



barringtoncommunitygarden

A Volunteer-Run Organic Community Garden for Barrington Residents

## 2019 Barrington Community Garden Lease and Use Agreement

The Barrington Community Garden (BCG) is a volunteer-run organic community garden for Barrington residents. This Lease and Use Agreement identifies terms and obligations for leasing a plot at the BCG. The annual fee for leasing a 5'x 20' plot is \$25, payable by check imprinted with a Barrington address or accompanied by a copy of the lessee's valid driver's license with a Barrington address.

### Lessee Obligations

- Lessee agrees to abide by the policies and procedures of the Barrington Community Garden. These include this lease and use agreement, as well as the following:
  - ❖ 2019 BCG General Terms
  - ❖ 2019 BCG Organic Guidelines
  - ❖ 2019 BCG Composting Guidelines
  - ❖ 2019 BCG Community Work Obligations
  - ❖ 2019 BCG Plot Closing Instructions
- Lessee is responsible for maintaining the leased plot in a relatively weed-free condition and within the bounds of the plot dimensions of 5 feet by 20 feet. Leased plots are to be cultivated by **Sunday, June 2, 2019** (end of day). Plots not cultivated by this date will be considered forfeited, along with the annual fee, and made available for re-leasing.
- Lessee is responsible for maintaining pathways located immediately north and east of the leased plot up to the next plot or to 5 feet from your plot's edge. Pathways are to be initially weeded and covered with a minimum of two inches of wood chips by **Sunday June 2, 2019**, and maintained in this condition for the season.
- The Lessee is expected to volunteer four (4) hours per leased plot per season for shared community garden tasks. Please refer to the *2019 BCG Community Work Obligations* for further information.
- By the BCG closing date of **Sunday, December 1, 2019**, the leased plot must be cleaned of all plant debris, and all cages, stakes, trellises, etc. must be removed. Please refer to the attached *2019 BCG Garden Plot Closing Instructions* for further detail.
- Assigned plots are not transferable without permission from the BCG Steering Committee.



### Prohibitions

- Removing crops from other's plots is prohibited unless permission is granted by the plot's Lessee.
- On-site commercial sale of plants, fruits, and/or vegetables from the BCG is prohibited.
- To protect wildlife, use of plastic netting/fencing or rodent "sticky traps" is not allowed. Metal or bamboo fencing or floating row cover fabric may be used for wildlife exclusion.
- No permanent structures are permitted in the leased plot, except for wooden plot borders and perimeter fencing.

**2019 Barrington Community Garden Lease and Use Agreement (continued)**

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**ACCEPTANCE**

***(Before you sign, make sure you have read and understand your obligations)***

***I hereby confirm*** that I have read and understand the obligations and prohibitions of the *2019 Barrington Community Garden Lease and Use Agreement* and all referenced attachments and agree to abide by it. I understand that failure to uphold any of the lease terms may, at the discretion of the BCG Steering Committee, result in termination of the lease and fee. I hereby agree to indemnify and hold harmless the Town of Barrington and/or its employees and volunteers from claims or liability related to any injury, accident, damage, or loss that may occur in association with any community gardening or related activities by myself, family members, or my guests.

Signature of Lessee: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Lessee (printed): \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
(must be same as on check or driver's license) (Email is our main mode of communication; please provide an email address that is regularly checked).

**From March 17-29, 2019 (by mail):**

- I am a returning Lessee and would like to re-lease the same plot as last year (Plot # \_\_\_\_\_) or request an alternate plot (please contact a Steering Committee member through the BCG website prior to March 29, 2019, for a list of available alternate plots).
- I am a returning Lessee and wish to reserve my second plot from last season (Plot # \_\_\_\_\_). The plot can be re-applied for after April 1st, subject to availability; see below.

**From March 30 - 31, 2019 (during on-site registration) and by mail until all plots are leased**

- I am a new Lessee and wish to lease a plot (you will be able to select from available plots during on-site registration; otherwise, a plot will be assigned).

**For a second plot; on and after April 8, 2019 (by mail):**

- I am a new or returning Lessee and would like to request a ***second*** plot (maximum two total plots per household). Please submit a separate leasing application and fee. Second plots are subject to availability.

*Please return this form along with a check payable to "The Town of Barrington" with "BCG" in the note section. Checks must be imprinted with a Barrington address or accompanied by a copy of the lessee's valid driver's license with a Barrington address. Cash is not accepted. Please mail your application to Barrington Community Garden, c/o Barrington Town Hall, 283 County Road, Barrington, RI 02806, or provide to a Steering Committee member if registering at the BCG.*

Application and fee received by: \_\_\_\_\_  
*(Steering Committee Member signature and payment reference)*

Plot Assigned \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_



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### **2019 Barrington Community Garden General Rules**

