



# TPL COMMUNITY GARDEN 2017

## PLOT ASSIGNMENTS

- Gardeners must be over 18 years old, or signed up to garden with an accompanying adult.
- All gardeners must sign the Responsibility Agreement and the Liability Waiver Release. These documents need to be turned into the library by the start of the 2017 season.
- Plot Renewal – Responsibility Agreement and the Liability Release must be signed and turned in by January 1, 2017. Plots will be cleaned up and ready for winter by this date.
- New Plot Requests – A plot lottery of unclaimed and abandoned plots will take place in or around the first week of January; new gardeners will be notified before January 31, 2017. Signed Responsibility Agreement and Liability Waivers should be received before participation in the plot lottery.
- After January 31, 2017, unclaimed and abandoned plots and new requests to participate, etc. will be handled on a first come first served basis. The library will maintain a waiting list if needed. A second lottery will take place if deemed necessary. Plot selection disputes will be handled by seniority, then by a random draw.

## START OF SEASON

All plots will be tilled by May 27, 2017. If a plot has not been turned over by this date it will be immediately considered abandoned and will immediately be reassigned.

The planting deadline is June 11<sup>th</sup>, 2017. Gardeners who cannot plant by June 11<sup>th</sup> must notify the TPL Community Garden coordinator **beforehand** to discuss an arrangement. Otherwise, plots not planted will be considered abandoned and immediately reassigned. Every effort will be made to have all plots assigned by June 18<sup>th</sup>, 2017.

## END OF SEASON

The gardening season ends on November 12, 2017 and all annual vegetation, including empty stalks, trellis, garden tools, signs, debris and stakes must be removed by that date or the plot will be considered abandoned. The only exception will be winter crops and the numbered plot signs, which will remain in the plot.



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### PLOT MAINTENANCE AND EXPECTATIONS

- Garden members will be expected to actively maintain their plot from May 28th until November 12th 2017. This includes the garden plot, the walkways or paths, and other areas adjacent to their plots. Garden members are expected to groom, plant, maintain, weed, harvest and clean-up.
- All gardeners must commit to using organic methods at all times. No synthetic fertilizers will be used in the garden. Organic definitions vary, so please ask the TPL Community Garden coordinator for additional information.
- Garden members will not garden in manner that might block the sun or the rain from reaching a neighbor's plot, i.e., do not intentionally grow plants or have trellises higher than four feet.
- Gardeners will prevent weed growth over 12 inches.
- Plot markers will be provided and must remain readily visible.
- Buckets, tarps, bags, trellis and tools should not be left unattended or unanchored in the plots. Containers should not be left to collect water in a manner that would attract mosquitoes.
- Avoid large plants, invasive or insidious plants, as well as most perennials.
- **Never** weed, trim the plants, or harvest produce from any other member's garden for whatever reason without consent from either the garden member or the TPL Community Garden coordinator.
- Dispose of fallen vegetation in the compost bins quickly.
- Preserve the integrity of the organic compost bins. NEVER put diseased or infected plants in the compost bins. Use the trash for these plants so as not to spread the disease.
- Do not drive through the garden area or perimeter without permission.
- Pets are NOT allowed in the garden.



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## GENERAL RESPONSIBILITIES

### *Plot rules*

Generally, garden members maintain a single plot. Some members will tend to more than one plot. If demand for plots exceeds the available plots, holders of more than one plot will be asked to give up one of their additional plots. This will be at the discretion of the Library. Every effort will be made to ensure that gardeners can remain in a plot to encourage all season gardening. The library will always have the right to shift, move, or make other necessary plot modifications within the garden.

### *Library Provided Resources*

The Library will provide the TPL Community Garden with property and water. The library will hold meetings and programs related to the garden and will serve as a conduit for information and communication. The Library will also oversee maintenance of the area, including mowing of the perimeters of the garden and pest control.

### *Communication*

Gardeners are responsible for maintaining a viable means of communicating with the TPL Community Garden coordinator, through emails or by use of the TPL Community Garden Notebook, located at the main entrance to the garden. Note that the TPL Community Garden Notebook is sometimes delayed in updates of up to 48 hours; therefore e-mail communication is much more reliable.

### *Fees and funds*

There are no fees associated with the TPL Community Garden. However, if the group chooses to do so, donations might be collected by the group, or by approved fundraisers to support group purchases, tools or deliveries.

### *Unclaimed or Abandoned Plots*

Unclaimed plots will be assigned by lottery, followed by first come first serve throughout the gardening season. Gardeners might be asked to maintain nearby unassigned or abandoned plots temporarily (by weeding, planting or mulching) to prevent weeds from growing too large before new tenants can move in. Throughout the growing season, a plot very overgrown with weeds and appearing unplanted or untended will be considered abandoned will be immediately reassigned. The TPL Community Garden will make no more than three attempts to notify gardeners in advance. The same applies to plots with significant fruit and produce rot.



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### AREAS THAT NEED CONSTANT ATTENTION

#### *Watering, Hoses*

Maintain area around the water spigot, maintain hoses, keep hoses out of mowing area, assist with watering the community garden if needed, and help water other gardeners' gardens when special assistance is requested.

#### *Compost*

Gardeners will take turns turning the compost over in bin one, moving composted materials to the second bin when ready and to the third when ready for garden use. A pitchfork and shovel are available for use by request at the main circulation desk in the library.

#### *Food Pantry Garden*

Help to maintain the plots that are dedicated to growing, harvesting, weighing and delivering fresh produce for the benefit of the Tewksbury Food Pantry. Contact The TPL Community Garden Coordinator for this.

#### *Soil*

Maintain and improve the quality of our soil by making recommendations for organic amendments.

#### *Pests*

Help determine and report the type and nature of garden pests and help seek organic solutions, prevention and alternatives.