



## 2025 Plot Rental Application for Existing and Prospective Gardeners

### IMPORTANT. PLEASE NOTICE THE FOLLOWING CHANGES

- Rototilling Update: Rototilling services will be minimized in 2025. Sound science has shown that rototilling soil disrupts the beneficial microbiome, causes soil erosion, and can exacerbate soil compaction if used year after year. In order to preserve soil health, Helfand is working toward minimizing rototilling services. Rototilling will still be available for those who need the assistance, but the price will increase by \$5. Helfand is also restricting our rototilling to a few specific blocks of time. Gardeners who request it will need to have their gardens prepared BEFORE the time they signed up for rototilling (weather dependent). Events will be hosted to learn about the benefits of no-till gardening.
- Compost prices are increased \$1, totaling \$16 per wheelbarrow.

### Payments

- With the exception of the plant sales, cash is not accepted as a form of payment. Only checks are accepted.

### Returning gardeners

- Returning gardeners must reserve their plot(s) by December 15th, by emailing us at [helfandfarmcommunitygardens@yahoo.com](mailto:helfandfarmcommunitygardens@yahoo.com). If you are not returning, please let us know by December 15th
- **Fees must be paid in full no later than March 1<sup>st</sup>.**
  - If a gardener needs an extension, they must reach out to a board member. An extension may be granted but may not exceed April 15th.
  - If a plot(s) fee is not paid in full by March 1<sup>st</sup>, it will be opened to new gardeners
  - **Please also read and sign the Rules and Terms, as well as fill out your Order Form, and mail them along with payment.**

### New Gardeners

- New gardeners should inquire about plot availability at: [helfandfarmcommunitygardens@yahoo.com](mailto:helfandfarmcommunitygardens@yahoo.com)
- If the requested number of plots are available (there is a limit of six), this will be confirmed by a Helfand volunteer. The plots will then be reserved for 2 weeks, during which time the fee must be paid. If plots are not paid in full within those two weeks, they will be made available to other gardeners.
- **Please read and sign the Rules and Terms, as well as fill out your Order Form, and mail them along with payment.**

### Charitable Plot Program

We have made up to three free plots available for individuals experiencing financial need (individuals qualifying for public housing, SNAP benefits or have other demonstrated need), with a maximum of one plot per household. The determination will be made by a committee consisting of our President, Vice President and Treasurer (who will keep all personal information confidential). Applications will be accepted up until March 1st.

### Rules in consideration for fellow gardeners and the gardens\*

- Rule #10: "Gardeners are responsible for keeping their gardens neat and orderly, not strewn with broken stakes, broken fences, dead plants, etc. Borders must be maintained and plants, fences, materials must not block any part of the aisle." (Please see also rule #11 on plot tidiness, which is the previous rule #10)
- Rule # 24 edited to include: "Asparagus may not be planted, but pre-existing asparagus is grandfathered in." (We have a large patch of asparagus for gardeners to share in the "Weed n' Pick" Garden.)
- If ordering compost after March 1st, please inquire about availability before ordering.

### Please mail completed Rules, Terms and Order Form along with payment to:

Helfand Farm Community Garden  
P.O. Box 80644  
Dartmouth, MA 02748

We greatly appreciate your cooperation in helping to make HFCG as well-run and joyful as possible.