- The BCG is open from dawn until dusk, seven days a week. Please park in the designated parking area in front of the garden. Please do not park along the driveway.
- Children are welcome in the BCG, under adult supervision. Pets are not allowed in the BCG.
- Water is available from spigots installed throughout the garden. Spigots should be turned on/off by the metal wheel handle ONLY; please do not use/reposition the red plastic valve on the riser pipe. Repeated use of the plastic valve could cause it to leak.
- Community tools are available in the shed; please clean and return tools to the shed after use.
- Use of hoses is permitted; however, please take care not to disturb other garden plots or pathways.
- All personal tools and supplies must be stored within the boundaries of the leased plot. The shed is not to be used for storing personal items.
- Lessees are welcome to harvest herbs, flowers, and vegetables from the Community Garden corners surrounding the central common area and raspberries from the raspberry patch inside the western fence line. The blueberries along southern fence line are still settling in and should not be picked yet.
- BCG maintains a “trash in, trash out” policy; please keep the BCG tidy.
- The Town of Barrington is not liable for any injury to persons or property resulting from community gardening or other on-site activities. Participation is at the Lessee’s own risk.
- All other applicable policies and guidance are available on the website and copies for your use are also in the shed. These include:

*BCG Lease and Use Agreement*

*BCG Organic Guidelines*

*BCG Composting Guidelines*

*BCG Community Work Responsibilities*

*BCG Garden Plot Closing Instructions*

For more information, visit the BCG website at [www.barringtoncommunitygarden.org](http://www.barringtoncommunitygarden.org).



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## 2019 Barrington Community Garden Community Work Obligations

All lessees are required to participate in four (4) hours of community work for each plot they lease, which involves the care and maintenance of all common areas and outer pathways of the garden. Community work days will begin in April; the BCG calendar lists the days in which work days are currently scheduled. The calendar is located on the BCG website ([www.barringtoncommunitygarden.org](http://www.barringtoncommunitygarden.org)) and will be posted on the community bulletin board. The need for additional dates and times will be reassessed in the beginning of August, so please check the website for the most current dates and times. If the scheduled times posted do not work for you, please contact a Steering Committee Outreach Coordinator through the website and we will try to arrange an alternate time to accommodate you.

On each workday, a Steering Committee member will be present to sign you in and identify the community garden tasks in need of attention. All volunteers must sign in with the Steering Committee member for the work time to be counted. Each session is a “come-as-you-may,” with no prior notification needed, and can be performed for the full session or in 15-minute increments. To help you track your hours, a log of completed community work hours will be periodically posted on the BCG website.

*In lieu of the above 4 hours of community work per plot, lessees may pay a seasonal community maintenance fee of \$50 per plot. This option may be selected by sending a check for the fee, payable to the Town of Barrington and with your BCG Plot# in the memo section, to Barrington Community Garden, c/o Barrington Town Hall, 283 County Road, Barrington, RI 02806, prior to June 1, 2019. Selection of this option is not available after June 1<sup>st</sup>.*

***VERY IMPORTANT: All lessees are required to keep the pathways on the north and east sides of their plot (5 feet out or to the next plot) weed-free and well-covered with wood chips. This requirement is in addition to your four hours of community work per leased plot (or payment in lieu of). Path maintenance can be done at any time convenient to your schedule. However, the initial weeding and placement of a 2-inch (minimum) wood chip layer on the pathways must be completed by **Sunday, June 2, 2019**. This keeps the weeds at bay and makes your maintenance of these paths throughout the season much easier.***



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## 2019 Barrington Community Garden Plot Closing Instructions

As part of the BCG lease agreement, lessees have agreed to clean their leased garden plot of all plant debris, cages, trellises, and other structures by the garden closing date of Sunday December 1, 2019. Plots that are not properly cleaned by this date will be considered abandoned and the current lessee will be unable to lease for the 2020 season. Specifics are noted below:

- All spent plant material must be removed from the plot by the closing date. Cleaned plots may be mulched with straw, compost, or cover crops for winter protection. If you intend to renew the plot lease next year, plants being overwintered for next season (like garlic) may remain.
- All cages and trellises must be removed from the garden for the winter. If not removed, these items will be disposed.
- All appropriate spent plant debris that is not diseased and does not contain seeds can be placed in the compost bins. Refer to the *2019 Barrington Community Garden Composting Guidelines*.
- All spent plant debris that cannot be composted (i.e., is diseased or contains seeds) are to be disposed of in yard waste bags (in shed) and brought to the very end of the driveway along Wampanoag Trail for municipal yard waste pick-up.

If you have any questions, please contact the Steering Committee through the website ([www.barringtoncommunitygarden.org](http://www.barringtoncommunitygarden.org)).



## 2019 Barrington Community Garden Organic Guidelines

The Barrington Community Garden is an organic garden where the use of synthetic fertilizers, insecticides, herbicides, and fungicides is not allowed. Proper cultivation techniques, such as mulching, hoeing, proper watering, plant spacing, and hand-weeding, can address most garden issues. However, materials and products that are allowed, if and when needed, are contained on two lists:

- Materials that are approved for use in organic gardens by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's **National Organic Program (NOP)**; and
- Products on the **Organic Materials Review Institute (OMRI)** Product List for crop production.



