

# DUKE FARMS COMMUNITY GARDEN

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### Plot registration details:

- Plot registration for members of the public opens on January 2 at 9am and runs until March 15 (or until plots sell out), annually. **All registration is done online through [dukefarms.org/cg](http://dukefarms.org/cg).**
- Each year it varies there are usually 40-50 plots available for public rental. Plots are rented on a first come, first served basis.
- There are a total of 460 plots, 3 different sizes (10'x10', 15'x15', 15'x30'). Gardeners are invited to renew their current location each year as long as they comply with all rules and requirements.
- Duke Farms also has an Accessible Garden area which conforms to current ADA standards. Individual garden beds on a paver patio rent for \$20 each for the season and may be rented to individuals or groups. Please contact Duke Farms for more information.
- Plots are available for rent to individuals who live and/or work in Somerset County, NJ. Commercial enterprises are not eligible to apply.
- New gardeners are restricted to 1 plot in their first year of gardening. Returning gardeners may rent a maximum of 3 plots and will have the opportunity to renew the same plot(s) each year should they wish to.

### Logistics:

- Gardens must maintain a valid email address as this is our primary form of communication.
- An Orientation session plus an Introductory Organic Gardening Course are offered February-March. It is required for all new gardeners to participate in both of these programs. They are approximately 1 hour each.
- Garden is open year-round, dawn to dusk.
- There are 2 parking lots adjacent to the community garden. The garden is 5 acres and some plots are a distance from the parking lots.

- Duke provides wheelbarrows and a small number of hand tools. Gardeners must bring any additional tools they need.
- There is a water spigot in the middle of each garden block. Hoses are not provided but may be shared among gardeners.
- There is a bathroom in the garden. There is not potable water.
- Members must adhere to Duke Farms' Community Garden Code of Conduct found in our handbook which is located at <https://dukefarms.org/cg>. Hard copies available by request.
- Gardeners must complete 4 hours of volunteer time at Duke Farms for your first garden plot, plus 1 hour for each additional plot.
- Gardeners must attend one environmental related class of their choice each year. This may be through Duke Farms or another suitable vendor, virtual or in person.

#### **Gardening information:**

- Garden plots are offered in AS IS condition. Duke Farms is not responsible for soil and overall garden plot conditions, including drainage and other related issues.
- Community Garden plots should be centered around food production.
- Gardeners should plan on making a minimum of 2 visits per week to their plot for adequate care. Gardeners must make provisions for plot maintenance during absences and vacations.
- Gardeners are required to use organic, sustainable growing methods. Training is provided.
- There is a 5-foot height restriction on plants, materials and structures.
- Gardeners are responsible for keeping their plot(s) weeded, harvested and well-maintained within plot boundaries & height limitations. Weekly maintenance surveys take place from April 15-Oct 31 each year. Gardeners may receive up to 4 warnings each year. After 5 warnings, the plot is reclaimed by Duke Farms.