

Duke Farms Community Garden Frequently Asked Questions 2024



1. **When can I rent a Community Garden Plot?** Plot registration for prospective members opens on January 2 at 9:00am and runs until plots sell out. All registration is done online.
2. **Is there a waitlist for membership?** There is no waitlist. Plots are rented on a first come, first served basis.
3. **How many plots are there total? What sizes are available?** There are a total of 460 plots in 3 different sizes, 10'x10', 15'x15', 15'x30'.
4. **Do you have accessibility accommodations in the Community Garden?** Duke Farms has raised beds for accessible gardening. Individual garden beds on a paver patio rent for \$20 each for the season and may be rented to individuals or groups. Please contact cg@dukefarms.org for more information.
5. **Who is responsible for maintaining Community Garden plots?** Gardeners are responsible for keeping their plot(s) weeded, harvested and well-maintained within plot boundaries & height limitations. Weekly maintenance surveys take place during the growing season. After 5 warnings, the plot is reclaimed by Duke Farms.
6. **How often do I need to care for my garden plot once I am a member?** 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.
7. **Who is eligible for a garden membership?** Plots are available for rent to individuals who live or work in Somerset County, NJ. Commercial enterprises are not eligible.
8. **What are the restrictions in the Community Garden?** Gardeners are required to use organic, sustainable growing methods. There is a 5-foot height restriction on plants, materials, and structures. Community Garden plots should be centered around food production.
9. **How many garden plots can be rented?** New members can rent 1 plot in the first year of membership. Returning gardeners may rent a maximum of 3 plots and will have the opportunity to renew the same plot(s) each year.
10. **What is required for new gardeners to join?** New garden members are required to attend an Orientation session and Introduction to Organic Gardening.
11. **What are the Community Garden rules and guidelines?** Members must adhere to the rules, restrictions and guidelines located in the [Community Garden Handbook](#). Hard copies are available by request.
12. **What is the volunteering requirement to be a member?** Gardeners must complete 4 hours of volunteer time at Duke Farms for your first garden plot, plus 1 hour for each additional plot.
13. **What is the education requirement to be a member?** Gardeners must attend one environmental class of their choice each year.
14. **What do the garden plots look like? Who is responsible for the condition?** Garden plots are offered as is. Duke Farms is not responsible for soil and overall garden plot conditions, including drainage and other related issues.
15. **When is the Community Garden open to members?** The Community Garden is open year-round, dawn to dusk.
16. **Is parking available for members?** There are 2 parking lots adjacent to the Community Garden, but the garden is 5 acres, and may require walking to the plot.

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17. **What form of communication is required to be a member?** Gardeners must maintain a valid email address as this is our primary form of communication. Gardeners are also required to join a messaging app for urgent messages and updates.
18. **What tools do I need?** Duke Farms provides wheelbarrows and a small number of hand tools. Gardeners must bring any additional tools they need.
19. **Is there a water source available in the Community Garden?** There is a water spigot in the middle of each garden block. Hoses are not provided, but may be shared among gardeners.
20. **Are there restrooms available in the Community Garden?** There is a bathroom in the garden, however, there is not potable water.