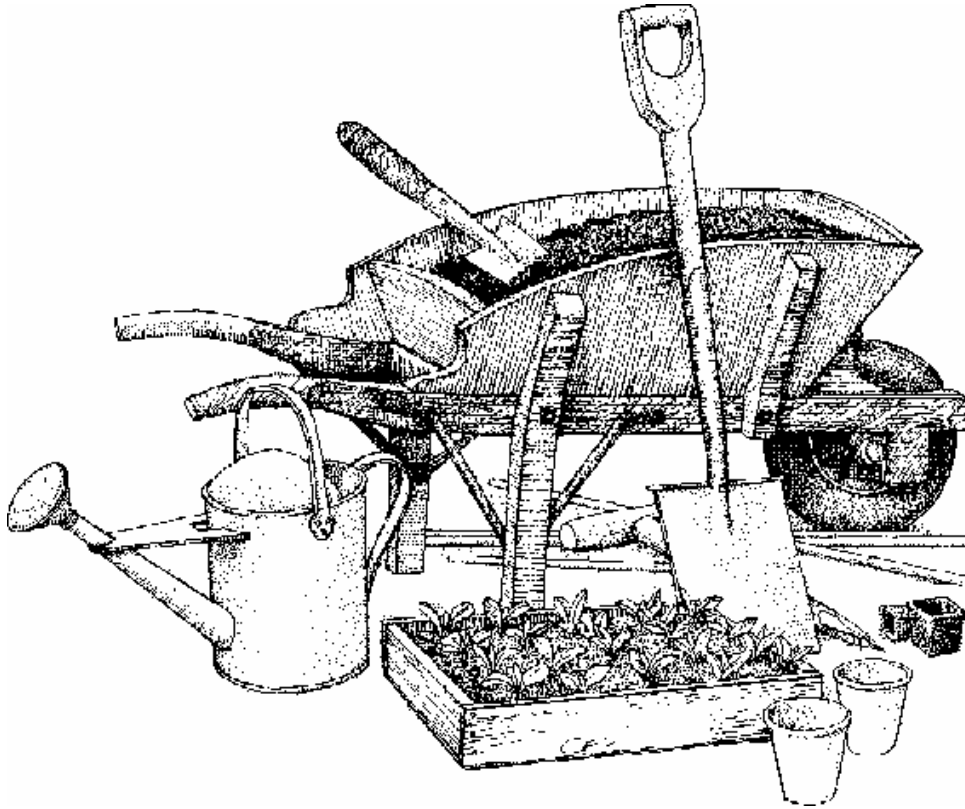


COMMUNITY GARDENS

2008 GUIDELINES & REGULATIONS



Disclaimer

Agency partners do not assume responsibility for mishap or injury on state property, nor are the agency partners responsible for accidental or intentional acts of vandalism or other unforeseen harmful garden acts by person(s), animal(s), or weather.

Garden plot renters agree to follow the guidelines and regulations established for the garden season. Any incidents occurring on their plots or at the garden site shall be their liability.