## Rules and Terms 2025

### RULES

1. The hours are from sunrise to sunset.
2. During the season, the entrance will be chained, but not locked. The last person to leave the Gardens at any time of day must replace the chain.
3. The short, fat stakes at the corners of the plot quadrants are outside of the plots, so all gardening activity, including fencing, must be inside those stakes. Aisles may not be obstructed.
4. Unwanted rocks or plant material must be taken to the rock pile or compost area, and can not be left in the aisles or elsewhere.
5. Vehicles may be driven up to the plots for the purpose of unloading difficult materials, but promptly returned to the parking area. Parking outside of the parking lot is allowed for gardeners, with permission of the Board.
6. Water conservation is a priority. Watering must be done by hand, or soaker hose, while the gardener is present. No sprinklers are allowed except when used by management on the Soup Kitchen Garden and other Helfand-managed spaces.
7. Non-organic fertilizers, pesticides and fungicides are not allowed.
8. Each renter has exclusive rights to their own plots. No one can enter other people's plots without explicit permission.
9. All trash must be removed from the Gardens each day. There will be no provision for trash at the site.
10. Gardeners are responsible for keeping their gardens neat and orderly, not strewn with broken stakes, broken fences, dead plants, etc. Borders must be maintained and plants, fences, materials must not block any part of the aisle.
11. Gardeners whose plots are poorly maintained or unsightly may be denied renewal for the following season. Plots should be neat and prepared for winter by October 31st. Plots must be ready for rototilling (or for being turned-over, if worked by hand). If an extension is given, this work must be completed prior to plot renewal (which is due March 1st). Crops are exempted from this deadline. If a plot must be abandoned, please notify a Director. Gardeners may not renew any plot(s) that have gone unplanted for two consecutive seasons.
12. Well behaved dogs are allowed only if they are on a short leash and under control at all times. Owners must promptly clean up after them.
13. Renters are responsible for making their guests aware of, and compliant with the Helfand Farm Community Gardens Rules and Terms 2025 rules, and for their guest's behavior.
14. Community gardeners, their guests and their dogs are prohibited from entering the adjoining agricultural fields, and other private properties.
15. There is no smoking at the Gardens.
16. Garden activities are not allowed to affect neighboring plots with shade, water or creeping or spreading plants, and plants may not spread into the aisles. Tall or spreading crops should be planned accordingly.
17. No invasive/aggressive plants are allowed, including raspberry, blackberry, lemon balm, wineberry, mint, horseradish and Jerusalem artichoke.
18. Owners take the sole risk for tools, supplies or any personal property left in their plots, or anywhere at the Gardens.
19. Anyone wishing to leave materials on the Gardens property, other than those which will be used immediately in their individual compost area or on their Gardens plot, must make a clear request to the Board of Directors, then await a response. The same procedure is required for anyone wishing to remove anything other than produce from the Gardens, or to store anything in the shed.
20. No one can represent the Gardens in print, promotions, statements, Grant applications or in other ways, without the explicit permission of the Board.
21. The Rules for the Gardens are subject to interpretation and enforcement by the Board at any time, and may be modified as needed. Gardeners who break the rules, or who engage in inappropriate or destructive behavior, may be given a verbal or written warning, or denied a future plot renewal, at the discretion of the Board of Directors, or they may be expelled by a membership vote.
22. All crops must be lawful and renters shall at all times conform to and comply with, all Federal, State and Town of Dartmouth laws, rules and regulations. The cultivation of marijuana is prohibited, regardless of legal status.
23. No power equipment may be used at the Gardens without explicit prior permission from the Board, for



safety and liability reasons.

24. Woody perennials (including shrubs & trees) are not allowed. Asparagus may not be planted, but pre-

existing asparagus is grandfathered in. (We have a large patch of asparagus for gardeners to share in the "Weed n' Pick" Garden.)

**TERMS**

The gardener pays \$65 per 10' x 20' full plot, or \$35 per 10'x10' half plot, per season. Multiples are available up to a maximum of six. Each full plot has 5' aisles on two sides.

The rental season begins Nov. 1 [or later] and ends the following Oct. 31. There is no provision for partial season reductions. Refunds for canceled leases may be given up to March 1, 2025.

Returning gardeners must reserve their plots by December 1, 2024. Fees must be paid in full by March 1, 2025.

A gravel parking area is provided, and shared grass areas are mowed periodically.

A porta-john, cleaned weekly, is available early April through early October.

Town water [drinkable] is available for irrigation; one spigot for every four plots, early May through early Oct.

There is a picnic table, shed, bulletin board, compost area and designated rock pile.

Garden carts, wheel barrows, and hand tools are available to share.

There are a variety of services and supplies (listed on subsequent pages) available for purchase by the gardeners.

Gardeners will be assisted with answers to questions, provided with information and advice and supplied with sources for products, whenever possible.

The gardener and his or her guests enters the property at his or her sole risk and hazard.

I understand that neither The Gardens, Inc, nor the owner of

the land are responsible for my actions. I therefore, agree to hold harmless Helfand Farm Community Gardens, Inc., the past, present and future officers and directors, and owner of the land, for any liability, injury, damage, loss or claim that occurs in connection with the use of The Garden by me or any of my guests.

