials. Such materials can be placed to the side of the bins and will be removed by BCA staff.

GENERAL GARDEN COURTESIES

Be respectful when planting tall crops (such as sunflowers and corn), structures, trees, etc. Should be planted to not shade another garden.

Mulch with leaves, grass clippings, or hay to reduce water evaporation and unwanted weeds. Hay and straw are great mulches and may be used in the plots.

Gardeners must keep debris inside own plots. Any plant that protrudes into the next plot or walk-way, may be trimmed or picked by the next plot owner. Gardening activity and plant growth must be restricted to the gardener's plot. Please prevent vegetation from attacking walkways and adjacent plots. Paths must be kept clear of weeds, rocks, garden plants and other obstacles. Gardeners must allow space their plot for maintenance between neighbor plots. If using pesticides in your garden, be mindful of your neighbors who want to avoid pesticides. Be considerate of your neighbors by keeping your garden weeded and deterring insects.

Do not walk in your neighbors' garden. Do not enter other people's plots unless specifically invited.

Gardeners should not plant, weed, water or harvest from any other gardeners' plot, unless they are asked to do so by another gardener.

VISITORS

Children are welcome at the garden when accompanied and fully supervised by an adult. Teach young children to stay on paths. Parents are encouraged to bring children to the garden and introduce them to the wonders of gardening.

Dogs must be kept leashed and under your control; clean up after pets.