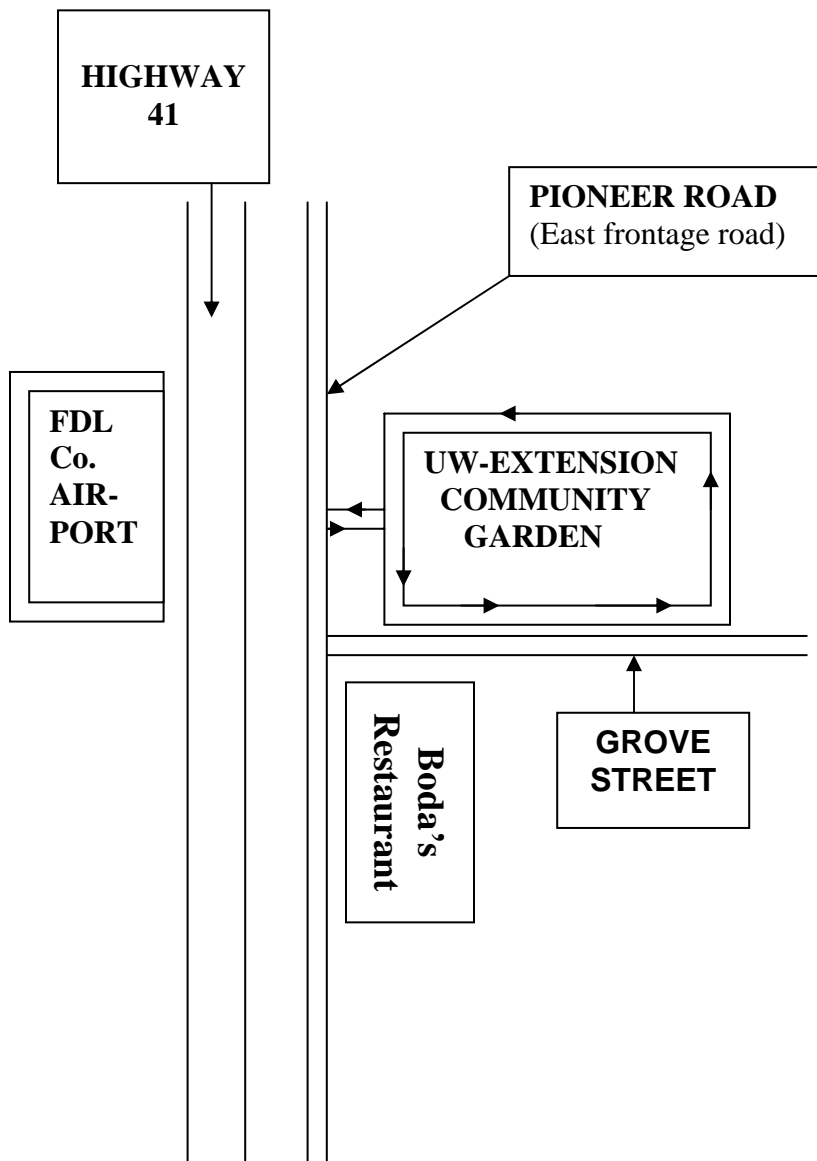
University of Wisconsin-Extension • United States Department of Agriculture • Wisconsin Counties Cooperating and Providing Equal Opportunities in Employment and Programming: including Title IX requirements.

Book prepared by Fond du Lac County UW-Extension – 2008

Cooperating Agencies

Fond du Lac County UW-Extension
227 Administration/Extension Building
400 University Drive, Fond du Lac, WI 54935
Phone: 920-929-3171

Fond du Lac County Master Gardeners and other educators help develop educational programs for gardeners on a wide range of topics from general gardening to food preservation.



DIRECTIONS TO COMMUNITY GARDEN:

The community garden can be accessed from Pioneer Road, just north of the intersection of Pioneer and Grove Street. The garden is across Grove Street from Boda's Family Restaurant, or directly across Highway 41 from the Fond du Lac County Airport.

You may drive into the garden via a dirt road that circles the garden plots. Avoid driving in the garden during wet weather, if possible. Please proceed around the garden in a counterclockwise direction. Drive carefully, slowly, and watch for pedestrians in the garden.

1. Garden Rules

Location

The garden is located on the Northeast corner of Pioneer (east frontage road) and Grove Street.

Parking

Designated areas will be made available along the west end of the garden and along the roads through the garden area. Please use discretion in spring when the ground is soft or when there is excessive rainfall.

This spring there will be no driving onto garden roads until they have hardened up and dried off.

Plot Size & Boundary Stakes

The garden plots are marked by stakes with your garden plot number listed. **Plant your garden between the marked areas. (stay two feet within the boundaries of your plot)**

Walk only on walkways and on your own plot. **Leave areas wide enough for you to walk around the border of your own plots.** Anyone walking in someone else's plot is trespassing.