Following is a short, but not comprehensive, list of allowed materials. Pay attention to the ingredients; don't go by brand or company name. Consult the sources above for more extensive lists of allowed materials and products or *ask one of the garden steering committee members if you have questions.*

### Fertility and Soil Amendments

- Finished compost (plant, manure, lobster, etc.)
- Compost tea
- Cover crops (e.g., winter rye)
- Animal and plant products, such as:
  - bone, blood, and feather meal
  - alfalfa and soybean meal (non-GMO)
  - kelp/seaweed
  - fish emulsion
- Rock minerals, such as:
  - Agricultural lime and dolomitic limestone
  - Rock phosphates
  - Gypsum
  - Epsom salts

### Weed Control/Treatment

- Mulch to suppress weed growth, such as:
  - Paper that is not glossy and free from colored ink
  - Straw (NOT hay – regular hay has seeds!) or salt marsh hay
  - Aged wood chips (from untreated wood only)
- Herbicidal soaps (non-specific weed killer)
- Corn gluten meal (non-GMO) (suppresses germination, so not where you will be planting seed)



## 2019 Barrington Community Garden Organic Guidelines

### **Insect Pests and Diseases** (be sure you know what you are treating; don't treat indiscriminately)

- Biological and microbial products, such as:
  - Bacillus thuringiensis (Bt)
  - Bacillus subtilis
  - Spinosad
- Organic insecticidal soap
- Diatomaceous earth
- Minerals, such as:
  - Elemental sulfur
  - Copper sulfate
  - Sodium/potassium bicarbonate
  - Kaolin clay
- Oils - narrow range petroleum, vegetable, and fish oils
- Pheromones and pheromone traps
- Plant-derived substances, such as:
  - Neem
  - Pyrethrins (not pyrethroids, which are synthetic)

### **Construction Material**

Any natural or inert material that will not readily degrade is suitable for use in constructing plant cages, and trellis structures at the BCG, with preference given to the following:

- Untreated wood (wood should be presumed treated unless there is information to the contrary).
- Metal (e.g., aluminum, copper, steel), including wire
- Sisal/Jute/Twine
- Bamboo stakes

Materials not suitable for use at the BCG include:

- Arsenic-treated wood or old railroad ties
- Plastic lumber
- Plastic or synthetic mulch
- Plastic mesh netting, plastic construction fencing

The use of plastic-coated cages or stakes, synthetic row covers, and PVC piping for constructing plant cages or trellis structures is permitted for the duration of the growing season.



## 2019 Barrington Community Garden Composting Guidelines

Composting is a natural form of recycling, in which plant matter exposed to air, water, insects, bacteria, fungi, and other microorganisms (a.k.a. “bugs”) decomposes into a soil-like material called compost and generates heat. Compost is a great soil textural amendment and provides nutrients and minerals. The essential components of compost are:

**Carbon and nitrogen (in the right ratio).** Carbon and nitrogen are the two fundamental elements in composting. Carbon comes from dried or dead plant material (“browns”) and is used by “bugs” as an energy source. Nitrogen comes from fresh plant material (“greens”) and is used by “bugs” for protein synthesis (needed for growth and reproduction). While plant materials vary in their content of carbon and nitrogen, a general rule of thumb is to combine 3 parts brown and 1 part green (by volume).

**Air.** Decomposing plant material uses up oxygen, so oxygen must be replaced to support further composting. Aeration, or turning the compost over with a pitchfork or shovel, replaces oxygen. A compost pile that is not properly aerated will become “anaerobic”, slimy, and smelly.

**Water.** “Bugs” use nutrients when they are dissolved in water. Too little water will suppress microbial activity and too much water will replace oxygen, resulting in an anaerobic compost pile. Optimally, compost should have a moisture content of 40 to 60 percent, or like a well-wrung sponge.

**Bugs.** Insects, bacteria, fungi, and other microorganisms already exist on most plant matter or will naturally find their way into the compost pile. Feed them and they will come.

**Adequate size.** A good minimum size for a compost pile is 3 feet wide by 3 feet deep by 3 feet high. Compost piles smaller than this aren’t able to hold in the heat to facilitate decomposition; too much larger and the pile becomes difficult to aerate.

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### ***Rule of Thumb: Compost = 3 Parts Brown + 1 Part Green + Air + Water (“bugs” are free)***

#### ***“Browns”***

***Dried leaves***

***Straw/salt marsh hay/dried grass***

***Uncolored, non-glossy paper/cardboard***

***Wood chips/sawdust***

#### ***“Greens”***

***Fresh plants and leaves***

***Fresh (green) grass clippings***

***Animal manure***

***Vegetable waste***

#### ***Things NOT to compost at the BCG***

***General trash (paper cups, plastic, metal)***

***Diseased plants***

***Seeds in any form (e.g., on weeds, in vegetables, in hay)***

***Meat, fish, or dairy***

***Food scraps from home***

***Every time you add anything to the compost pile, please add water as well!***