



## GARDEN SHARING AGREEMENT

### ANSWER THESE QUESTIONS BEFORE STARTING TO GARDEN TOGETHER

You've decided to share a garden space together, congratulations! Talking about these things ahead of time will help to make things go more smoothly. As things come up or if people get busy during the growing season and you're having trouble getting in touch, the more you've discussed in advance, the better!

#### For the landholder to answer

**Time:** Are there particular times during the week when the garden space isn't available for tending?

**Tools:** Do you have tools to share? If so, what?

Where will they be stored and can they be accessed if you are not home? Can the gardener store their own tools and materials on site?

**Soil:** What is the existing soil like / do you know anything about past use of the space?

**Water:** Is there a water tap and a hose that reaches the garden space available for use?

**Length of availability:** How long does the landholder plan to make the space available? One season, as long as the arrangement works? Are there any reasons the space may not be available in the future?

#### To answer together - landholder and gardener(s)

##### WHAT WE WANT TO GROW (the fun part!!)

Make a list of vegetables/fruits/herbs that the people involved like eating.

*When making your plans about what to grow, take into account what you like to eat and your site conditions. Are the plants easy to grow and productive? Do you also want to include pollinator plants?*

**SHARING THE GARDENING WORK:** Sometimes the yard owners are involved in the gardening and sometimes they are not. If there are going to be multiple people sharing the work, it's important to figure out how that work is going to be shared.

**What is the best way to communicate with each other?** (phone, email, text, in person)

**What needs to happen for the initial site preparation?** How/what/when?

**How will watering be shared?**

**How will the ongoing maintenance be shared?** (weeding, re-planting, plant health)

**What are the expectations for garden maintenance and the appearance of the garden?**  
(removing unwanted plants, keeping spaces tidy)

**How will you control pests and keep the soil healthy?** You can decide together on what kinds of methods are acceptable.

**Who can make changes to what is planted?** For instance, if a type of plant isn't available, or some plants don't grow well and need to be replaced.

**Will you schedule a time or times to check in and talk about how the sharing arrangement is working?** For instance, after the garden is planted, mid-summer or monthly.

*You may consider a journal kept near the garden to make notes about work done/ observations.*

**HARVESTING:** How you split the harvest may depend on how the work and the costs are being shared, and on the needs of the individuals/families. The landholder should receive at least a small portion of the harvest as a thank you for offering the space, and more if the costs and work are also being shared. (30%-70% / 50-50 etc.)

**How will the harvest be shared?** Will you harvest together / both take as needed and keep each other in the loop / will gardener harvest some and leave on back doorstep for landholder?

**COSTS:** Try and estimate what costs will be involved in creating and maintaining the garden. Is soil amendment (triple mix / compost) needed to create the garden? Other costs may include tools, hose/watering can, plants, seeds, organic fertilizers / plant health products. Remember there are lots of ways to keep the cost down. If possible, we recommend that the landholder invests in the soil amendment costs as benefits will be had for many years to come.

## **PRIVACY and SECURITY CONSIDERATIONS**

**Who can enter the garden?** Consider children (of landholder and/or gardener), partners, friends, pets.

**What spaces can be used?** Such as shed/storage/washroom. There is no expectation that indoor space will be made available, it's a good idea to check out where the closest washroom is.

**How will the gardener gain entry?** Are there locks and gates?

**Does anyone have allergies relevant to the garden?**

**Are there any other preferences or concerns that need to be discussed?** Are there any concerns about eating in the space, drinking alcohol, smoking, music or other noise?

**Will the neighbours be informed that a gardener who doesn't live at the site will be coming to work there?**

**What steps will you take for COVID-19 safety?**

**Emergency contact information** for gardener(s), landholder if relevant:

**If there is a conflict, what steps will we take to resolve it?**

Both parties acknowledge that the Ontario Human Rights Code prohibits discrimination on the following grounds:

- Age
- Ancestry, colour, race
- Citizenship
- Ethnic origin
- Place of origin
- Creed
- Disability
- Family status
- Marital status (including single status)
- Gender identity, gender expression
- Sex (including pregnancy and breastfeeding)
- Sexual orientation.

<http://www.ohrc.on.ca/en/ontario-human-rights-code>