*Ensuring enjoyable gardening experiences for all of the garden community is the primary goal of these rules and responsibilities. For this reason, please observe the rules of the garden and be a good neighbor.*

1. UW-Madison Division of Extension Walworth County has the right to enforce the Walworth County Community Garden Rules. Extension Walworth County makes the decisions for the garden, plots, equipment, and fees. Extension Walworth County has the authority to resolve conflicts, including refusing a plot to a gardener or dismissal.
2. The garden should be a safe place for the community, children, and other gardeners. Do not bring anything that will compromise the safety of the garden.
3. The use of Pesticides is PROHIBITED in the Community Garden. Pesticides include: herbicides, fungicides, insecticides and rodenticides. If you have a pest that needs control, contact the Walworth County Extension at 262-741-4958. Our horticulturalist can give safe pest control options.
4. Weather permitting, garden plots will be open approximately the third Friday in May. Initial tilling will be done prior to the growing season by the Department of Public Works. Produce must be harvested and plots cleaned by the fourth Friday in October. **This includes the removal of everything you brought into the garden as well as any remaining stakes or signs.**
5. Plants must be grown within the plot boundaries. No perennial plants allowed. Tall crops (sunflowers, corn, and trellised plants) may be grown, but should not shade another garden plot.
6. Water will be available on site. Hooking up your garden hose to the coupler at the garden is allowed. Hoses are only allowed through designated walking areas and cannot be dragged through plots. Gardeners must be present when their hose is hooked up to the water source.
7. Hoses are to be rolled up and stored at designated hose stations after each use. Do not waste water; turn hoses off when not in use.
8. Only established paths going to and from your plots may be used. Children are encouraged in the garden! We ask that they stay within the respective plot and common areas of the garden.
9. **Plastic mulch and plastic orange fences are not allowed.** Biodegradable mulch such as compost, leaves, and straw are encouraged. No wood chips are allowed as mulch because of the slow decomposition rate.
10. **No pets or alcoholic beverages are allowed.**
11. Gardens should look tidy all growing season. Gardeners are responsible for controlling the weeds throughout the growing season and preventing them from spreading to other gardens. If your plot is overgrown with weeds, you will receive a warning. After two weeks of no action, your plot may be mowed or reassigned by garden coordinators.
12. All weeds and diseased plants should be disposed of in the designated area. Please no trash in the piles. Please no kitchen scraps as it may attract animals.
13. All gardeners are responsible for providing their own tools, seeds, and plants.
14. In the fall, remove all materials that were brought into the garden. If it grew in the garden, it can stay in the garden.
15. Volunteer time is encouraged for upkeep of the whole garden.
16. Neither Walworth County nor the University of Wisconsin-Extension Office is liable in case of accident, theft, or vandalism.

If the garden coordinators notice that the above rules and guidelines have not been followed, you will receive a warning letter explaining what problems need to be addressed. If the situation has not been corrected after two weeks, you will lose the plot and it will be assigned to a different gardener.

**Stealing and vandalism will not be tolerated. Call the Elkhorn Police Department at 262-723-2210 to report theft or vandalism problems. In case of emergency, dial 911.**