



## Holden Community Garden Application 2024

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: Preferred \_\_\_\_\_ Secondary \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Please initial the terms and sign below:

\_\_\_\_ I am at least 18 years of age. (If under 18, please have an adult sponsor sign with you.)

\_\_\_\_ I understand that the cost of a plot in the Holden Community Garden is \$25 per season, payable with my application. (I may request a waiver of this fee, in writing, if the payment constitutes hardship for me.)

\_\_\_\_ I have read and will comply with the Ground Rules, which are a part of this application. I have read and signed the Release that must accompany this application and agree to abide by its terms.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ I would like a garden plot with raised beds because I require modifications.

\_\_\_\_ I would like to have more than one garden plot if space is available. (You will be contacted by HCGC after all applications have been processed).

Make your check for \$25.00 payable to the Town of Holden and mark in the memo section "Holden Community Garden". Applications with signed Release Form may be mailed or dropped off at the Starbuck Building (Yellow building next to the Town Hall): Holden Town Manager's Office

Attn: Wendy Brouillette  
1204 Main St. Holden, MA 0152

## Holden Community Garden Ground Rules

All garden plot holders must be Holden residents. Plot holders will be responsible for the behavior of their guests in the garden.

My application must be accompanied by a signed release or it will not be accepted.

Raised beds in the garden are reserved for those with physical limitations only and will be assigned as such, by lottery if necessary.

The gardens are organic. Non-organic fertilizers, pesticides or herbicides are not permitted. A list of approved soil amendments, insect and weed controls is attached to this application and has been reviewed. No till garden methods are encouraged.

I will not use my garden for commercial purposes.

I will not plant marijuana, invasive plants or tall plants that may unreasonably shade the gardens of others.

I will only build structures which can be removed at the end of my garden tenure. Standard wire fencing is permitted; other fencing materials must be approved by the HCG Committee.

I will consult with my garden neighbors to ensure that only a weed-free zone separates our plots, and I will keep my garden perimeter and/or fences weed free as a courtesy to my neighbors.

I will harvest only my own crops unless given permission by another garden member.

I will make an effort to conserve water. I will not waste or drink water from the tanks or taps. The tank water is not potable. If an irrigation system is in place, I will follow the guidelines in place according to the Committee guidance provided, and not interfere with the controls of that system beyond the perimeter of my plot.

I will weed and harvest regularly. I will follow the composting guidelines attached. If I fail to do this, I may be asked to forfeit my garden and will not be guaranteed a garden for next season.

I will help maintain common areas and will participate in at least one garden work day each season, and/or a total of 8 hours of on-site volunteer work throughout the season.

I will remove my tools, all trash and non-compostable refuse from my garden each time I leave. If my plot becomes unkempt it may be reassigned and my fee will not be refunded.

There is no smoking/vaping or drinking alcohol at the gardens. Dogs must be leashed and kept out of plots. Animal waste should immediately be removed from garden property and disposed of appropriately.

The gardens are open from dawn to dusk. Please park in a manner which does not block access to other plots, entrances to shared garden spaces, or the water source on-site. Any concerns about theft or improper use of the property should be reported to a committee member as soon as possible.

## Holden Community Garden Release Form

I, \_\_\_\_\_ (applicant's name), am a participant in the Holden Community Gardens. As a condition of being allowed to participate in the Holden Community Gardens, I agree to the following:

1. I am duly aware of the risks and hazards that may arise through participation in the Holden Community Gardens, and assume any expenses and liabilities I incur in the events of an accident, illness, or other incapacity. If I have any questions about the Holden Community Gardens, its nature, risks or hazards, I have contacted the HCG Committee and discussed those questions with the Committee to my satisfaction.
2. In consideration of being granted the opportunity to participate in the Holden Community Gardens, I, for myself, my executors, administrators, agents and assigns to hereby release and forever discharge the Holden Community Garden Committee, volunteers, other gardeners, and the town of Holden from all claims of damages, and any actions whatsoever, including those based on negligence, in any manner arising out of my participation in this activity. I understand that this Release means that, among other things, I am giving up my right to sue for any such losses, damages, injury or costs that may incur.

I represent and certify that my true age is 18 years old or older, or, if I am under 18 years old on this date, my parents or legal guardian has read and signed this form. I have read this entire Release, fully understand it, and I agree to be legally bound by it.

Participant's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Printed Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Printed Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# APPROVED FERTILIZER INSECT AND WEED CONTROL OPTIONS

## HOLDEN COMMUNITY GARDEN

The best way to ensure a healthy garden is to start with healthy plants. Choose disease-resistant strains when selecting seeds and plants, allow space between plants for healthy air flow and pollination, mulch ("STRAW, NOT HAY"), water the soil at the base of the plant instead of soaking leaves and stems, and only add organic supplements to promote a healthy root system. The soil at the garden has been tested by the USDA. Reports are available for review and discussion. Remember- pH matters! Ask before you add to ensure you know before you grow!

