



**Soule Homestead Education Center**  
46 Soule Street • Middleboro • MA • 02346  
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## **WELCOME NEW COMMUNITY GARDENER!**

SHEC's Community Garden offers members a great place to grow organic vegetables. With abundant sunlight, fertile soil, and access to compost and water, thousands of pounds of food have come from the plots over the last 17 years.

Please read and sign the Rules and Terms as well as fill out this form:

- Plot rentals are non-transferable.
- Gardeners are expected to be members of Soule Homestead and in good standing.
- In 2024 we are also adding a garden deposit fee to help ensure that gardens are cleaned up and organized for winter and to help defer costs of abandoned plots. This deposit fee is \$25, per garden and will be returned at the end of the year if the gardener does not plan to garden the following year.

**NEW:** We are asking community gardeners to come up with names for their gardens this year. We think that adding a personal touch is fun AND helps for the community to know that these spaces belong to people and are to be kept out of. We will be hosting a painting party for these signs at the plant sale events this year on Friday, May 3rd and Saturday, May 4th. If you would like to have a volunteer paint it for you just let us know your name by emailing [info@soulehomestead.org](mailto:info@soulehomestead.org).

\*all garden plots come with a \$25 clean up deposit. (See Rule 6)

Rain barrels rentals are available but are on a first come first serve basis - free this year.

### **Release of Liability**

Renters and their guests participate in the community garden space at their own risk. No liability of any kind will be taken on by the Soule Homestead. The farm is not responsible for injury, theft, or accidents occurring in the garden. Participants who fill out a community garden form agree to these terms.

### **Community Garden Rules:**

1. Gardeners are required to use organic farming standards ONLY – chemical or non-organic fertilizers, pesticides, and fungicides are not permitted.
2. All plots are marked with stakes in the corners. All gardening activity must be confined to the inside of those stakes. Walkways may not be obstructed, plots may not be expanded.
3. Gardeners are responsible for the upkeep of their plots throughout the season. If you are unable to attend to your garden for two or more weeks (due to vacation or illness) you must email [info@soulehomestead.org](mailto:info@soulehomestead.org) so we can pick any ripe produce and feed it to our animals or donate it to a local food bank.

4. If for some reason the plot must be “abandoned” mid season (illness for example), SHEC should be notified right away.
5. Conserving water is top priority at SHEC. All watering must be done by hand (by watering can or hose) or with soaker hoses. Water barrels are strongly encouraged and the homestead has some available for use. Renters will likely need to bring their own hoses for their plot. No sprinklers are permitted.
6. You will put all weeds in the section of the compost area so designated (the compost pile). At the end of the growing season, each gardener is responsible for shutting down their plot by Nov 1. Season end clean up includes removing plant debris, stakes, cages or trellis installed for the growing season. Fencing is allowed to remain up, but **ALL OTHER MATERIALS** must be removed from your garden area. Gardeners will receive one warning and a final clean up date. If Soule becomes responsible for clean up we will keep the \$25 garden deposit. If a water barrel was rented, emptying and cleaning the barrel before returning it is also required.
7. The fencing of plots is encouraged (there are deer and rabbits in the area) but must be removable – no permanent fencing is permitted. Fencing cannot be more than 4’ tall, must be inside of the farm’s marking stakes, and must be maintained by the gardener. We have a lot of children in the gardens, and we need all gardeners to be mindful of wires, etc.
8. All gardeners are asked to please help weed the areas and walkways around your garden plot. A little help goes a long way in keeping our gardens beautiful for all to enjoy.
9. Unwanted rocks or waste plant material must be taken to the rock pile or compost area. Please do not leave in the walkways.
10. Vehicles may not be driven up to garden plots. In order to try and keep our green spaces green we do not want gardeners driving to the areas near the garden plots. If you need to use a wheelbarrow to help transport your supplies to your garden area, reach out to farm staff.
11. Entering the plots of other gardeners is prohibited without their permission.
12. Any trash must be removed from your garden area regularly - this includes planting containers from seedlings, etc.
13. Gardeners are responsible for familiarizing any guests they bring with the rules for the gardens/SHEC and ensuring those rules are followed.
14. Gardeners need to be respectful of others and not affect other plots with shade, water, or creeping/spreading plants.
15. Invasive/aggressive plants are not permitted, including but not limited to raspberry, blackberry, lemon balm, mint, wineberry horseradish and Jerusalem artichoke. See the Massachusetts Prohibited Plant List for more information:  
<https://www.mass.gov/info-details/massachusetts-prohibited-plant-list>
16. All crops must be lawful and renters shall at all times conform to and comply with all Federal, state and Town of Middleboro laws, rules and regulations. The cultivation of marijuana is prohibited, regardless of legal status.
17. Woody perennials (including trees and shrubs) are not allowed.
18. Owners take sole risk for any tools or other equipment left in their plot. (We do not encourage you to leave tools in your plot during growing season.)
19. Shared garden tools (found in the shed) must be cleaned and returned to the shed after each use.
20. SHEC is not responsible for maintaining your space annually.

21. No major power equipment may be used for gardens without explicit written permission from the Board of SHEC. Weed eaters and trimmers are fine to use, but we ask that you use caution when others are around.
22. No buckets or containers that can hold but not drain out water may be left in your garden to collect water. If you need a bucket/barrel of some kind, it must be stored upside down so it will not collect water.
23. Gardeners are not allowed to work in their gardens during any major events at the farm.

**Where to find things:**

A water fountain and bathrooms are located in the yellow building attached to the barn. Please make every effort to keep them clean.

The spigot for irrigation is located beside the pavilion end of the chicken coop. A hose can be attached to the green hose that is at the far end of the chicken coop. (Reminder: rain barrels are preferred). Please make sure the spigot is completely turned off after each use.

The garden shed near the pavilion contains some basic tools gardeners are free to sign out and use. Please be sure to take care of them and return them after use. If something breaks, please let a volunteer or employee of SHEC know ASAP.