



# Ignatius Jesuit Centre

## Ignatius Farm

### Community Garden Guidelines

#### ABOUT THE GARDENS:

- Ignatius Farm has been offering community garden plots for rent since 1998.
- The Ignatius Farm Community Garden is the largest serving Guelph, with up to 5 acres in gardens each year!
- As part of an organic farm, we believe in taking good care of our soil –the annual vegetable garden plots are rotated with cover crops, and lightly composted each fall in order to keep all our soil healthy and fertile. Gardens are cultivated in the spring and ready to plant.
- The Community Gardens are intended solely for growing produce for personal consumption. If you wish to sell produce, you must be approved as an Ignatius farmland tenant. Proposals for farmland tenancy are submitted to the Farm Manager (Heather Lekx [farmmanager@ignatiusguelph.ca](mailto:farmmanager@ignatiusguelph.ca)).
- Ignatius Farm products undergo a strict documentation and inspection process to be Certified Organic. All Ignatius Farm fields, including garden plots, are maintained to this standard. However, your garden plot produce is not “certified organic” for sales purposes.
- In 2013, we streamlined the plot sizes and locations as well as the associated rental rates. The new field layout simplifies marking out the plots in the spring for our volunteers (some of you!). Additionally, it ensures that we can better rebuild the soil with cover crops in the alternate year without a garden plot, as we are limiting cover cropped areas that double as pathways, which are subject to compaction. (Did you know that regular foot traffic can affect soil health even more than the occasional tractor pass?) This year’s garden plots locations are outlined in the chart under the heading RENT.
- All plots are numbered and assigned in advance. You are encouraged to post a decorative sign to identify your plot; please mark the back of your sign with your name and plot size (ft<sup>2</sup>). Bring your sign after receiving your plot assignment.

#### RENT:

- Mail your payment and registration form in early to confirm your spot! We are asking gardeners to pay in advance this year to ease the spring rush.
- **New for 2014: online payment is available via** [http://ignatiusguelph.ca/csa/farmgardenplots\\_new.html](http://ignatiusguelph.ca/csa/farmgardenplots_new.html)
- Online service fees can be avoided through payment by cheque.
- Mail your cheque payable to *Ignatius Jesuit Centre* along with your registration to 5420 Highway 6 North, Guelph, ON N1H6J2
- All plots fees include a \$25 management fee.



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- If this is your first time renting a plot, or if you are unsure what size of plot you would like, use a tape measure to help yourself map out a visual of what each plot size looks like. If you are new to gardening, we recommend renting a small plot.
- Multiple adjacent plots of 1000 ft<sup>2</sup> may be rented.
- A limited number of Biennial and Perennial plots are available in 500 and 1000 ft<sup>2</sup> plot sizes. These plot rents include an additional \$20 to accommodate cover-cropping around the multi-season crops. Details are outlined under the heading BIENNIAL AND PERENNIAL PLOTS.

Area (ft <sup>2</sup> )	Plot type	Field name/ Location 2014	Management Fee (\$)	Rent (\$)	Total (\$)
100	Annual	Loyola House	25	20	45
200	Annual	Loyola House	25	40	65
300	Annual	Loyola House	25	60	85
500	Annual	Sheep Orchard, Rugby & Pool (historical names!)	25	90	115
1000	Annual	Sheep Orchard, Rugby & Pool	25	120	145
500	Biennial	Main Barn South & Pool	25	110	135
1000	Biennial	Main Barn South & Pool	25	140	165
500	Perennial	Main Barn South & TBD	25	110	135
1000	Perennial	Main Barn South & TBD	25	140	165

