

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 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. Gardeners under the age of 18 must have an adult sponsor co-sign their application.

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 100 plots at the Uxbridge Community Gardens.

May I have more than one garden plot?

Yes, 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 \$20 per calendar year. A double plot (25' x 40') is \$40. 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?

Early in the calendar year applications will be available at the Town Clerk's office in Town Hall, as well as at the Public Library and the Senior Center. 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 printed on the application. It is usually in early March. Gardeners who had a garden in the previous year should reserve their space by December 1 for the following year. Payment for all plots is due in early March.

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, providing the ground is dry enough to allow access. The Uxbridge Community Gardens may be closed in early spring if the roads become impassible. 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?

There are several private individuals who will prepare your soil for you. Consult the bulletin board at the Uxbridge Community Gardens for their names and phone numbers.

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 you forfeit your garden because you did not comply with the Uxbridge Community Gardens Ground Rules. Existing gardeners have first choice in the assignment of garden plots.

Is water available at the garden site?

There are three water storage tanks at the Uxbridge Community Gardens with a capacity of about 1400 gallons. Water is delivered to the tanks on an average of twice a month during the growing season. Since this is not sufficient for all of our needs, it is strongly suggested that you maintain a water barrel in your garden and transport water from home to keep it full.

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.

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. Please use the general parking lot whenever possible to avoid traffic jams in the roads between the gardens.

Do I have to fence my garden?

No, garden fencing is optional. If you do fence your garden, please work with your neighbor to insure there is only a single fence between your gardens.

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. Wagons for hauling weeds and debris are kept near the water tanks at each end of the area. Debris should not be left at the edge of your garden or in the roads, as that makes mowing very difficult.

Are children allowed at the Uxbridge Community Gardens?

Yes, with adult supervision.

Can I bring my pets to the Uxbridge Community Gardens?

Pets must be on a leash 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?

Yes, your fee will be refunded if you have to abandon your plot within about a month of Opening Day. The refund date is printed on the current year's application.

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. Leave only footprints at the Uxbridge Community Gardens.

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

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

Can I find out who has an Uxbridge Community Garden and 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.

What is a "garden work day"?

Garden work days or work sessions are called several times during the season to accomplish general tasks around the gardens. You are required to participate in at least one work session during the season. Tasks vary with the needs of the Uxbridge Community Gardens, but may include mowing, trimming and other maintenance of the common areas.

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, usually in mid-November. Good garden cleanup eliminates the overwintering of soil borne pests and diseases. You must also remove your empty water barrel from the garden each fall.