

# The Garden Connection

*A newsletter for the gardeners at the Waukesha County Rental Gardens*

## Reminder - Garden Closes on October 23th

The Waukesha County Rental Gardens close on Monday, October 23, 2023 at 9:00 a.m. If you are done gardening, you can clean up your plot now. The closing date does not apply to those renting permanent garden plots, as those plots do not get plowed.

**Just a reminder** regarding garden clean up... a \$25 fee will be assessed to gardeners if they have not removed everything they brought into the plot including fencing, stakes, string, thick layers of newspaper, cardboard, tomato cages, tools, plastic mulch, plant tags, etc. **AND** dug up and removed all thick-stem vegetables (i.e., corn), thick-stem flowers (i.e., sunflower), and thick-stem weeds. Place these in plant waste piles.

## Garden Clean Up Tips for Plant Waste/Garbage, etc.

- Please put trash in the dumpster and recyclables in recycle bin. **Do not put trash on plant waste piles.**
- Plant waste or weeds should NOT be placed in the dumpster. The only exception is if the plant material showed signs of disease. If this is the case, plant waste should be placed in a bag and tied shut before placing in the dumpster.
- For plant waste, use established plant waste piles located at several locations throughout the gardens. Do not start new piles.

## Did You Use Fabric Mulch or Plastic Mulch?

If you used fabric or plastic mulch, you **MUST remove** it from the garden and place it in the dumpster. These materials do not decompose and will damage the plow in the spring. This is why we do not recommend using plastic or fabric mulch. Straw or hay is preferred as these will break down over time and add organic matter to the soil.



## Did You Use Cardboard in Your Garden?

If you used cardboard in your garden to help with weed control, remove it. Cardboard will not breakdown over winter. It **MUST be removed** and placed in the dumpster.

## How Long will the Water be Available?

The water will be shut off when the weather turns cold or there is a frost prediction, which is usually in early October. Cold weather or frost can damage the water meter that is connected to the hydrant that supplies water to the garden. Once the water is turned off, it stays off until spring. Watch the bulletin board at the Garden entrance for a note about the water or our Rental Gardens webpage at <https://www.waukeshacounty.gov/UWEX/HORT/rg/>.



## Inside this issue

|                           |   |
|---------------------------|---|
| Gardens Closing .....     | 1 |
| Plant Waste/Garbage ..... | 1 |
| Fabric Mulch .....        | 1 |
| Cardboard .....           | 1 |
| Water Available .....     | 1 |
| Bulletin Board .....      | 1 |
| Harvest Celebration ..... | 2 |
| Not Returning .....       | 2 |
| Renting Different Plots   | 2 |
| Port-O-John Update .....  | 2 |
| Leaving Stuff Behind..... | 2 |
| Permanent Plots .....     | 2 |
| Renting a Plot in 2024 .. | 2 |



## Bulletin Board Garden Entrance

Watch the bulletin board at the entrance to the garden for new messages or updates. It is the easiest way for us to get a timely message to the gardeners!

## Harvest Celebration— A Wonderful Time

Thank you to all who attended the Harvest Celebration on Saturday morning, August 19th. Approximately 30 people attended! There was great food, good conversation, and a short garden meeting where questions were answered.

## Not Returning Next Year?

If you know that you will not be gardening with us in 2024, please let Lisa know by calling 262-548-7775 or send her an e-mail at [lboyer@waukeshacounty.gov](mailto:lboyer@waukeshacounty.gov).

## Interested in Renting a Different Plot or Additional Plot in 2024?

If you are interested in having a second plot or moving to a different or larger plot, contact Lisa Boyer at [lboyer@waukeshacounty.gov](mailto:lboyer@waukeshacounty.gov) now to be placed on the “waiting list.” Should you change your mind next spring, you will not be required to move or take the additional plot.

## Port-A-John Has Been Removed

The Port-A-John that has been at the garden all summer has been removed as our rental fee funds for this item are limited. Please plan accordingly.

## Do Not Leave Your “Stuff” at the Community Gardens

Please do not leave anything behind at the gardens (by the shed or in the woods). If you do so, it may get stolen, damaged, or placed in the dumpsters. If you have a permanent garden, you can leave it in your garden only if your garden has a fence, but there are no guarantees it will be there in spring.

## Permanent Plots

If you have a permanent plot and have not gardened your plot to its “potential” and/or have not gardened much in it for the last few years, please consider giving it up. We have gardeners who are interested in a permanent plot and would be happy to work on preparing the garden this fall for next year's gardening season.

## How do I Rent My Plot Next Year?

Gardeners receive a renewal letter packet in February. At that time, you can decide if you want to garden in 2024. There is a deadline to return your signed renewal forms and payment.

## Questions/Contact Information?

Questions? Concerns? Email Lisa at [lboyer@waukeshacounty.gov](mailto:lboyer@waukeshacounty.gov) or call 262-548-7775. The office is open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.



Ann Wied

Consumer Horticulture Educator  
UW Madison Extension  
Waukesha County



Extension

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON  
WAUKESHA COUNTY