### BIENNIAL AND PERENNIAL PLOTS:

- A limited number of Biennial and Perennial plots are available to seasoned gardeners. If you have not previously had a garden plot at Ignatius, you may be asked for references!
- Biennial plots are laid out to provide a designated 5 ft x 10 ft (=50 ft<sup>2</sup>) section of the current season's 500 sq.ft. plot, adjacent to a main pathway, to be carried over through the end of July for the following year. This allows the gardener to plant crops such as garlic or 1-year strawberry plants. This area will not be cover-cropped until the following August. The following year, with registration and payment, the gardener would likely be assigned a plot immediately opposite to the previous year's plot, with a similar biennial section located within the plot.
- Perennial plots are only cover-cropped after a gardener chooses not to register for the upcoming season. The gardener keeps the same plot in successive years, rather than alternating with another cover-cropped plot (as they would for an annual or biennial plot). This allows the gardener to have a plot in which they can plant perennials, plant specific cover crops of their own selection, and to prepare the soil for their annuals according to their own timelines. Perennial plots do not receive the



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annual fall application of compost, are not cover-cropped, nor is the soil prepared for the gardener in the spring, except before a new gardener takes over a plot.

### **BARTERING OPPORTUNITIES:**

- We are offering a few bartering opportunities this year for eager volunteers!
- Much like doing a working share with the CSA, you will receive your plot free of charge (up to \$145, annual 1000 ft<sup>2</sup> plot) for the season in exchange for a commitment to one of the following tasks:
  - Weed surveyors – 3 positions – involves once a week walkabouts of all gardens and reporting any plots of concern to the Community Gardens Liaison
  - On-call irrigation plumber – 3 positions – involves providing your contact information so that fellow gardeners can contact you to repair leaky pipes
  - Administration – involves communications with gardeners, registration intake for garden plots & CSA, and spreadsheet work
- Training will be provided for all positions!
- You will be asked to sign a contract detailing your volunteer position – should you, for any reason, become unable to perform your duties, you will be invoiced for the cost of your plot
- If you are interested, please contact us soon – these spots will go fast!

### **IMPORTANT DATES:**

- *Gardens become available* as soon as we are able to complete the spring cultivation, which depends on how wet the soil is! Typically, the fields are ready to plant by the May long weekend and coincide with the Spring Field Day – we will let you know ahead of time when your garden will be available to you
- *Spring Field Day and Garden Tours – Saturday, May 17* (9:30am - small plots@ Loyola, 10:30am – large annual plots @ Sheep/Pool/Rugby, 11:30am – Biennial & Perennial plots @ Main Barn South/Pool) – tour of each garden highlighting locations of water shut off taps, compost piles, mulch bales, parking areas, the farm notice board, and other important details... like locating your plot!
- *Annual Land Blessing – Sunday, May 25* – All are welcome to join a wagon ride around the farm to bless all aspects of the property, an open Eucharist, and a potluck lunch
- *Open Farm Days – August 19 & 22*, Tuesday and Friday afternoons - come for a wagon ride/farm tour, kids activities, snacks, farmer Q&A, community!
- *Fall Harvest Potluck – October 18* - for all friends of Ignatius Farm
- *Plot Clean-out by the **last Sunday in October***: All vegetables, tools, tomato cages, stakes, string, row cover etc, must be removed – this is to ensure enough time for the gardens to be put to bed (ploughed and composted) for the winter



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### AMENDMENTS AVAILABLE:

- Certified organic compost - \$3 per 20lb bucket, self-serve
- Certified organic compost – \$90 for 600 lbs delivered to your plot
- Small square straw bales - \$6 each
- 4' x 4' round hay bales - \$60 each
- Preferably, reserve amendments with your garden plot.
- Additional compost and bales can be purchased throughout the season. Requests for bale delivery to your plot, with your name, plot number, and payment, are to be left in the Farm Notice Board locked cashbox by Monday mornings at 10am. Bales will be delivered by mid-week.

### PLEASE NOTE AND ABIDE BY THE FOLLOWING GUIDELINES:

#### Plants & Amendments:

- No synthetic fertilizers. Please purchase the compost which has been approved for organic production if you wish to further amend your soil.
- No Genetically-Modified Organism (GMO) seeds and no treated seeds
- No plant or soil treatments without prior approval from the Farm Manager
- Organic seeds and/or plants are highly recommended (see list of sources below)
- Annuals only (unless you have a Biennial or Perennial plot)
- Multi-season crops are only permitted in the designated areas within Biennial and Perennial plots.

