

Rotary / Town of Petrolia

Community Garden Rules

Gardeners and their guests must comply with all Town of Petrolia bylaws.

Each gardener is responsible for the proper maintenance of their garden plot throughout the duration of the growing season, including normal watering, weeding, harvesting, and general care of the garden plot. Each gardener is responsible for providing his/her own tools and equipment, however some common use tools may be supplied in the garden shed.

- If a garden plot appears unplanted by June 30, or messy and unattended throughout the season without the Rotary Club receiving any notice from the Gardener of an acceptable reason, then the garden plot will be considered abandoned and it will be reassigned to the next person on the waiting list. The gardener will have no claim for damages for such reassignment.
- Use of chemical insecticides, herbicides, fungicides, and fertilizers is prohibited. Only integrated pest management, companion planting, diatomaceous earth, and insecticidal soaps may be used to control pests. Only compost and composted manures may be used in soil conditioning and fertilization. Visit the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs website for more information.
- Trees and other woody perennial plants are not allowed in the garden plot. Vegetables, berries, fruits, grains, beans, herbs, and companion flowers are allowed. Garden plots and surrounding pathways must be kept free of weeds going to seed, pests, and diseases. Tall plants and vines are only allowed in locations where they will not interfere or shade other plots.
- Planting of cannabis as legislated by the Cannabis Act, other illegal plants and noxious weeds is prohibited. For more information visit the Cannabis in Canada webpage and the Noxious Weeds in Ontario web page.
- Invasive plants (e.g. mint, Jerusalem artichoke, etc.) must be contained. Plant materials that are on Ontario's Invasive Species list are prohibited.
- Garden plots cannot be expanded beyond its measurement into paths or other plots.
- Gardeners must use the recycling and trash bins as provided in the Park or garden plot enclosure. If no bins are available, then each gardener is responsible for disposing of their garbage. Gardeners must pick up litter when seen and use the recycling bins when appropriate. Any diseased plants, or seedy or invasive weeds are to be bagged and put into trash bins to prevent contamination of compost or other plots.

- Gardeners may use the composter for all plant material that is not diseased, seedy or invasive, or bring the material home for yard waste disposal. When using the compost bins gardeners should layer newly applied plant material (i.e. green) with active compost from below to accelerate the decomposition process.
- No pets other than service animals are allowed.
- Children must be supervised by an adult.
- Laneways and paths must be kept clear of obstacles such as tomato cages and plant supports.
- Bicycles, trailers, baby strollers and wagons may be brought inside the garden plot enclosure but should not block laneways or paths.
- Each gardener is responsible for the security and safe-keeping of his/her own tools and equipment. Gardeners may use the tool shed when provided, for storage at their own risk. Gardeners should label their property and tidy up tools prior to leaving. It's recommended that you bring and take home what you need to garden with.
- Installation of any fencing, plant supports, walking boards, tarps, frost blankets or other materials in the Garden Plot must be temporary and removed at the end of the garden season, and should not block sunlight from a neighbouring plot.
- Gardeners shall be courteous to and considerate of other gardeners and visitors. Use of abusive or profane language is prohibited. Smoking, alcohol, and loud music are prohibited. Each gardener is solely responsible for the behaviour of their guests.
- Gardeners must not apply anything to, or pick anything from, another gardener's plot without that gardener's express approval. Theft of items will result in expulsion from the garden plot enclosure.
- Water supply is limited so gardeners should use water sparingly. Gardeners must ensure that the water tap is shut off and that the garden hose is neatly returned at every visit. Gardeners should use the garden hose to fill and maintain water in the nearest water barrel and replace the lid to avoid mosquitoes entering. Gardeners must refrain from leaving open containers that may collect stagnant water.
- Gardening activity must take place during daylight hours.
- Sale of produce from plants is prohibited. Produce must be for personal use and consumption. Donation of produce from gardeners to local food banks is encouraged but voluntary.
- Gardeners must report any vandalism, damage, or needed repair of the community garden infrastructure and amenities (e.g. fencing, plot frames,

compost, hose bib, water hose, hose reel, lockbox, shed, etc.) to the Rotary Community Garden Coordinator. Gardeners must immediately notify the Community Garden Coordinator by phone/text or email of any issues or unusual activities.

- Gardeners must advise the Community Garden Coordinator of any change in contact information.
- Gardeners are encouraged to check garden tip notices on the communication boards in the shed. Any information posted or written on the community boards must be polite and respectful, related to vacation help requests, gardening, harvesting, food preservation, produce donation, produce swapping, or recipes.
- Gardeners cannot transfer plots to other people. At the end of the Growing Season Gardeners will be asked to confirm their interest in taking part in the garden plot lottery for the following year.
- Gardeners must provide to the Community Garden Coordinator the name(s) of any gardening partner(s) who are allowed access to the garden plot. If the gardener is away for more than two weeks they must find someone to look after their garden plot or request assistance and inform the Community Garden Coordinator.
- If the gardener plans to discontinue use of the garden plot, they must notify the Community Garden Coordinator so the plot can be reassigned, collectively managed or cleared by the gardener prior to leaving.
- Permits are for one season only. Gardeners do not retain plots year over year until further notice. On or before the last day of the growing season, all plants, produce, and personal property of the gardener must be removed from the garden plot and the garden plot enclosure, and the garden plot must be restored to a condition satisfactory to the Town. If such items have not been removed after the growing season, then they will be deemed to have been abandoned and such items will be disposed of at the discretion of the Rotary Club and the Town and there will be no liability for such disposal.
- If a gardener feels that any of these regulations have been violated, then he/she must provide a written complaint to the Community Garden Coordinator.
- If a gardener violates any of these regulations, then the gardener will be contacted by the Community Garden Coordinator and the gardener must resolve the issue as directed. If the violation has not been remedied to the satisfaction of the Community Garden Coordinator, then their permit may be terminated without refund.
- Any disagreements or disputes relating to these regulations will be referred to the Town and the decision of the Town will be final.

Applying for a Community Plot

Plots are assigned by a lottery draw for each season. The season lottery takes early spring of each year. This year's application deadline is May 1st, 2025.

- Due to high demand, garden plot permits are for one season. All plots must be entirely cleared at the end of the season. Annual permit holders may re-enter the next season's lottery which will include the wait list and new applicants.
- The 2025 garden season begins May 15 (weather depending) and ends Oct. 31.
- Choose your preferred garden location and plot style.
- Only Petrolia residents over 18 years may apply. One per household please.
- It is the responsibility of all applicants and plot permit holders to inform the community garden coordinator of any change to your contact information.