

# HERITAGE FARMS RULES & REGULATIONS

## FEES AND PLOTS

Beginning **February 1, 2016** only one plot will be assigned per Brandermill address. Current plot renters are grandfathered in until they relinquish their plots.

Gardeners can officially garden at Heritage Farms after reading and signing this agreement, paying rental fee and confirmation of plot by BCA staff.

Current plot renters that wish to renew their plot must return payment coupon and payment by **February 29, 2016**. Any not paid for will be reassigned on **March 1, 2016**.

I will have right of first refusal to my plot for the following season. Should an established farmer wish to change their plot, they will have first choice of any open plots for the season after **March 1, 2016**. Your plot is not transferable. You may not give your plot to another person. A one season temporary transfer is allowed; only to another Brandermill resident. BCA staff must be notified and approve any temporary transfers of plots.

## START OF SEASON

I will have something planted in my garden by June 1 and keep it planted and weeded all summer long.

You are responsible for your plots for the entire season. Keep it free of weeds and harvested through September.

The planting deadline is **June 1, 2016**. 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 who do not maintain their plots will not be eligible for a plot in the following year.

I will maintain my garden on a regular basis; including planting, watering, weeding, and harvesting.

Weeds must be kept under 18" (per County regulations) Weeds are a major complaint of gardeners, and are the leading cause of plot forfeiture.

If, for any reason (health, vacation, work pressure), you will be temporarily unable to maintain your plot, you may appoint a substitute farmer (must be a Brandermill resident) and inform BCA staff.

I understand that if I abandon my garden for more than 2 weeks, without a substitute farmer, my plot will be re-assigned.

**UNCLAIMED OR NEGLECTED PLOTS** After the **June 1, 2016** planting deadline, unplanted plots will be re-assigned and no refund given

If my plot becomes unkempt, I understand I will be given 2 weeks' notice by phone, mail address or email, provided on rental coupon. At that time, it will be re-assigned or tilled in and any produce will be donated to charity. Rent is forfeited to pay for cleanup.

**END OF SEASON MAINTENANCE** Farmers must clear annual vegetation, dead plants and weeds by **December 1, 2016**. Cover crops can be left on plots.

At the end of the season, all dead plants and weeds should be removed, boxed and at a determined location and date for Brush Pickup Crew. Pickup location and dates will be announced.

### **COMMUNITY SERVICES**

BCA maintains a Heritage Farms FaceBook page. Farmers are encouraged to post tips, photos, sharing opportunities, requests for help, etc. The page is a closed group; to join, email [services@brandermill.com](mailto:services@brandermill.com) to receive an invite.

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 farmer sees a trespasser, please contact the police at their non-emergency number (748-1251). It is important to have this number programmed into your phone for quick dialing. If at any time you feel threatened please call 911.

The BCA has no plans to secure the garden with lock and key at this time. Visibility and location make it accessible to trespassers.

Occasionally water service will be interrupted throughout the season. Please report any interruptions to BCA staff. This temporary inconvenience is usually due to maintenance or repairs to irrigation on Brandermill Country Club property. Our water is provided through their system from the reservoir. The interruption is usually repaired within 24 hours.

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 to be used 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.

Renters 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 should respect each other's plots. Leave a 6" unplanted border along each plot line where there is no aisle. Do not place structures where they will shade a neighboring plot.

### **PLOT SITE**

Farmers 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.

Other garden plots, pets and children

Do not enter other people's plots unless specifically invited.

I will not plant, weed, water or harvest from any other members plot.

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.

Keep dogs leashed and under your control at all times; clean up after pets.