

Lachat Community Garden Gardener Responsibilities

Required Volunteer Hours

All Community Garden members are required to volunteer a minimum of 4 hours in some capacity at the farm. This can include work days in the Community and/or Giving Garden, helping at Lachat events (Farmers Markets, Music Events, etc.). We will make every effort to notify gardeners via email of upcoming events to fulfill the 4-hour volunteer commitment but it is ultimately up to each gardener to find ways to volunteer at the farm.

It is the responsibility of the gardener to record their volunteer hours (up to 4 hours) from the gardener page on the Lachat website from the 'Farming Life' tab > Community Garden – or use the direct link: <https://lachatownfarm.org/community-gardener.php>. Contact the Garden Coordinator if you need assistance.

Composting & Wheelbarrow Etiquette

Each gardener is responsible for complying with the Community Garden rules regarding composting and garden debris removal. There are a number of ways you can comply with the rules.

- 1) Using the provided wheelbarrows and being compliant with what goes into each wheelbarrow as posted (see onsite signage). It will then be your responsibility to empty the wheelbarrows in the correct compost/debris area when the wheelbarrows are close to capacity.
- 2) Remove your own garden debris and composting materials as needed and bring them directly to the Compost area using a free wheelbarrow or your own garden container – or bring to your home to compost or dispose of. It is often desirable to take care of your own garden compost and debris yourself using your own garden bins if the wheelbarrows are too burdensome for you to empty in the Compost area.

Wheelbarrow System*

There is a wheelbarrow system in place for compost and debris plant material. It is important to follow guidelines carefully, otherwise diseased plants will spread problems from bed to bed over the seasons.

There are 2 wheelbarrows and 2 corresponding piles in the compost area. There is also 1 trash can (for garden debris ONLY).

- Wheelbarrow #1 - GARDEN GREENS
- Wheelbarrow #2 - WEEDS & SEEDS
- Trash Can - ALL TOMATO PLANTS & DISEASED PLANTS

***See the Garden Composting Document for more details**

Plot Maintenance

Crops must be harvested as they ripen - and spent plants must be removed in a timely fashion so that they do not go to seed and spread to other plots. Plots should be maintained in a condition that will not interfere with abutting plots or paths, such as tomatoes or squash plants hanging over the bed. If you are out of town or have an abundance of vegetables and would like to donate your crops to the Giving Garden, please notify the Garden Manager.

Chemical Policy

No chemical pesticides, herbicides or synthetic fertilizers are permitted on the property. All members must follow organic gardening practices and use only OMRI approved products - failure to do so is grounds for forfeiture. Please ask the Garden Manager for help and advice if you are unsure of the parameters.

Seed & Plant Policy

All seeds and plants used in your plot must be organic. GMO and pesticide treated seedlings have lasting effects on the soil and the pollinators who visit your plot. If you have questions or need help sourcing materials, please reach out to the Garden Manager. Trees and tall crops such as corn are not allowed in raised beds due to shading of other beds. Please do not plant invasive perennials with root systems that may spread to other beds. Sunchokes and mint are not allowed.

Security

Gardeners should assure that the water in their section of the garden is turned off and that the gate is closed when they leave. The gates must be kept closed at all times to keep rabbits and other wildlife out of the garden.

Garden Don'ts

No smoking is allowed. No dogs are allowed within the community garden. No glass bottles or containers are allowed.

Compliance

All plots will be reviewed regularly from May-October for compliance with the garden rules. Gardeners found out of compliance will be notified and given 7 days to remedy the violation or they may forfeit their plot.

See the Garden Information document for more information.

See the Garden Composting document for more details.