



2026 Community Garden Guidelines

The following Community Garden Guidelines have been established by the members of Emerson's Environmental Commission to help ensure safety and fairness in the garden. We kindly ask that you review and adhere to all rules listed below:

1. Please maintain your garden plot during the season.
2. **Put plantings in your garden plot within 30 days of your plot being assigned.** If you change your mind about using your garden plot, please email envsec@emersonnj.org immediately, so another resident can participate.
3. You are welcome to utilize the garden shed for your gardening storage. Please store your items neatly.
4. **Do not pick anything from another person's plot without their approval.** That said, we do encourage all participants to **harvest produce on a regular basis.**
5. Please **report any theft, vandalism or unusual activity** related to the Community Garden directly to the Emerson Police Department.
6. At the end of the gardening season, all dead plants and non-plant materials (string, wire, wood, metal, plastic, etc.) must be removed and disposed of properly. **We request all garden plots be cleaned out by Thanksgiving weekend, at the latest.**
7. **There are 2 compost bins on-site.** Please put dead plant materials into the compost bins. **Do not put weeds into the compost bins, since this may spread their seeds.** Any diseased plants are to be bagged and put in the trash so as to not contaminate the gardens.
8. **Illegal plants are prohibited.** As for tall plants, they should be planted where they will not interfere with your neighbor's plot. Vines are allowed; however, please try to trellis them to maintain them within your garden plot specs.
9. **Chemical pesticide or fertilizers are prohibited.** Organic fertilizer such as cow or chicken manure is allowed. Natural items such as coffee grinds and eggshells are allowed; however, composting of larger amounts must be contained within the composting bins.
10. Water is available from **6:00AM to 6:00PM May-October.** All participants are encouraged to conserve its use. Please **do not water another person's plot** unless they ask you to.
11. Please **supervise children and pets** in the Community Garden. And, be sure to **LOCK THE GATE** upon exiting to keep deer and other wildlife out of the gated Garden.
12. **Only garden during daylight hours.** The Community Garden will be open 7 days a week, sun-up to sundown. "After-hours" are not permitted.
13. **Violation of these Guidelines** may result in the loss of community gardening privileges.

2026 Community Garden Application

Emerson's Community Garden is located within the Borough's Centennial Park, across from the Emerson Jr. Sr. High School on Main Street. **All plots will be assigned to residents on a first come, first serve basis and are strictly open to Emerson residents only.** There is a fee of \$20 requested with your application.

The garden is intended for growing annual fruits, vegetables, herbs and flowers. Please do not plant any perennials, as your plot location may change each year. The Borough will provide water and soil. Gardeners shall provide their own tools, plants and other gardening supplies. Every gardener is asked to participate to the best of their abilities in the management and upkeep of the entire garden. Please consider requesting to join our private Facebook page: Emerson Community Garden. You will find helpful information and the community of our other garden members.

For those interested in applying for a Community Garden plot, **please submit this signed form with a fee of \$20 by April 1, 2026. Fee should be made in the form of a check payable to: Borough of Emerson. Cash will not be accepted.**

Please send this application to:

The Emerson Environmental Commission c/o The Borough Clerk
146 Linwood Avenue.
Emerson, NJ 07630
Phone: 201-262-6086 option 9; Fax: 201-262-0938

1. Gardener and/or Garden Family: _____

2. Emerson Address: _____

3. Phone Number: _____ Cell Number: _____

4. Valid Email Address: _____

5. Name as appearing on FB (for our private Community Garden group):

If you would like to be added to our page, you will need to request permission for approval on Facebook.

6. Would you like the same plot as last year? _____ yes _____ no

If yes, what was your plot number? _____

7. Please list any special requests.

Please note that upon applicant confirmation, the EEC will work with each applicant to verify their Emerson residency

By signing below, I agree that I have read and understand the Gardener Guidelines and plan to abide by all of the garden rules. I understand that neither the garden group nor owners of the land are responsible for my actions. I therefore agree to hold harmless the garden group and owners of the land for any liability, damage, loss or claim that occurs in connection with the use of the garden by me or my guests.

Signature

Date