String used by some gardeners to mark garden boundaries has caused problems with equipment used to till. If string is used to mark areas, **it must be removed** at the end of the growing season.

Toilet Facilities

Toilet facilities will be available at the garden site from garden opening to garden closing. **Please use these facilities.**

Garbage

There is no garbage pick-up at the garden site. All plastic, paper and other refuse must be taken home.

Pets

Pets are not allowed in the Community Gardens.

2. Garden Safety

Security

For the safety and security of our gardens, we encourage you to keep a close eye on children and fellow gardeners. If possible, garden with a family member or friend. Recommended gardening times are sunrise to sunset. Gardens will be open from the hours of **6:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. Gardeners need to be off the premises by 9:00 p.m.**

If you should have concerns about any activity at the community gardens that seems unusual or out of place for the garden area, please contact law enforcement and report it as soon as possible (**dial 911**). Of course, reports of any incidents must also be brought to the attention of **Patty Percy Fond du Lac County Community Garden Coordinator at the UW-Extension (Phone 920-929-3171)**.

Parents must keep children within the garden site and provide supervision. Children may not enter surrounding private properties. Some areas may be marked as "Off Limits" or "No Trespassing". Gardeners are asked to keep within the Community Garden area at all times. Please observe these rules. Your cooperation will make gardening enjoyable and safe for all concerned.

Authorized People

Only you, people you invite to accompany you, UW-Extension staff, or other authorized personnel with business at the site are permitted in the garden site.

Policing

We have had minor problems with theft of vegetables. Anyone caught harvesting someone else's produce or vandalizing someone else's plot will lose the privilege of using the garden site. Your cooperation is necessary to keep this problem to minimum. Please respect your neighbor's garden plots as well as the neighbors whose homes and property are located next to the community gardens. If you notice any problems please report them to **Patty Percy, Community Garden Coordinator** (UW-Extension at 920-929-3171).

3. Plot Preparation & Maintenance

The garden plots were tilled once in the fall and will be tilled again in the spring when the moisture content allows good soil preparation. Gardeners may use walking type rototillers in their plots. However, be careful not to overwork the soil since it often results in over-compaction of the soil and poor vegetable growth. Adding organic material (composted materials such as lawn clipping, leaves, decomposed plants and composted manure) is the best way to improve soil quality.

Water for Gardens

Water for garden plots will be available from 2 large water tanks. UW staff will make every effort to keep the water tanks filled as time and conditions allow. Do not hook up water hoses to garden tanks. Water conservation is important, please be sure tank faucets are shut off completely. Please limit use of water for washing feet so water is available for other gardeners.

Garden Neglect & Weed Control

Gardens and walkways/roadways must be kept free of all weeds. Weeds are unsightly and spread seeds to adjacent garden areas and cause hardship to other gardeners. Hoeing to control weeds and thinning vegetables to the proper recommended distances will conserve moisture. Gardeners with neglected garden plots will be notified first by word of mouth, phone, or mail that they must take care of all weeding within two (2) weeks. If a gardener does not comply, arrangements will be made to mow off the garden plot and will lose the privilege of using the garden site. **Gardeners are expected to control weeds and grass 2 feet around their plot area to help keep weeds down and rabbits under control.**

Mulching

Straw, leaves, and shredded newspaper may be used as mulch to suppress weeds and conserve moisture. Be sure to cover shredded newspapers with soil or leaf mulch to prevent them from blowing away. Gardeners must recycle plant material within their own plot. **There will be no composting areas at the garden site this year.** Do not bring household waste to your community garden plot.

Garden Fertilization

Gardeners will be responsible for the fertilizing their own plots. This will allow individuals to do organic gardening. **Herbicides (which kill weeds) are not allowed in the community gardens!** Gardeners may apply any organic matter (such as composted plants and manure) to meet the nitrogen needs of their crops.

