

Application for Use of McHenry Township Community Garden Plot (please write legibly)

Leave at Township Desk for pick-up by the Garden Coordinators who will call you, or email Judy

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE(s) (home)_____ (mobile)_____

EMAIL _____(important)_____

DESIRED # of beds? (each bed is 3.5ft x 6.5ft) _____ BED(s) ASSIGNED _____

We require at least two 4-hour sessions of community work. You may make a voluntary donation to McHenry Township to help with garden expenses, if you wish.

IMPORTANT INFO

Mostly we communicate with you electronically (email or Facebook). We have a Facebook group that Tracy will get you onto. Please check frequently.

We have garden tools, cages, wheelbarrow, hoses for your use. We have a variety of seeds from the Master Gardener supply in Woodstock, and we are growing many of the plants you're likely to want but you may also want to start seedlings yourself or buy from a garden center. We will post all of the info on the Facebook page and send emails.

The raised bed soil is very well drained and is underlain with township woodchips/compost, which means if it doesn't rain, the plot needs water every other day especially early in the season. If you recruit a friend to also get a plot, you can split the watering task and would only need to be here twice per week for your plots.

We garden organically, no toxic chemical herbicides or insecticides. If we get a problem (like the 1st year's infestation of squash bugs), we need everyone's vigilant work to eradicate the problem.

In addition to caring for your plot, please help to keep the Bocci ball courts weed free, the aisles as well as around your bed. Laying down cardboard from big boxes covered with woodchips will help with that.

You may want to shift your topsoil to one end of your bed so you can add more township woodchips/compost to the bottom. That base decomposes and the soil level drops. We suggest you add alfalfa pellets (available in our shed) to keep the carbon in the chips from stealing nutrients (nitrogen, phosphorus) from your soil. It's also a good longterm soil amendment.

Communal Work hours this spring early May: Add bags of soil or compost, water and mix mix mix. Distribute tomato cages. Weedproof around the beds. Tracy and I cannot do this by ourselves.

Your Garden Coordinators, Judy Gottlieb (gottlj1@gmail.com) and Tracy Gerber (tbone74341@yahoo.com)

I agree to operate my garden by the Community Rules, which are to use only organic disease and pest control measures, to clean and put away community tools after use and lock the shed if I am the final person onsite, to not remove community tools/materials from the area, to arrange hoses so they are not a tripping hazard, to be respectful of the other gardeners, to not take other gardeners produce, to not plant invasive plants in the raised bed (like morning glory) .

Signature and date: _____

McHenry Township Community Garden Information - Bulletin #1

What you should NOT plant:

Perennials unless you plan to dig them up in the fall

Marijuana

Morning glory (they go to seed prolifically, and the roots can survive, making them a real pest)

Mint (you can grow it in a pot or coffee can, just not in the raised bed because it SPREADS)

If you wonder about something, call or email the Garden Coordinator

You may plant dill, cilantro, and Italian parsley -- if they go to seed, the seedlings are easy to remove next spring.

We have alfalfa pellets in the shed, which are a good slow release fertilizer (for a good introduction on their use, see <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QtdZcwryQYg>.) We added alfalfa pellets to the woodchip mulch which is in the base of all the beds, so they will not rob the soil of nitrogen. Alfalfa pellets will help the woodchips gradually break down. You can also add the pellets to your planting holes (again, watch that youtube video).

After your tomatoes are about 12 inches high, please start removing the bottom leaves. Most tomato foliage diseases are transmitted by soil splash, so removing the bottom 9 inches of leaves can help prevent that. Mulching also helps a lot, but plain woodchips are not a good mulch, they rob the soil of nutrients. REMOVE ALL DISEASED FOLIAGE AND PUT IN THE TRASH CAN, NOT THE COMPOST.

There are copper soap sprays that help to control the common tomato foliage diseases (see below).

The trellis is good for cucumbers, pole beans, sugar snap peas, indeterminate tomatoes -- and more.

These are sites I consult frequently, over the years I have bought from each of them.

- Johnny's Select Seeds has an excellent gardeners reference area for organic gardeners. <https://www.johnnyseeds.com/growers-library/growing-center.html> . It is also a great seed source when disease resistance is an issue (your Garden Coordinator has often ordered seeds from Johnny's). It is best if you can put together a joint order with others since Johnny's shipping fees are high for a small order.
- For disease control, Gardens Alive has a lot of information and materials for sale. I bought my concentrate bottle of Soap Shield Flowable Liquid Copper Fungicide from them years ago. <https://www.gardensalive.com/category/control-disease>
- Seed Savers Exchange <https://www.seedsavers.org/> is a wonderful organization that has saved heirloom seeds, I love the stories about the seeds as well as the flavors. Check out their website.

From Garden Coordinator Judy Gottlieb at gottlj1@gmail.com

Grow your own vegetables and flowers in a 3.5' x 6.5' raised bed at McHenry Township Community Garden (just east of the FISH Food Pantry and the ball fields in the park at Johnsburg Rd & Hwy 31).

You are responsible for care of your plot, and to share in community work tasks (2 volunteer stints of 4 hrs each).

We supply needed tools—and many of the desired plants. You can also direct seed (we have seeds) or buy plants from a local nursery.

If you are a new gardener, we will help you. You are part of a community.

Fill out application in the Township Office and we'll be in touch, or email Judy at gottlj1@gmail.com

Your garden coordinators, Judy & Tracy