I have read, understand, agree and will comply with the 2025 Rules and Terms (2 pages), and any subsequent modifications declared by the directors of the Helfand Farm Community Gardens, as a condition of my plot rental.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Email 2: \_\_\_\_\_

Email 3: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Street/ mailing address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

**\*Please understand that if these rules are broken, the Board of Directors retains the right to cancel a gardener's rental agreement at any time without reimbursement.**



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Plot #: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Returning gardener:  New to Helfand Farm

### ORDER FORM

#### Plot and Compost Bin Rental Fees

Full Plot (10x20) \$65 per: # of plots: \_\_\_\_\_ Half Plot (10x10) \$35 per: \_\_\_\_\_ Total Plot Fee: \_\_\_\_\_

Compost Bin \$5 per: Bin number \_\_\_\_\_ Total Bin Fee: \_\_\_\_\_

#### Services

Rototilling at \$25 per plot: # of plots: \_\_\_\_\_ Plot # (s) \_\_\_\_\_ Total Rototilling Fee: \_\_\_\_\_

#### Organic Fertilizers and Supplies:

Below are two fertilizer packages from which to choose -- the foundation of each is our fertilizer and mineral blends. Recommended application rates are posted in the fertilizer shed (next to the bulletin board). We keep prices on fertilizer and supplies as low as possible, to encourage successful gardening and good stewardship of the soil.

#### **Fertilizer and Mineral Blends -- \$12 per plot**

The foundation of our fertility program consists of a granulated 7-2-6 fertilizer (composted chicken manure, feathermeal, blood meal and organic potassium sulfate) and a granulated "gypsum" mineral blend (with added inoculants and soil conditioners). We selected these two products and application rates based on soil tests and 11 years of experience gardening at Helfand Farm. We purchase them in bulk, allowing us to charge less than half of what comparable garden center products cost. Easy application, great results.

# of Plots: \_\_\_\_\_ Total Fertilizer Package fee: \_\_\_\_\_

**Fertilizer and Mineral Blends PLUS - \$17 per plot** Includes our Fertilizer and Mineral Blends (see above) PLUS some of our favorite liquid fertilizers, including Organic Gem ( a fish fertilizer made in New Bedford) as well as dry mycorrhizal inoculant to use when planting. For gardeners who want to go the extra mile.

# of Plots: \_\_\_\_\_ Total PLUS Fertilizer Package fee: \_\_\_\_\_

**Compost - \$16 per wheelbarrow:** For best results, use with our Fertilizer and Mineral Blends, or your own organic fertilizer (even with large compost applications, we recommend supplemental organic nitrogen and gypsum). Gardeners are responsible for transporting compost to their plots no later than August 1st. If ordering after March 1, please inquire about availability before ordering. (Note: Free compost is also available from our shared wood-frame bins, although this compost will have weed seeds and may require sifting.)

# of WB: \_\_\_\_\_ Total Compost fee: \_\_\_\_\_

**Woven Plastic Ground Cover:** Blocks weeds, but permeable to water and air. More durable than standard ground cover and tarps. We use this for our center walkway in the greenhouse and to cover entire plots off-season. Can only be used for garden beds in-season if special steps are taken (edges of holes melted, otherwise the woven plastic will fray). Price includes metal staples. 3' Wide Roll (walkway) \$5/10 feet; 10.5' Wide Roll (whole or half plot cover)

Half Plot: \$10.00 Full Plot: \$20 Total ground cover \_\_\_\_\_

**Floating Row Covers:** Used to cover sensitive plants, particularly in cold weather. Fabric costs \$4/10 feet

# of feet \_\_\_\_\_ Total Cover cost: \_\_\_\_\_

**Wire Hoops, for use with Floating Row Cover:** \$1.50/each # of hoops \_\_\_\_\_ Total hoop cost: \_\_\_\_\_

**Donation:** I would like to make a donation to the good work of Helfand Farm Total Donation: \_\_\_\_\_

Please make check or money order payable to:

Helfand Farm Community Gardens

Mail to:

Helfand Farm Community Garden

P.O. Box 80644

Dartmouth, MA 02748

Grand Total: \_\_\_\_\_