

Gardener's Handbook 2026-2027

Woodbury Community Garden Association
33 Delaware St.
Woodbury, NJ, 08096
woodburycommunitygarden@gmail.com

Garden at: 317 E. Red Bank Ave.
Woodbury, NJ, 08096

Welcome to the Woodbury Community Garden Association! This handbook is intended to help you get the most benefit from the various features available at the garden.

Please read the handbook carefully and let us know if you have any questions. The WCGA Board's contact information is at the end of this document.

General Expectations

- Members are expected to visit the garden frequently to weed, water, plant, harvest, and otherwise care for the plants within their plots.

Locks

- Locks on the garden gates preserve the plants within the fence from damage from deer, dogs, and from vandals or uninvited visitors.
- The combination to the locks for the gates, the water supply, and for the tool shed is the same. The code changes each season. Members will be given the combination upon payment of fees.
- Members are asked to secure all locks when leaving the garden.

Watering System

- Individual members will maintain the health and productivity of the plants in their plots by watering as the weather dictates
- To operate the watering system, members will
 - Open the lock on the water faucet and pull the handle up as far as possible.
 - Open the valve for each hose being operated.
 - Use the hoses as desired.
- To close the watering system, members will
 - Return the hoses to the hose reels or hose hooks, taking care to preserve the hose nozzles.
 - Close the valve.
 - Close and lock the pump and place the bucket over the faucet.
- The hose nozzles are interchangeable, using the quick release connectors built into the system.

Tool Shed

- Members will always lock the shed to prevent theft and damage.
- The tool shed contains a lawn mower, an edger, and various hand tools, shovels, rakes, pruners, and cultivators that are for the use of gardeners. Gardeners will always:
 - Clean borrowed tools when finished using
 - Return tools to the space allotted

Wheelbarrows/Wagons/Weed Buckets/Watering Cans

- These items are not stored in the tool shed. Members may use them.
- Members are asked to report breakage or damage to these items to the Property Leader (Richard McGeehan, 609-820-2178).

Plot Borders

- Maintaining plot borders is the responsibility of members.

- Members must use surveyed markers to determine plot borders. If markers are unclear, gardeners must consult with the Property Leader

Weeding/Cultivating/Mulching

- Members are responsible for:
 - Removing weeds and other unwanted plant material at the beginning and at the end of each season.
 - Weeding their plots throughout the growing season to maintain good growing conditions.
 - Cultivating and mulching plots to maintain good growing conditions.
 - Disposing of weeds and plants that have mildew or pests in the containers near the front gate provided by the City.

Soil Amendment

- Individual members will use only organic amendments and fertilizers to amend the soil in their plots.

Planting

- Members are encouraged to plant a variety of crops throughout the growing season.
 - Members may plant as soon as conditions allow and into the late fall and winter months, depending on the crop and its requirements.
- Members should plant annual crops rather than perennials, shrubs, and trees.
 - **Members may not plant extremely tall plant varieties, such as sunflowers. These plants will block the sun from neighboring plots.**
 - Members may not plant invasive varieties of plants such as common milkweed, morning glory, garlic mustard, and some perennial herbs such as mint and oregano. Perennial herbs may be grown in pots that can be placed inside plots and lifted to remove them.
 - Members will be responsible for removing any perennial plants at the time of their departure from membership in the garden.

Pesticides/Herbicides/Fungicides

- Gardeners will use only organic methods to treat plant diseases and pest infestations.
- Suggested methods include:
 - Sprays: Neem oil, garlic/chili, soap
 - Row covers
 - Crop rotation
 - Companion plantings can repel certain pests and encourage beneficial predators

Surplus Produce

- Part of the WCGA's mission is to provide food for persons experiencing food insecurity. Gardeners can contribute to this mission by donating their surplus bounty. If you would like to donate, please contact Amélie or Camille.

Garden Furnishings

- Gardeners may use small fences, row covers, cages, and other supports within their individual plots, while keeping in mind that they are maintained within each plot and do not interfere with walking/mowing paths or a neighboring plot.
- Garden furnishings in the plots of departing members must be removed by **March 1** of each year or they will become property of the WCGA for use by other gardeners. Furnishings that are removed may be donated to the garden.

Guests in the Garden

- Children, family, and friends of members are most welcome in the garden. Members are responsible for their safety and will ensure that guests respect the garden by enjoying it without interfering with the work of other gardeners.
- Please monitor children for their safety and to prevent damage to plots and plantings.
- Pets are welcome but must be leashed. Members must clean up after their pets as necessary.

General Safety

- There is no smoking within the fenced area of the garden.
- Tools and Supplies
 - Members will use tools and equipment safely so that other gardeners can walk and move safely without stepping or tripping on equipment
 - Gardeners will report broken equipment, problems with locks, or other maintenance concerns to the Property Leader.

Work Groups/Work Days

During the growing season, the Garden will have designated work days. Member volunteers are always needed to help with maintenance and other tasks. Members will be notified in advance of such events. Please consider helping out on one or more work days – more hands make less work!

Departing Members

Despite good intentions to continue membership into a new growing season, some members experience situations that compel them to leave before the season is over.

Departing members are asked to please inform the Director/Leader of their decision to leave as soon as they are able.

Departing members MUST clear their plot of weeds, dead plant materials, plot furnishings, and perennial plants or herbs, by March 1, before the beginning of the next season, ***as required by the member contract.***

WCGA Garden Leadership

Amélie Harris-McGeehan - Director (ameliebhm@yahoo.com) (cell # 609-820~2172)

Camille Sauerwald - Asst. Director (camille.sauerwald@gmail.com) (856-889-7443)

Thomas Mirochna - Treasurer (tmirochna@me.com) (#609-471-2866)

Elise Paxson - Secretary (elise1766@gmail.com) (856-520-5513)

Richard McGeehan - Property Manager (609-820-2178; richardmcgeehan@yahoo.com)