Orchard Downs Garden Plots Opening

Orchard Downs Garden program will open in April-May (specific date to be announced). Growing our own produce in such fertile soil is a wonderful opportunity, and the Family Housing Council is delighted to offer this service. We hope you take advantage of this opportunity!

Registration Information:

- Registration is available online-this is how we will track your garden information and communicate with gardeners. Link for registration:
  - Plot selection will take place in April (date to be determined), residents and non-residents are asked to bring the following:
    - Proof of current resident status
      (Example: copy of lease or a bill with your name & address)-residents only
    - Photo ID
    - Payment for your rental & deposit (only personal checks will be accepted)

Fees: For full plots (10 yard x 10 yard): (one yard is roughly equal to one meter)

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<tr>
<th>Rental</th>
<th>Resident</th>
<th>Non-resident</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>$50/plot x No. of plots</td>
<td>$90/plot x No. of plots</td>
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Important Information:

- The plots are managed by volunteers in the community.
  - **We do not offer half-plots.**
- The garden season will begin on TBD based on grounds/facilities
- The garden season will end on 11/15/2015 or after the first frost whichever comes first.
- No deposits will be collected however only those gardeners who managed to keep the garden plot level and clean, and follow the attached rules will be allowed to return.
- We can only accept checks made payable to the University of Illinois.
- Residents without proof of resident status will pay non-resident fees.
- Only four plots permitted for each gardener, two of which must be off the walkway.
- Gardeners are not allowed to sublease a resident-subsidized plot. If determined that a plot was subleased registered plot(s) will be suspended.
- Plots A, B, C, D, E, F, are designated for organic gardening. (Maps available at registration)
- All gardeners must follow the garden plots rules and regulations (see back of this page).
- For questions, concerns, or late registration please email the Garden Group at ODGardenGroup@hotmail.com or please come to a Family Housing Council meeting @ 5:45 pm on the second Friday of the month to discuss the matter.

GARDEN GROUP
The Garden Group manages and organizes the Orchard Downs Garden Plots. The Garden Group is composed of volunteers from Family Housing Council as well as fellow gardeners. Responsibilities of the Garden Group include: assisting with marking & numbering plots, assisting with Registration Day and ongoing registration, monitoring the garden activity on a rotational schedule, resolving gardener disputes, and participating in Garden Group meetings which take place during the Family Housing Council meeting (second Friday of each month at 5:45pm at the Orchard Downs Community Center). If interested in joining the Garden Group, please email ODGardenGroup@hotmail.com.

**ORCHARD DOWNS FAMILY HOUSING COUNCIL**

**GARDEN PLOTS RULES AND REGULATIONS**

1. **Garden at your own risk.**

2. **USE OF WATER:** The use of water in the Orchard Downs gardens is provided free of charge to the renter, but that does not mean that the water is free. The Council paid over $1,000 in water fees for the gardens from mid-April to November last year. We ask each renter to use the water properly. Proper use of water includes vegetable watering, cleaning tools and produce, and drinking. **DO NOT use the water for washing cars, carpets or bicycles.** Only those persons renting a plot may use the water. To avoid conflict, **please limit use to 15 minutes** if someone is waiting. No sprinklers are allowed. If water is abused, garden plot rates will increase next year, so it is in everyone’s interest to monitor and report misuse to the Garden Group. Gardeners will be fined $10.00 for if caught leaving the water on and leaving the gardening area.

3. **AREA FOR GARDENING:** Please plant ONLY in the area which is marked off by the stakes. **Do not** remove the stakes or plant in the walkways. Plants in the walkways will be removed by the Garden Group via assistance from facilities when they cut the walkways.

4. **NOT ALLOWED ON GROUNDS:** No cars or glass allowed. Cars are not allowed on the grass. Cars can be parked in the "L" Lot just north of the garden area. This problem has been ignored in the past but will be handled by the University Police during the garden season.

5. **SYNTHETIC PESTICIDES/HERBICIDES:** Synthetic chemicals are **not allowed** in the organic section of the garden. The use of chemicals in the non-organic section should be limited to those products derived from natural sources, including Rotenone & Pyrethrin. Experimental chemicals are **not allowed.** **Do not leave pesticides/herbicides in your plot** as children have been caught playing with them in the past.

6. **WEEDS:** It is the responsibility of each gardener to control the weeds in and around their plot(s) and on the adjacent walkways. If your garden is not consistently weeded you will be warned and it will be considered abandoned.

7. **STEALING:** Please respect the property of other renters and do not go into others' garden plots or take produce that is not yours. If you observe any problem, please report it immediately to the Garden Group at ODGardenGroup@hotmail.com. Due to last year’s stolen produce problems, the Garden Group will be patrolling the garden weekly and at odd times to monitor the plots.

8. **FINES:** You are expected to clean your plot at the end of the growing season. If you violate any of the rules and regulations listed above you will be given warnings. If after 3 warnings the problems are not corrected you will be fined or will not be allowed to rent garden plots next year.