

## Armory Garden Plot Assignment Meeting 2018

Welcome to the Armory Garden! There are a few special policies to follow at the Armory Garden in addition to the Garden Project guidelines:

1. **Participation (5 hours minimum) in at least one of the Garden Committees**, (pre-season setup, pathways/perimeter/trash, events, compost, shed/greenhouse/perennial garden/sitting area, volunteer, post-season cleanup, garden coordinator). With your help, the whole of the garden will be maintained. Each committee will have a leader who will organize the work and communicate with committee members. Committee leaders can contact Bill for guidance. Whenever you do volunteer work, sign the black book on the shelf in the shed and indicate what committee you helped with.
  2. **Only work in and harvest from your plot.** Unless given permission, never enter or harvest produce from another gardener's plot. When walking around the garden, please stay on the pathways to respect other's space. Avoid cutting through plots that are not yours.
  3. **Return tools to the shed and lock it when you leave the garden.** Keep the shed tidy by cleaning tools (removing clumps of dirt) and limiting personal items stored in it. The combination is shared with all registered gardeners at the plot assignment meeting. Please do not share the combination with non-gardeners. You have to hold the lock down, and scramble the combination to lock it.
  4. **Only use the tiller or shredder if you are trained.** Bill will demonstrate how to use these tools safely. We encourage you to use the broadfork instead of the tiller if your ground is not overly compacted, as the broadfork is less disruptive to worm pathways and other beneficial soil bacteria.
  5. **Conserve water.** We are very fortunate to have running water at the garden, please use it wisely. Less frequent soakings is better for root development and putting mulch around plants prevents water loss and inhibits weed growth. Please pay your \$5 per plot water fee at the plot assignment meeting or the Resource Center.
  6. **Weed your plot and surrounding pathways.** Weed seeds can spread through the air and root systems, meaning weeds in one plot impact all gardeners. Addressing weeds early in the season is best. Applying mulch (woodchips, straw, shredded paper) will suppress weed growth. Mid-season the Garden Project and Armory Garden Coordinators will survey the garden and notify gardeners with excessively weedy plots. Gardeners will be given an allotted time to remove the weeds.
  7. **Observe "No Yellow Dandelion flowers" policy** by picking all yellow flowers as soon as they appear. Yellow flowers can quickly go to seed as white dandelion flowers!
  8. **Put all compostable materials (weeds, trimmings) in the compost bins.** Shake excess dirt from roots before composting. Diseased plants & noxious weeds should be bagged and taken offsite for disposal. Place unwanted rocks between the shed and fence. Take trash with you to dispose.
  9. **Clean up your plot at the end of the season** by removing plants, stakes, tomato cages, twine, etc. Failure to clean up your plot could result in loss of gardening privileges at Armory. No-till gardeners may continue to work their plot and plant winter crops in their plots after the Garden Project deadline.
  10. **The planting deadline is June 2.** Have your plot prepped and **something** in the ground by this date. Your entire plot does not need to be planted, but you must show progress by June 2<sup>nd</sup>.
- ✓ ✓ Please communicate with us! Should something happen that impacts your ability to work in the garden, please let us know. We will do our best to work with you and your needs.
- ✓ ✓ Visit Garden Project Resource Center for tools, seeds, and transplants (2401 Marcus St. Lansing). Hours: <http://www.greaterlansingfoodbank.org/the-garden-project/resource-center.html>.
- ✓ ✓ Like us on Facebook at: Armory Garden - The Garden Project - Greater Lansing Food Bank!

We look forward to a productive and healthy growing season! If you have any questions, please contact Bill (517-372-4752, [wgskiba@yahoo.com](mailto:wgskiba@yahoo.com)) or the Garden Project Office at 517-853-7809.