

2023

MALTA COMMUNITY GARDEN HANDBOOK



“If you wish to make anything grow, you must understand it, and understand it in a very real sense. ‘Green fingers’ are a fact, and a mystery only to the unpracticed. But green fingers are the extensions of a verdant heart.”

— Russell Page, The Educator of a Gardener

MALTA COMMUNITY GARDEN

The Town of Malta is offering gardening plots behind the Malta town hall located at 2540 Route 9 for lease for the 2023 season. Plots will be assigned on a first-come, first served basis. Applications are available on the town web-site at www.malta-town.org or can be picked up at either the Town Hall.

Each gardener is responsible for following the Malta Community Garden rules and taking an active role in administering the gardens.

The Malta Community Garden promotes the use of natural materials to fertilize, control weeds, animals and insects. Companion plantings and natural deterrents such as herbs are encouraged. A companion planting brochure is available at the Cornell Cooperative Extension Agency on East High Street.

The Malta Community Garden Committee will offer some informational meetings by master gardeners. By leasing a plot(s), you automatically become a member of our Garden Group and will have input on future rules, regulations and activities.

Any harvest in excess of the gardener's use is encouraged to be donated to the food pantry located in the Malta Community Center located at One Bayberry Drive. Fresh produce is always appreciated by families in need.

The success of the community garden is based on the commitment of volunteers. We welcome your support whether in the form of suggestions or garden improvements and/or maintenance.

In an effort to make your gardening experience successful, this manual is to provide you, the gardener, with information and expectations.

FEES AND PLOTS

- Applications from Malta residents are accepted beginning April 14, 2023 at the Town Clerk's office located in the Town Hall from 8:00 am-5:00 pm, Monday through Friday. Remaining spaces will be opened to non-residents after May 1, 2023. Applications can be mailed to Malta Community Garden, 2540 Route 9, Malta, NY 12020. Applications must include the completed registration form, signed release of claims and payment in full to be accepted.
- Fees in the form of checks or money orders are due at the time of application.

- A non-refundable \$20, 12' x 10' plot leasing fee made payable to the Town of Malta, is due to cover the cost of general garden maintenance for the 2023 gardening season.
- Plot requests are filled according to the order in which the completed registration packets arrive. If ordering more than one plot, make sure you let us know if you want them side by side.
- If requests cannot be filled, the fee will be refunded. A waiting list will be maintained for applicants for whom no plot is available.
- There is a \$20 service charge for all returned checks due to insufficient funds.
- Proof of residency can be a driver's license or current utility bill.
- Gardeners can officially garden after signing and returning the applicable forms with payment on May 1, 2023
- The official 2023 garden opening of Saturday May 13, 2023, weather pending.

GARDEN MEETINGS

- All gardeners (or designee) should attend the first annual spring meeting (TBD) at the Malta Community Garden.
- Applicants will be notified of their plot number at this meeting.

GARDEN RULES

- Each gardener is responsible for the maintenance and upkeep of their garden plot as well as the adjacent paths. Please dispose of all plant material and weeds either at home or in the dumpster. Watering, weeding, harvesting and any other garden related maintenance are the responsibility of the gardener. Gardeners may and are encouraged to arrange for other gardeners to care for their plot should the need arise.
- Paths must be kept clear of weeds, rocks, garden plants and other obstacles. This includes plants overhanging from your plot.
- Gardeners should respect each other's plots. Leave a 6" unplanted border along each plot line where there is no aisle. Place large trellises or garden towers on the north side of your plot where they will not shade a neighboring plot. Any corn or sunflowers shall be planted in plots located on north side of the garden.
- Any plant that protrudes into the next plot or paths may be trimmed or picked by the next plot owner.
- Please be considerate of plot paths, which are needed for hose and other movement.
- The shed is only for storage of property belonging to the Community Garden.
- Gardeners may use tools belonging to the Community Garden but they must be returned to the shed prior to leaving.

- The Town of Malta is not responsible for any damages to the Community Garden as a whole or to individual plots or for any loss of plants and/or crops.
- Children are welcome in the garden but must be supervised by an adult at all times.
- Pets are not allowed in the garden area. Pets on surrounding town grounds are subject to Chapter 52, Article 1 of town law “Dogs and Other Animals Running at Large”.
- Clean up your plot at the end of the season by removing all plant material and any non-plant materials added to your plot. Those who do not clean up their plot prior October 17 to the fall rototilling will not be offered a plot in the subsequent year.

SOIL AMENDMENTS/REMEDICATION

- The use of commercial chemicals, pesticides and herbicides are not allowed to ensure the safety of all participants as per New York State Law.
- Mulching with leaves, grass clippings, compost and/or hay is encouraged to reduce water evaporation and unwanted weeds.

WATERING

- Gardeners need to be diligent in shutting the water off after their use.
- All water leaks should be reported to the Town Clerk during the day at 518-899-2552 and any committee member during the evenings, weekends or holidays.
- Water hoses must not cross other plots and must be attended at all times.
- Sprinklers are not permitted in the garden.
- Water use is limited to 15 minutes per plot per day.

PROPERTY, TOOLS AND EQUIPMENT

- Gardeners shall provide their own tools, with the exception of hoses and nozzles which are provided
- When you are finished with watering, replace and neatly coil the hoses.

“We might think that we are nurturing our garden, but of course it’s our garden which is really nurturing us.” ~Jenny Uglow

2023 Malta Garden Committee

Co- Chairperson: Sue Ann Nicholson, 518-899-6407, sueannnicholson@hotmail.com

Co- Chairperson: Glenda Savage- 518-859-4788, glenlew1@aol.com

Plot maintenance/logistics: Lynn Mayack, 518-312-0608, LMayack@msn.com

Plot maintenance/logistics: John Prybylowski: 518-265-3318, jpryby@gmail.com

Marketing/Grants: Tom Nicholson, 518-899-6407 tnicholson@alum.rpi.edu

Treasurer: Jennifer Holmes, Town Clerk, 518-899-2552, jholmes@malta-town.org