## SUGGESTED SAFE PRODUCTS

(adapted from [www.GreenCape.org](http://www.GreenCape.org))

1. Liquid Seaweed/Fish Emulsion- for starting and all purpose feeding. You can purchase organic products or use low sodium sardines in water as fertilizer. (Squanto's Secret, Neptune's Harvest, Seacure and SeaPlus, Coast of Maine)
2. Slow Release Organic Fertilizer- Epsom Plant-tone, Organica, Coast of Maine, Micro-Life, Earthworm castings, and more. Look for labels and check reviews, add the correct amount at the right times for best results. If using manure, please make sure it is from the correct sources and pre-treat before use in the garden (no raw manure allowed). Composted or heat dried manures are available to purchase as bagged garden products. It is also important to note that you should not use pet or pig waste in edible gardens, composted or not, as these animal wastes can contain many harmful parasites and disease pathogens.
3. Natural Insecticides- "Safer" brand, Neem Oil, food grade Diatomaceous Earth, Natural Pyrethrin Concentrate, Grub Guard, Surround, Garlic Barrier, Sharp Shooter, BT (*Bacillus thuringiensis*). A floating row cover or bucket of soapy water in the garden can keep beetles and other bugs off plants.
4. Weed control- Corn-Gluten (WeedBan, Organica, Cock-A-Doodle-Do fertilizers), BurnOut, Mulch (know your source of supply for purity).
5. Mildew/Blight/Black spot/bacterial and fungal plant disease- avoid watering too high on the plant and too late in the day, such that the sun and heat can dry the leaves before night fall; Grower's Ally, Serenade Garden, Bonide Captain Jack's; or- mix 1 tsp. Baking Soda to 1 qt. Water plus a touch of cooking oil as a spray for mildew and black spot.
6. Rodents, rabbits, moles, and other nibbling visitors. Trellis/arbor systems to raise produce off the ground can be helpful, as well as fencing and other natural deterrents. Natural products like Pure Origins Mighty Mint (and others), PlantSkydd, or a sprinkle of red pepper flakes may be used safely. This is a natural environment, expect visitors, plant extra to share with wildlife.
7. Compost- please see the compost guide if using the garden compost system. Homemade compost brought to the site should be free of biosolids, sludge and pesticides. Mushroom Compost, organic bagged compost, homemade compost is encouraged.
8. FLOWERS! Planting flowers in the garden encourages birds, bees and beneficial bugs to visit the garden and allow for natural pollination and pest control. Let nature help you keep your garden plot beautiful!

# Composting System



## **There are two different kinds of material: green (nitrogen) and brown (carbon).**

### Green Material Includes:

- Grass Clippings
- Coffee Grounds
- Tea Bags
- Kitchen Waste
- Plant Trimmings
- Seaweed
- Manure-DO NOT ADD WITHOUT PERMISSION/GUIDANCE
- small/early sprouting weeds (nothing going to seed)

### Brown Material Includes:

- Dried Leaves
- Straw (NOT Hay)
- Corn Stalks (chop 6 in. or less)
- Shredded Branches
- Wood Chips (limited)
- Pine Needles
- Coffee Filters
- Paper and Corrugated Cardboard (shredded)
- Dryer Lint

**\*DO NOT ADD DISEASED PLANTS OR LARGE PLANT MATERIALS  
(6-8 INCHES MAX) WHEN IN DOUBT, ASK AN HCGC MEMBER**

**BIN 1:** Place organic material centrally, turn the pile. This first stage builds up the activity of bacteria and fungi from the soil. Turn over the first bin regularly and monitor for moisture and heat for several weeks. The temperature will increase, and the pile will shrink, and it decomposes. Moisture should be wet enough to resemble a sponge when squeezed.

- If too dry, add water. If too wet, add a layer of soil or dried leaves.
- Turn pile over when temperature decreases. Put undigested materials into center of pile.
- In another week, move pile to second bin.

### **BIN 2:**

Bin 2 cooks the material. When moving the pile to the second bin, the material mixes and aerates the contents allowing it to decompose faster.

- DO NOT disturb the pile while bacteria and fungi work UNLESS you notice a foul odor or signs of the material rotting.
- Pile will break down entirely and become a compact mass.
- Move to bin 3.

### **BIN 3:**

The compost pile will become a mixture of unrecognizable material resembling soil.

The temperature in the center of the pile will decrease over time, resulting in high-quality compost to enrich garden soil.

**ANY LARGE ORGANIC GARDEN DEBRIS TO BE DISCARDED SHOULD BE TOSSED INTO THE PERIPHERAL BORDER OF THE GARDEN, NOT INTO THE COMPOST PILE. WHEN IN DOUBT, ASK AN HCGC MEMBER.**