



Plant-Your-Own Application

About

The Caledonia Community Garden Plant-Your-Own program is for those in the community who are fresh or seasoned gardeners but do not have the space at your home to plant a garden. The free garden plots for this program are 15'x15' which give ample room to grow your own produce, flowers and herbs. You provide your own seeds and plants. We provide the water, tools, supplies and space. This is a full gardening season commitment and you must properly maintain your plot. Remember that your plot and produce will not be protected from others including community members, animals or nature.

Contact Information

| | |
|----------------|--|
| Name | |
| Street Address | |
| City, ZIP Code | |
| Home Phone | |
| Work Phone | |
| E-Mail Address | |

Previous Gardening Experience

Summarize your previous gardening experience, if any.

Person to Notify in Case of Emergency

| | |
|----------------|--|
| Name | |
| Street Address | |
| City, ZIP Code | |
| Home Phone | |
| Work Phone | |
| E-Mail Address | |

Garden Usage Guidelines

Caledonia Community Garden is committed to safe and organic gardening practices. Any gardener who does not strictly adhere to these practices will have their plot revoked and will forfeit their right to garden with Caledonia Community Garden in the future. Please reference the guidelines listed below. We know organic gardening may not be a familiar concept to everyone, so feel free to reach out to us for additional guidance.

Weed Control

- Controlling weeds not only helps your plants flourish, but it prevents neighboring garden plots from becoming overrun as well
- *Recommended:* Use grass clippings or hay to mulch around established seedlings then hand weed as needed
- *Prohibited:* Herbicides of any kind as they are hazardous to human health, may kill or damage desirable crops, drift into neighboring gardens, or remain in the soil long after initial use

Insect Control

- Controlling insects is important to your own garden health, but also helps your neighbors prevent excessive damage as well
- *Recommended:* Companion planting, fabric row covers, biological controls and introducing natural predator species (like ladybugs); as a last resort natural botanical pesticides (like Bonide Rotenone and Pyrethrum) that break down quickly and do not leave harmful residue in the soil may be used
- *Prohibited:* Synthetic pesticides of any kind

Disease Control

- Most problems can be controlled by maintaining a clean garden and a healthy soil
- *Recommended:* Choose disease-resistant plant varieties, water judiciously, and remove diseased plants from the garden

Fertilizers & Soil Amendments

- Soil health is important not only for your plants this season, but for future gardeners as well; therefore, we strongly encourage adding ample organic material (i.e. compost, leaf mold, manure) to maintain ongoing soil fertility
- *Recommended:* Products of plant or animal origin - compost, leaf mold, livestock manure, blood and bone meal, cover crops, fish emulsion, kelp meal, liquid seaweed; commercial organic fertilizer blends; natural mineral fertilizers - greensand, granite dust, ground limestone
- *Prohibited:* Inorganic fertilizers (e.g. 5-1-5, Miracle Grow)

Composting

- We strongly encourage composting organic material from plots, but it can only be done in designated areas at the garden site
- *Recommended:* Use the on-site compost
- *Prohibited:* Composting garden refuse at the garden site outside of specified areas

Unacceptable Plants

- In the spirit of community gardens, please ensure that your plot is free from unacceptable plants; if you have concerns about neighboring sites, please contact us to discuss
- *Recommended:* If you find an unacceptable plant in your plot (e.g. an invasive species like Mint), do not move it - if you'd like to keep it for the season, limit its spread within your plot and do not transplant
- *Prohibited:* Invasive species (e.g. mint, comfrey); trees, bushes, or other woody perennials; illegal or dangerous plants

Tools & Equipment

- We supply a few gardening tools located in the garden shed and supply hoses and watering cans
- *Recommended:* Use tools with care, return tools and hoses when not in use, notify us when tools break, never discard hoses (leaks can be fixed!)

Water

- Water will be on-site via a large elevated water tank
- *Recommended:* Hand-held hose attachments for precise watering, mulching to conserve water by holding in moisture; contacting us if there's a leak, low water in tank or water problem
- *Prohibited:* Unattended garden watering, soaker hoses, hose timers

Closing Your Garden Plot

- Gardeners must clean up plots (including perennial plots) at the end of each season (we will notify gardeners of each year's exact date - generally mid-October)
- Required by Closing Day: Annual plots ready for plowing, free of all non-organic material (e.g. fencing, stakes) with vegetation cut to 1-foot lengths and scattered around the plot; perennial plots should be free from all non-organic materials that are not in use and have a neat appearance

PLEASE REMEMBER - We are guests on the property where this garden site is located. Our members and gardeners represent Caledonia Community Garden. Please be a good tenant and respectful of landowner and neighbors.

Agreement and Signature

By submitting this application, I affirm that the facts set forth in it are true and complete. I understand that if I am accepted as a volunteer, any false statements, omissions, or other misrepresentations made by me on this application may result in my immediate dismissal. I accept the garden usage guidelines set forth by the Caledonia Community Garden. I agree to hold Caledonia Community Garden, the Village and Township of Caledonia, Caledonia United Methodist Church, and their agents, supporters, sponsors, representatives and employees, harmless from any and all liability for bodily harm, damage, or loss of any kind arising from, or in any manner connected with, my participation in Caledonia Community Garden.

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|----------------|--|
| Name (printed) | |
| Signature | |
| Date | |

Form Instructions

Once you have the form filled in and signed, please:

Mail to:

Caledonia Community Garden
c/o Caledonia United Methodist Church
250 Vine St.
Caledonia, MI 49316

Or scan and e-mail to: apply@caledoniacommunitygarden.org

Send questions to: david@caledoniacommunitygarden.org

Our Policy

It is the policy of this organization to provide equal opportunities without regard to race, color, religion, national origin, gender, sexual preference, age, or disability.

Thank you for completing this application form and for your interest in volunteering with us.