

2021

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 2021 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 or Malta Community Center.

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 15, 2021 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, 2021. 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 2021 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 and after the official 2021 garden opening of May 1, 2021, weather pending.

GARDEN MEETINGS

- All gardeners (or designee) should attend the first annual spring meeting on Thursday, May 7, 2021 at 6:00 pm 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

2021 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

2021 Garden Plot Registration

Plot#-----

Name _____ Date _____

Address _____

City _____ Zip _____

Phone (Cell) _____ (home) _____

Emergency Contact _____ Relationship _____

Phone (cell) _____

Permission to share your contact information with other gardeners? Y or N

Did you have a garden plot with this community garden last year? Y or N

If yes, do you want the same garden plot this year?

_____ Yes _____ No

If no, what area of the garden would you like to be in? _____

Do you plan on growing: Corn Y or N Tall sunflowers Y or N

Some tasks such as path maintenance and plot setup must be completed prior to the garden's opening day. Not only do many hands make light work, but this is a wonderful way to support the garden and great opportunity to meet fellow gardeners. Would you be interested in helping out? If so, please circle all that apply.

I am available: Weekdays Weekday evenings Weekends

A plot fee of \$20 per plot is required before the plot can be assigned.

I have read and understand the Community Garden Rules.

Signature _____ Date _____

2021 Gardener Release of Claims

Plot # _____

Email address: _____

Release of All Claims

I, _____, am a participant in the Malta Community Garden. As a condition of being allowed to participate in the Malta Community Garden, I agree to the following:

1. I am duly aware of the risks and hazards that may arise through participation in the Malta Community Garden, and assume any expenses and liabilities I incur in the event of an accident, illness or other incapacity. If I have had any questions about the Community Garden, its nature, risks or hazards, I have contacted the garden coordinator or a committee member and discussed those questions with him or her to my satisfaction.

2. In consideration of being granted the opportunity to participate in the Community Garden, I, for myself, my executors, administrators, agents and assigns do hereby release and forever discharge the Malta Community Garden Committee, Garden Coordinator, volunteers, other gardeners, and the cooperating landowner from all claims of damages, demands, and any actions whatsoever, including those based on negligence, in any manner arising out of my participation in this activity. I understand that this Release means that, among other things, I am giving up my right to sue for any such losses, damages, injury or costs that I may incur.

I represent and certify that my true age is 18 years old or older on this date. I have read this entire release, fully understand it, and I agree to be legally bound by it.

Participant's Signature _____

Printed Name _____ Date _____

Malta Community Garden meeting
March 10, 2021

Present: SueAnn Nicholson, Tom Nicholson, Glenda Savage, Lynn Mayack, John Prybylowski

Key Dates for 2021 season:

- **March 31st** – Ads will be sent to generate interest by Tom
- **April 1st** – Lynn will send e-mail to 2020 gardeners asking if they wish to participate this year and if they want to keep the same plot, for our planning purposes. Gardeners must respond by **April 14th** to Lynn and gardeners must complete forms and payment to Jennifer by **April 30th** to keep their 2020 plots.
- Garden plots not cleaned up in 2020 season, therefore not offered a plot in 2021: #7 Michael Hall & Kristie Francis, #41, 53 – Bruce Towner
- **April 7th** – Garden Committee mtg. 10 AM Malta Community Center.
- **April 15th** – Applications accepted for Malta Town residents for 2021 season.
- **Mid-April** – Garden plots will be flagged – John will be back from Florida.
- **May 1st** – Applications accepted for Non-residents after May 1st
- **May 1st** – Official opening of garden – may plant.
- **May 6th, 6PM** – Annual meeting at the Community Garden
- **May 15th** – Water turned on, weather pending, earlier if possible.
- **w/o May 10th** – delivery of woodchips by Highway Dept.
- **May 13th & May 15th**- Work days for membership to lay down cardboard and woodchips, organize shed, repair fence. 9 am-noon. Save cardboard!

It was agreed that there will be no soil amendments or spring tilling this year.

Lynn will report on sign costs at April 7th meeting and contact Jennifer regarding Handbook 2021 dates.

2021 Budget: \$500 – Town of Malta, \$500 Maintenance Dept. Water bill 2020 - \$108.14