

As of the date of this document, 9 February 2021, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts has approved the sale of the field station property, site of our gardens, but the City has not yet completed the purchase. Therefore, we must continue to abide by COVID-19 state regulations and UMass rules, and guidelines determined by the other tenants on the land. We need to take all health advisories with the utmost seriousness – including social distancing, sanitizing, face masks, etc. Applying these rules to our gardens, the GROW Steering Committee has developed the following changes and rules outlined below. They are likely to change as the coronavirus situation evolves, and we will send you updates as soon as possible. For example, just as we were reviewing the policies we're now circulating to you, we learned that there's now a REQUIREMENT TO WEAR FACEMASKS WHEN AT THE GARDEN.

We're counting on each of you to take this matter seriously and to cooperate in keeping the gardens safe for our garden community, and by extension our families and friends, and the entire population.

If you have questions, comments or concerns, please reach out to the Steering Committee via email at committee@growcommunitygardens.org

Best wishes for a productive, and safe growing season,
GROW Steering Committee

GROW GUIDELINES

IMPORTANT Changes in Activities and ProceduresG

All COVID-19 state regulations and all GROW rules already in place must be followed. In addition:

BUILDING ACCESS: UMass has determined that the building on the property will be locked during the Covid shutdown. Therefore there will be no access to bathrooms when you come to the garden.

DAYS TO GARDEN: No parking allowed on Tuesdays between 8am and 3pm, due to MA Farmers Market activities in the parking lot (a COVID-19 adaptation for their food distribution). This limitation may be lifted in about a month – we'll keep you informed.

LAND USE AND OTHER SAFETY MEASURES: DO NOT COME TO THE GARDENS IF YOU'RE SICK! YOU MUST WEAR A FACE MASK WHEN AT THE GARDEN. BRING YOUR OWN HAND SANITIZER, WIPES, AND/OR DISINFECTANTS. FOLLOW BEST PRACTICES REGARDING SOCIAL DISTANCING, GLOVES AND OTHER SAFETY GUIDELINES.

While we all get a lot of pleasure and relaxation from gardening, we need to be sure not to use the land for general recreational purposes. Do not congregate or form work parties with others from outside your household.

TOOL SHED: Access will be suspended until further notice to limit shared contact through tools and materials. Gardeners should bring their own tools. We'll leave 1 shovel, 1 rake and 1 wheelbarrow outside of the shed for those who don't have access to their own. If you use this shared equipment, you MUST wear gloves and wipe the tools down with an approved disinfectant before and after usage.

WATER: Please be aware that as with other years, there isn't running water at the garden yet. Umass determines the timing (usually mid-to-late May). We'll keep you informed when its turned on and whether there are any new policies regarding water use and handling of water spigots and hoses.

DRIVING TO GARDEN: The usual restrictions for driving out to the garden areas still apply: Only park long enough to load or unload heavy items unless you have a handicap permit. Don't leave your car idling. Please avoid driving out to the gardens when the fields are muddy.

WORKDAYS: Our usual spring Garden Work Day is cancelled unless state guidelines for group gatherings change. Smaller project specific Volunteer Group Work Days may be organized over the Summer if state regulations allow.

COMPOST: There will be no compost delivery this spring.

All gardeners are responsible for setting a good example by following and enforcing these rules. Failure to follow any of them will be considered grounds for dismissal from the garden.