

2026 NPGFN GARDEN RULES

Please keep these rules for future reference. Do not mail them back with your Registration Form.

1. You are not just renting a plot; you are a member of a community. We ask you to sign up to work on a committee of your choice. In addition, you are expected to participate in at least two of the Community Work Days that will be held throughout the season. If you cannot participate in two of the Community Work Days and execute your chosen committee tasks for whatever reason, we ask that you notify the Board and pay an exemption fee of \$35 (\$20 for seniors or the disabled) for the season in lieu of work.
2. You may fence in your plot to deter theft and trespassing. **Deer or bird netting, plastic fencing and wood pallets** must not be used for fence material. Fences and gates must be maintained so that they do not intrude into paths or present a hazard to people or lawnmowers.
3. At least 75% of your plot must be planted with flowers, vegetables, herbs, etc.
4. **You are responsible for keeping your plot(s), fences, and all your fence lines, clean and weed free.** Gardeners with unkempt/abandoned plots will be notified via email and asked to address the issue. If the issue is not resolved and/or no response is received, gardening privileges will be revoked and the plots will be reassigned. Gardeners who repeatedly do not follow the Rules regarding plot maintenance are at risk of having their privileges revoked. No refunds will be given to gardeners who have lost their gardening privileges. **Please notify a member of the Board or email us at gardensfornutrition@yahoo.com if you will be unable to tend your plot for more than two weeks.**
5. Keep in mind that throughout the growing season, **row checks** are completed monthly in the few days before Board meetings. Row checks are conducted **May through October**. You will be notified by email if your plot is in violation of the NPGFN Rules.
6. **Prohibited items include:**
 - a. Glass (including windows for cold frames), plastic fencing/netting, plywood, tires, wood and plastic pallets, large rocks, gravel, cinder blocks, pressure treated lumber.
 - b. Inorganic mulches including tarps, plastic sheeting (including plastic products labeled biodegradable), landscape fabric, rubber mulch and carpets. Wood chips, straw, leaves, pine needles and untreated grass clippings ARE acceptable mulches. Brown cardboard and non-glossy newspaper can be used but must be completely covered by compost or mulch so it adheres to the ground and does not house voles.
 - c. Herbicides, insecticides, fungicides, repellents and fertilizers not labeled for use in organic gardening.
 - d. Saplings, trees (including fruit), illegal plants, Cannabis sativa (marijuana, hemp) plants, plants that grow over 6' tall, invasive plants that reseed or form colonies and spread into or shade neighboring plots, making them difficult to remove (examples include **Jerusalem artichoke**, Rose of Sharon, lilac, elderberry among others). Also, plants growing into pathways.
 - e. Piles of organic debris or compost in plots, as they provide shelter and breeding habitat for voles.
 - f. Accumulations of containers, wood posts/boards on ground, or any other items that are not actively used in gardening. Do not store bags of mulch, compost or manure in plots (vole habitat).
 - g. Yard signs (e.g., campaign signs, etc.), flags, advertisements, banners, or other non-NPGFN signage that could detract from the Gardens' serenity and tranquility.
 - h. Noisemakers, such as wind chimes, suspended pie tins, sonic rodent repelling devices, or anything else that intrudes on your neighbors' serenity.
 - i. Structures that are hazardous or that shade a neighboring plot. The Board reserves the right to remove such structures. Arbors, pergolas or similar structures must be approved by the Board before erecting.
 - j. Raised beds constructed of non-pressure treated wood are permitted, but must be securely staked to the ground to prevent them from floating away if the Gardens flood.

7. Prohibited activities include:

- a. Entering another gardener's plot without permission. **DO NOT HARVEST WHAT YOU HAVE NOT PLANTED!**
 - b. Commercial growing
 - c. Growing plants outside of your plot's fence line
 - d. Smoking or vaping in the garden
 - e. Using water sprinklers or any unattended irrigation devices in plots
 - f. Obstructing pathways with wheelbarrows, carts, hoses, bicycles, gates, and plants
 - g. Playing radios or any device without headsets. Please use cell phones courteously
 - h. Allowing pets inside the garden paths and plots. Trained service dogs are allowed.
 - i. Beekeeping
 - j. Private/public events in the Community Plot (J1). The Community Plot is reserved for official Garden events. Gardeners who are working their plot(s) may use it for meal and/or rest breaks. No private or public events, parties, ceremonies, etc. are permitted.
8. Treat other gardeners with respect. Use of profanity, racial slurs or any other types of inappropriate behavior such as harassment will not be tolerated.
9. Use the NPGFN water system conscientiously and courteously. Shut off the water after use and remove personal hoses from hydrants, from along the pathways, or along the outside of your fences. Do not leave water on unattended.
10. Clean and return tools, carts, and wheelbarrows to the shed before you leave the garden. Lock the shed each time you take out or return tools to deter theft. Do not leave the shed open, even for a short time.
11. When you leave the gardens (day or evening), secure all four of the gates. This is critical for deer control.
12. Weeds and other plant debris must be dumped at the base of the village leaf pile only. Do not dump debris in garden paths or the road. Rodents nest in anything that is not moved or turned over frequently.
13. Metal items, scrap lumber and brush must be placed in their designated locations to the left of the sheds. All plastic and trash should be placed in the garbage cans at the side of the parking lot. Large trash items should be brought home to dispose of.
14. The gardens are not secure and theft is possible. Locks are permitted on gates. Do not leave items of value in your plot. It is also recommended to put your name/plot number on items like tools, watering cans, etc.
15. At the end of the season, clear out plots. Remove or tie down anything left in your plot so it does not float away in the winter/spring floods. Plastic pots, plastic 6-packs for seedlings, plastic bags, and any other forms of plastic will float away during the annual flooding and end up in the land of our neighbor, the Nyquist Harcourt Wildlife Sanctuary. Please properly dispose of such plastic items and man-made materials when they are no longer in use.
- 16. Rules regarding the Village of New Paltz:**
- a. The Gardens are open seven days a week from sunrise to sunset. Village Ordinance prohibits presence in the garden between 9 pm and 6 am. You may be subject to a Village fine if you are there during these hours.
 - b. Do not use Village drinking water for watering gardens. Faucets are labeled "Drinking Water" and are located in the park, outside of the NPGFN fence by Row A.
 - c. Do not park on the grounds of the Village Park or in front of the Village service entrance.
 - d. Follow the Village Park Ordinances - no smoking, alcohol use, camping or cooking in the park or gardens.