

Uxbridge Community Gardens Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Where are the Uxbridge Community Gardens (UCG) located?

Uxbridge Community Gardens is located on a parcel of town-owned land adjacent to the soccer fields on 320 Sutton Street. From Hartford Avenue West, bear right onto Sutton Street. At the top of the hill look for a white sign on the right, marking the entrance.

Who is eligible to have a garden?

Any resident of Uxbridge may have a garden if available. Gardeners under the age of 18 must have an adult sponsor co-sign their application. If gardens are available, residents of surrounding towns may apply for a garden plot.

What is the size of an Uxbridge Community Gardens plot?

Each plot measures 25' by 20'.

How many plots are there at the Uxbridge Community Gardens?

There are a total of 97 plots at the Uxbridge Community Gardens available to garden.

May I have more than one garden plot?

Yes, if available, gardeners may cultivate two plots per household.

May I share a plot with someone else?

Yes, you may share a plot with an individual, family or group.

What is the cost of a garden plot?

The cost of one 25' x 20' garden plot is \$25 per calendar year. A double plot (25' x 40') is \$50. Gardens are \$10 per plot after July 1; no charge after August 1 for the remainder of the season.

Where can I get an application for an Uxbridge Community Gardens plot?

Applications are always available on the Uxbridge Community Gardens page of the town web site at www.uxbridge-ma.gov.

Is there a deadline to apply for a garden? When is payment due?

Yes, the deadline to apply for a new garden is March 1st. Gardeners who have a garden should reserve their space by December 1st for the following year. Payment for all plots is due by March 1st. After this date available gardens will be assigned on a first come first serve basis. Gardens are assigned to Uxbridge Residents first.

Why do I have to sign a Release if I have a garden?

Your participation in the program is strictly at your own risk. The Release protects the Town from legal action as a result of any mishaps that may occur.

When does the gardening season begin?

If you already have a garden, you may begin to work your plot at any time. For those new to the program, garden assignments will be made by Opening Day, usually around the third week of April.

Can my garden be plowed or rototilled for me in the spring and fall?

Rototillers can be rented from Koopman Lumber. Some gardeners work together and will often share the cost of the rental. You can also inquire on local Facebook pages for folks who rototill for a fee. UCG will sometimes arrange for gardens to be plowed for a fee.

What is “organic gardening” and where can I get information about it?

Organic gardening uses no chemical fertilizers, pesticides or herbicides. Gardeners concentrate instead on improving the soil with organic matter and using natural controls for pests and diseases. Check the Uxbridge Community Gardens web site for information about organic gardening, or consult one of the many books on the subject. *The Encyclopedia of Organic Gardening* by Rodale Press and *Organic Gardening in the Northeast* by Henry Homeyer are recommended.

Why is Uxbridge Community Gardens organic?

Community gardeners are committed to the stewardship of the land and to growing healthy vegetables for their families without the use of chemicals.

Will I be guaranteed a garden next season if I have one this year? At the same location?

Yes, unless your garden is forfeited because you did not comply with the Uxbridge Community Gardens Ground Rules. Existing gardeners have first choice in the assignment of available garden plots.

Is water available at the garden site?

Yes, the UCG Board worked with UYSL to put a well in on the property for use by gardeners and UYSL. Every gardening row has three water spigots that gardeners can hook a hose up to when using or fill a watering can. Hoses are supplied by the individual garden and must be removed after use. The water is on from 7:15 am to 1:15pm and then from 1:30pm to 7:30pm.

When must my garden be planted?

The Ground Rules state that your garden must be planted by June 15.

Is there anything that I cannot plant in my garden?

Marijuana, invasive plants and those which could become a nuisance through excessive seeding or running roots are not allowed (i.e. Mint, raspberries etc.). Jerusalem Artichokes are not allowed.

Can I plant tall things?

Yes, as long as they are sited so as not to shade the gardens of your neighbors.

Can I drive up to my garden?

Yes, all of the gardens are accessible by a road. The entrances to the gardens will be closed to vehicles from November 15th until the garden roadways dry out in the spring. The access roads may be closed during the gardening season at the discretion of the UCG Board if wet conditions exist.

Do I have to fence my garden?

No, garden fencing is optional but discouraged. If you do fence your garden, work with your neighbor to insure there is only a single fence between your gardens. Fence lines need to be weeded and kept neat during the season. Snow fencing is not allowed. If fence lines are not kept weeded, a warning will be given to weed or the fence will be removed. More information can be found in UCG’s fence policy.

What do I do with the weeds and rocks from my garden?

Compost piles are sited at the rear of the area for weeds and other organic debris. Rocks can be dumped along the main road leading to the gardens to fill ruts or thrown into the edge of the fields. Wagons for hauling weeds and debris are kept behind the shed for gardeners to use. Debris should not be left at the edge of your garden or in the grass roads, as this makes mowing very difficult.

Are children allowed at the Uxbridge Community Gardens?

Yes, with adult supervision.

Can I bring my Dog to the Uxbridge Community Gardens?

Dogs must be on a leash and cleaned up after if they are on the Gardens property

Can I smoke at the Uxbridge Community Gardens?

No, the Uxbridge Community Gardens area is smoke free.

If I find that I have to give up my garden will my fee be refunded?

Your fee will be refunded if you have to abandon your plot by May 15th.

What happens if I'm unable to maintain my plot and it gets unruly?

If your plot becomes unkempt, it may be reassigned and your fee will not be refunded. You may also be denied the opportunity of having a garden in the future.

Can I sell the things that I grow in my garden?

No, the Uxbridge Community Gardens are not for commercial use.

Can I build structures like arbors and trellises in my garden?

Yes, you can build any structure that can be removed without a trace at the end of your garden tenure. ***No concrete may be used.*** Leave only footprints at the Uxbridge Community Gardens.

Is there a way for me to ask questions and share information with other gardeners?

Yes, every gardener will become a member of the Uxbridge Community Gardens google email group. You can ask questions and keep up with announcements via email through this group. There is also a facebook page for the Uxbridge Community Gardens which you can join.

Can I find out if a garden plot is available and if so which plots are available? Yes, a

bulletin board at one end of the Uxbridge Community Gardens contains a garden map and garden assignments, as well as other general information.

Are there garden tools available to use or must I have my own?

Yes, there is a garden shed that holds garden tools for all gardeners to share. The shed rules are located in the shed and the lock combination to the shed will be provided at the beginning of the season. Any tools not provided in the shed will need to be provided by gardeners.

What is a "garden work day"?

Garden work days or work sessions are scheduled as needed to accomplish general tasks around the gardens. A condition of being part of a community gardens is to help with garden tasks outside of your own garden plot. Tasks vary with the needs of the Uxbridge Community Gardens, but may include mowing, trimming and other maintenance of the common areas. If a garden work day is not scheduled, the UCG Board may email a list of tasks that need to be completed and ask gardeners to work on them when they are at the gardens.

What do I have to do to my garden at the end of the season?

All spent plant material must be removed from your garden by the end of season date November 15th. Good garden cleanup eliminates the overwintering of soil borne pests and diseases. You must also remove any objects from your garden that can be blown around by the winter winds. Sutton Street fields get very windy in the winter.