

## **Community Garden FAQs**

### **1. What community gardens does the Western Environment Centre operate in Corner Brook and where are they located?**

We run five community gardens in Corner Brook including:

- 1) Blow Me Down Garden - off Lundrigan Drive near the cross country ski club
- 2) Heights Garden - in Brandon Municipal Playground off Batstone's Road
- 3) Reid Street Garden - in East Valley Road Playground
- 4) Caribou Road Garden - on the corner of Bliss Street and Caribou Road
- 5) Barry Place Garden - on Barry Place in Curling

### **2. How much does it cost to rent a plot?**

Each plot costs \$35 in total to rent for one year, which includes the WEC member fee (\$15) and garden fee (\$20).

### **3. Who can rent a plot?**

Plots are available for rent to any individual, family, group, organization or anyone else interested. One plot per garden is donated each year to a community group. Please email [info@wecnl.ca](mailto:info@wecnl.ca) for more info on donated plots. Only one plot per individual/family/group is permitted.

### **4. If I haven't rented a plot before, how can I rent one?**

If you would like to rent a plot and have never done so before, please email [info@wecnl.ca](mailto:info@wecnl.ca) to get added to our email list and to get more information.

Each year, registration is done in late March for all gardeners who had a plot the previous year. Once this is complete, we know how many plots we have left for new gardeners. We then send an email announcement, and new gardeners can be added on a first come, first served basis.

### **5. Is there a waiting list for plots?**

We keep a waiting list each year, but this does NOT carry over the following year. Anyone who is potentially interested in a plot must respond to the email announcement each spring.

### **6. What is provided with a plot rental, such as seeds, tools, and fertilizers?**

Each rental entitles the gardener to use one plot, as well as all communal tools which are kept in the garden shed including wheelbarrows, shovels, rakes, small hand tools and so on. Gardeners may also use their own tools if they like. If there is funding available, then seeds and fertilizers are also made available to gardeners. We will let gardeners know each year whether we can provide seeds, seedlings, fertilizers or other materials.

### **7. How do gardeners access water for their plots?**

Each garden has a different system for watering. At Blow Me Down there is a stream-fed hose which is attached in two different sections of the garden either for filling watering cans or direct watering from the hose itself.

The Caribou, Heights, Barry Place and Reid Gardens have water barrels or tanks where gardeners can fill their watering cans.

### **8. Are there compost facilities at the gardens?**

The Blow Me Down Garden has multiple compost bins where gardeners can put their garden waste. The Heights Garden has one small composter that gardeners can use, and they are also welcome to put small amounts of garden waste in the three rotary bins that are part of the Heights Community Compost, which is located nearby. New larger bins are planned for the Heights Garden in the near future.

Caribou Road and Reid Street Gardens each have four large rotary compost bins as part of the new community compost programs that started in spring 2021. Gardeners will use these for their garden waste, and they will also be welcome to bring their household kitchen scraps. Barry Place will be getting a similar compost program later this year in 2022. For more info contact [info@wecnl.ca](mailto:info@wecnl.ca)

## **9. What is the process for renting a plot?**

If a gardener would like to rent a plot, then they must first read and sign the lease agreement which outlines all the rules and guidelines for each garden. The signed lease is then returned to WEC along with the fee of \$35 which can be paid by email money transfer to [info@wecnl.ca](mailto:info@wecnl.ca) or via cash/cheque to 50 Main Street, Corner Brook, NL A2H 1C4. Gardeners may then start using their plot as soon as the snow melts each spring!

## **10. What types of fertilizers and pest management products are allowed to be used at the garden?**

We encourage the use of natural and organic fertilizers so that a healthy soil ecosystem is developed in each garden bed. This is better for the garden as a whole, and will also contribute to better yields and reduced problems with pests such as slugs, caterpillars, etc.

Permitted soil amendments include compost, liquid fish fertilizers, seaweed, well-rotted manure such as chicken and sheep, blood meal, bonemeal, leaves, and other natural materials. These all provide important nutrients, contribute to healthy bacteria and fungi in the soil, and help build organic matter.

Natural pest management products are allowed on a case by case basis. Please contact [info@wecnl.ca](mailto:info@wecnl.ca) if you have a pest problem.

If you have any questions about a product you'd like to use, please email [info@wecnl.ca](mailto:info@wecnl.ca)

## **11. What are the obligations of community gardeners?**

Community gardeners are required to read and understand the rules and guidelines of the garden they are participating in which are outlined in the lease agreements. Some of the main obligations include: attending at least one work party each year to help with communal tasks; ensuring that garden tools are cleaned and put away properly after use; and taking care of their plot for the whole season and assigning someone to look after it if they are away for a longer period of time.