Pesticide Use & Disposal

Pesticides are chemicals used to kill or repel pests. Pesticides include herbicides (which kill weeds), insecticides (which kill insects), and fungicides (which kill fungi).

Pesticides are poisonous and pose a threat to animals, plants, and insects beyond the target pest. They can also be harmful to beneficial insects, such as bees and butterflies. For this reason, and because highly toxic insecticides and herbicides may drift to neighboring garden plots, insecticide and herbicide use in the community garden is **limited** to the following:

Acceptable Insecticides

- Botanical insecticides (Ryania & Pyrethrin)
- Insecticidal soaps and oils
- Microbial insecticides (Bt-Dipel, Thuricide, M-One and Lepinox)
- Mineral insecticides (diatomaceous earth)

Also very limited use of Sevin garden dust but this is a manufactured inorganic pesticide. **Again, please be very cautious when using powders so that it does not drift into your neighbor's plot.** If you are unsure of whether an insecticide is allowed in the community gardens, please contact the Fond du Lac County UW-Extension Community Gardens coordinator at 920-929-3171.

Gardeners using unacceptable pesticides will be given only one warning. Continued use of unacceptable pesticides after warning will result in loss of your garden plot and the privilege of using the garden site.

4. Garden Miscellaneous

Dates Gardens Available

Garden plots will be prepared, staked and available for planting in **early May** as weather permits. Please do not attempt to plant gardens before being notified by mail informing you of your plot location and opening date.

Fall Clean-up

Garden plots will close **mid-October**. It is the responsibility of the community gardeners to clean up their garden site. Plant material and any other organic matter may be left on the plot. Please topple any large stalks and leave them on your plots.

Prior to the garden close date, all stakes, string, fence, water jugs, plastic material and tomato cages must be removed from the garden plots and taken home. I have had a problem with this every year.

Any gardener who fails to comply with the garden clean-up policy will lose the privilege of using the garden site. When you receive the fall mailing of the newsletter stating the date of 'Garden Close', please comply. Generally the person who is hired to do the tilling will be in the garden shortly after garden close date to start working the soil. This cannot be done with any debris left on garden sites- everyone has to comply with the clean-up, or we will lose the privilege of using this site to garden.

Garden Advisory Committee

A garden committee will be organized to process garden policy and decide on matters of concern. Representation on the garden committee will consist of garden renters, staff from the UW-Extension and neighbors surrounding the gardens. Any matter of dispute will be reported to the **Patty Percy Community Garden Coordinator** (UW-Extension at 920-929-3171) and will be resolved by the Garden Advisory Committee.

Garden Cancellations & Mailing Updates

If, for any reason you cannot plant or care for your garden, contact the UW-Extension office immediately so that your garden plot may be reassigned. **There will be no refunds after May 15.** To get garden mailings in a timely fashion, always inform UW-Extension of any change in name, address, or phone number.

5. Gardening Education

Vegetable Varieties

Community Gardeners are encouraged to use recommended vegetable varieties in the gardens.

Publication A1653 “Vegetable Cultivars and Planting Guide for Wisconsin Gardeners” may be picked up from the Fond du Lac County UW-Extension office or printed on-line at <http://www1.uwex.edu/ces/pdf/a1653.pdf>

Gardening Information/Education

All relevant information about garden dates, garden maps and educational workshops will be sent out by regular mailings or via email.

Patty Percy, Community Garden Coordinator, will be available for garden counseling at the UW-Extension office between the hours of 1:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons.
Phone: 920-929-3171

Various UW-Extension garden publications may also be found at www1.uwex.edu/ces/pubs. Click on “Horticulture” to view categories.

Fond du Lac County UW-Extension website can be found at www1.uwex.edu/ces/cty/fonddulac/ lists local Master Gardener and other horticulture activities.