



## *2023 Community Gardener Rules and Member & Garden Registration*

### **EECO Farm Guidelines for Community Gardeners**

Welcome to all Community Gardeners! It is a great pleasure to share the bounties of EECO Farm in this, our seventeenth season. The Community Gardens are a vital part of EECO Farm.

We hope you will participate in our activities – attend a Full Moon Pot Luck Dinner, get your questions answered by one of our experts, get help with problems, and get loads of free education on the many facets of organic gardening.

So that everyone can enjoy their time at the Farm, and to ensure safety for everyone, all gardeners are expected to follow these rules.

1. The fee for a 20' x 20' garden rental is \$240 per year. If you would like more space, and if additional gardens are available, you can rent a second or third garden for an additional \$150 per garden. First time gardeners will be limited to one garden rental if there is a waiting list.
2. Garden fees have to be paid no later than March 31, and all gardens must be opened by Memorial Day weekend, or the garden may be reassigned without refund. Year-end clean up has to be completed by October 31.
3. Gardening at EECO Farm is an “at your own risk” activity. Gardeners agree to be careful with tools, to wear shoes at the farm, and to ask for help to avoid accidents.
4. All growing practices shall be in accordance with Northeast Organic Farming Association of New York (NOFA-NY) organic standards and all soil amendments must be approved by the Organic Materials Review Institute (OMRI). You can access the NOFA web site at [www.nofany.org](http://www.nofany.org), and the OMRI site at [www.omri.org](http://www.omri.org).
5. Pesticides, fungicides, etc. must also be approved as organic by OMRI. Be sure to check labels of all amendments and preparations before using them on your garden.

“Natural” is meaningless in this context. Some products claim to be “organic” but are not. If what you are using on your plants and soil at EECO Farm is not certified OMRI compliant, you must not use it! Such usage is grounds for being asked to leave the Farm. Check the label for the OMRI seal of approval.

6. Gardens that become neglected will be cleaned at your expense. If you foresee a problem maintaining your garden, please get in touch with us immediately and we will gladly find someone for a modest fee to help with your weeding and watering.

7. Garden trimmings and weeds should be placed in the big wagon for composting. Please separate plastic pots, trays, and tags, and take them to the Town dump. These items are NOT compostable, and garbage is your responsibility.

8. Community Gardeners must commit to the “No weeds go to seed” policy. If a garden is left untended, we will attempt to contact the gardener, but reserve the right to reassign the garden without refund of the garden fee. Gardeners are asked to weed the surrounding paths as well.

9. All vehicles are to be parked in the parking area between the farm road and the fence. Please do not drive out on to the garden field! Heavy cars and trucks can easily crush & damage EECO's underground water pipes and it greatly increases the risk of damaging a garden or hitting someone.

10. Mowing the pathways is a big job. Please help by keeping all your garden material, hoses, bags of fertilizer, tools, anything, *inside* your garden so it doesn't get chopped up by the mower or cause an accident. We are not responsible for damage to items left in the pathways. The grass around the edges of your garden needs to be trimmed, by you, by hand.

11. Water carefully and only when necessary. Never leave the water turned on when you leave your garden. Please keep hoses detached from the water lines so other gardeners can use the faucet. Tell us if a faucet is leaking so we can repair it. Faucets are meant to serve up to 8 tenants who must share the usage of water access. Any timer, watering system or attached hose that hogs a faucet will be removed by EECO Farm. Store your hose in your own garden space or please take it home.

12. First-time renters will be given a garden that we will make "best efforts" to clear down to the ground but, due to an occasionally high turnover rate, this is not always possible. All gardens are rented annually "as is" --- and on a first-come basis. You may refuse to take the assigned garden but you will lose your place on the wait list and go back to the bottom for another turn. However, if, after a year of renting, if you do not like the location of your patch (due to any circumstance) you may request a re-location for the next season and we will give your move a priority.

13. Please resist the temptation to sample produce from someone else's garden. Do not assume that they won't mind. *If it's not yours, please leave it alone.*

14. All gardeners may make use of any & all of the hand tools stored in the tool shed and also have use of the wheelbarrows marked with the EECO name. Do **not** use tools or hoses of other gardeners without permission. No one is permitted to use any EECO Farm power tools or the tractor, mowers, etc. No exceptions! Borrowed tools must be returned

to the tool shed, and must not be removed from the farm. Please tell us if you notice that a tool is damaged.

15. All chairs, buckets, tools, etc. must be removed from your garden and taken home for the winter. No permanent structures are permitted to be built at EECO. The use of removable garden fences, trellises, growing frames, tomato cages, etc. is limited to 6 feet in height without expressed prior approval from the EECO Board. We will be happy to help you “put your garden to bed” for the winter – just ask!

16. Dogs and young children must be kept under control and prevented from running over other gardeners’ land. Dogs must be kept on a leash, and their waste must be cleaned up and removed.

17. Arsenic is naturally occurring at low levels in most soils. Due to the use of arsenic-based pesticides decades ago, many soils on Long Island, including those at EECO Farm, test higher than normal background levels.

While arsenic levels at EECO Farm are decreasing due to the use of compost and the elimination of chemical pesticides, herbicides and fungicides, **direct exposure to or ingestion of soil can pose risks, particularly in young persons and pregnant women. As such, children ages three or younger are discouraged from engaging in gardening activities, or digging in the soil. Children under 12 years of age should wear gloves while gardening.** Disposable gloves are available to everyone in the tool shed.

**PLEASE TAKE THE FOLLOWING ADDITIONAL PRECAUTIONS:**

- Take prudent steps to minimize the amount of soil and dust you swallow or breathe.
- Wash your hands and clothes after gardening.
- To minimize dust, dampen dry soils with water before gardening.
- Clean your shoes before entering your home.
- Wash all produce and peel all root vegetables prior to consumption.
- Increase the organic matter in your garden by adding compost on a regular basis.

---

*EECO Farm is an all-volunteer organization. If you would like to help in any way with our events and programs, please send us an email [eecofarmeh@gmail.com](mailto:eecofarmeh@gmail.com) or write to us:*

EECO Farm Ltd.  
PO Box 2550  
East Hampton, NY 11937

We are all looking forward to the 2023 season with you and thank you for your support.