#### Pest Management:

- No pesticides
- Squishing bugs and using floating row cover are approved pest management techniques – all other methods must be cleared with the Farm Manager. All row cover pieces must be removed before the end of the season
- Please do not squish indiscriminately – know your friends and foes! There are many friendly bugs in the garden that will help you in your battles against those less desirable ones
- See the pest guide at the end for some information on the most common pests you will encounter – the books listed will contain more detail and, remember, if you do not recognize an insect, ask your neighbour or look it up!

#### Weed Management:

- No herbicides and no black landscape fabric



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- Keep your garden as neat and weed free as possible. Keep weeds from going to seed.
- We advise weeding your plot every 8-10 days (even though it may appear unnecessary at that point) – weeding when undesirable plants are small, i.e. before they have three leaves, is easy with a sharp hoe, and will keep you ahead of your weeds
- Mulch is a good weed suppressant
- Trim the grass around your plot to avoid damage to your crops as a result of our mowing (minimum of 12” outside your plot)
- We will do periodic weed patrols but please also be on the lookout and (gently) remind your neighbours about weeding – remember we are not all experienced gardeners!
- If your plot is found to be populated with weeds that are going to seed or invading your neighbours’ gardens, you will receive a notification to weed your plot within a given timeframe. If you receive multiple notices, your plot will be subject to being mowed or ploughed
- Any gardens left unattended or gone to weeds may be subject to being ploughed under

### Watering:

- Water is available from water barrels at the garden. Please refill water barrels after you have drawn from them. Directions will be provided at the Spring Field Day and on the farm notice board.
- Use as little water as possible (mulch helps your soil retain moisture)
- Turn off the water when you leave in the evening – if you are not sure if you are last, turn it off anyway! Anyone else needing water can turn it on and then off again.
- Please note that the water provided to the gardens has not been tested or treated for drinking water purposes in accordance with the *Safe Drinking Water Act, 2002*
- You can access the kitchen in the Farm Workshop during work hours to refill your reusable water bottles – please note that the Ignatius Jesuit Centre of Guelph has a ‘no bottled water’ policy

### Being a nice neighbour:

- Keep rocks, mulch, seed trays, tomato cages, etc. within your plot or in designated areas as they interfere with maintenance – these objects can be a hazard to farm and landscape equipment, to their operators, and to bystanders... so please be careful about where you leave them!
- Please do not walk in anyone else’s garden
- Keep your plants within your plot
- Do not shade your neighbours’ gardens without their permission – check in with your neighbours about what you would like to grow
- Pets are welcome but keep pets on a leash at all times
- No smoking or littering in or around the gardens, barns and sheds.



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- Please discard your compost (weeds, thinned fruit and veg, etc) and rocks from your plot in the designated areas – look for the signs!

### Notice Board:

- The farm notice board is located near the parking lot outside the Farm Workshop
- It includes:
  - Maps of all the gardens
  - Farm news
  - Order forms for additional mulch/compost
  - A locked box for depositing payments and requests for compost and mulch
  - A space for communicating with your fellow gardeners (for example, if you would like to offer up your veggies or need help weeding if you will be away)

### Parking:

- Do not drive on the lawns (i.e. between the gardens) – stick to roadways
- You may park in the parking lot outside the Farm Workshop and along the spruce trees near the Loyola House garden
- **Do not park on the roadways near the barn and drivesheds** – these are major thoroughfares for tractors (with wide and scratchy implements)!
- Grass driveways must remain open for farm machinery. Grass-ways are maintained for farm machinery and not to car/road standards. Use of grassways for loading and unloading is at your own discretion.

### Washrooms:

- An outhouse is located at the bottom of the row of spruce trees near the Loyola House plots (and near the Stations of the Cosmos behind the greenhouse).
- You may also use either of the two washrooms in the Farm Workshop during work hours (there is one accessible washroom in the Farm Workshop)

### Newsletter:

- If you would like to contribute to the Ignatius Farm newsletter, please email [csafield@ignatiushguelph.ca](mailto:csafield@ignatiushguelph.ca) with your recipes, article ideas, etc!

### Donations: Share the Abundance!

- Donations to Ignatius Farm activities are tax-receiptable and can be made by cheque, payable to *Ignatius Jesuit Centre* or [online](#).



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- Ignatius Farm is currently directing donations towards our Farm Resilience Fund unless otherwise advised. The Farm Resilience Fund enables us to invest in farm infrastructure and resources which enable the farm to buffer the extreme weather effects of climate change.
- Specified donations are also received to enable farm opportunities for others: *Garden Plot sponsorships* provide garden plots for individuals or families. *Share sponsorships* provide Ignatius Farm CSA produce to local families and service agencies. *Intern sponsorships* provide programming and resources for our Organic Agriculture interns.
- If you would like to assist with the cost of a plot for a particular individual or community group, please contact the Farm Manager.

### RESOURCES:

#### Local sources of organic seed:

- Annual Guelph Organic Conference tradeshow, U of G (Feb 2-3, 2013)
- The Stone Store
- Organic Botanic

#### Online Seed Suppliers:

- Cottage Gardener - [www.cottagegardener.com](http://www.cottagegardener.com)
- Eternal Seed - [www.eternalseed.ca](http://www.eternalseed.ca)
- Hawthorn Farm - [www.hawthornfarm.ca](http://www.hawthornfarm.ca)
- High Mowing - [www.highmowingseeds.com](http://www.highmowingseeds.com)
- Johnny's - [www.johnnyseeds.com](http://www.johnnyseeds.com)
- TourneSol - [www.fermetournesol.qc.ca/products/seeds](http://www.fermetournesol.qc.ca/products/seeds)
- Urban Harvest - [www.uharvest.ca](http://www.uharvest.ca)
- Vesey's - [www.veseys.com/ca/en](http://www.veseys.com/ca/en)
- West Coast Seeds - [www.westcoastseeds.com](http://www.westcoastseeds.com)
- William Dam - [www.damseeds.ca](http://www.damseeds.ca)

#### Seedling Suppliers:

- Trout Lily
  - At the Guelph Farmer's Market
  - Also online at [troutlilynursery.blogspot.ca](http://troutlilynursery.blogspot.ca)

#### Gardening books - these resources are full of great information:

- How to Grow More Vegetables - John Jeavons



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- The New Organic Grower - Eliot Coleman
- Rodale's Vegetable Garden Problem Solver - Fern Marshall Bradley



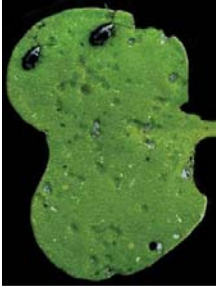

### **CONTACT:**

Community Gardens Liaison (volunteer)  
[farmregistration@ignatiusguelph.ca](mailto:farmregistration@ignatiusguelph.ca)

Heather Lekx, Farm Manager  
[farmmanager@ignatiusguelph.ca](mailto:farmmanager@ignatiusguelph.ca) (519) 824-1250 ext. 243; Typically on site Monday - Thursday



### QUICK REFERENCE GUIDE TO GARDEN PESTS:

Insect name	Photos	Like	Don't like
Mexican Bean Beetle		Beans	Being squished!
Colorado Potato Beetle		Nightshades (potatoes and eggplant especially)	Being squished!
Flea Beetle		Brassicas (broccoli, kale, cauliflower, and so on)	Row cover crop immediately after planting. Also don't like being squished!
Cucumber Beetle		Most plants in the squash family	Being squished! You will have best success catching them in the morning when it is cool.