

# 2023

## ***"GET ROOTED"* IN STRATFORD COMMUNITY GARDENS**



**May 15 – October 31, 2023**

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## WELCOME TO THE STRATFORD COMMUNITY GARDENS: GENERAL INFORMATION

### What are the Gardens?

The Stratford Community Gardens opened in 2013 and is a joint project between the Town of Stratford and the Stratford Area Watershed Improvement Group (SAWIG), with external funding from the Wal-Mart Evergreen Fund and the Rotary Club of Charlottetown Royalty. The Town provides dedicated land for gardening, with plots rented to individual community members (one plot per household).



Today, the gardens have 93 various-sized plots available to residents and community organizations. 87 of the plots are located at the main Community Garden site across from Cotton Park on Bunbury Road, and the other 6 are located in Stonington.

The options and costs for 2023 are as follows:

- Small, raised beds (4 x 12) - \$30
- Small beds (6 x 12) - \$30
- Large beds (10 x 12, 10 x 16, & 10 x 20) - \$40
- Stonington plots (6 x 12) - \$15



### Purpose of the Gardens

Our goal is to provide residents with a positive social and physical space where they can garden, socialize, and enjoy the outdoors. In addition, growing food locally can reduce impacts of greenhouse gas emissions from transporting food and support food security.

### Community Garden Food Donation

Starting in Summer 2022 the Community Gardens began a program to grow produce to give away for free to the community. There are now two dedicated plots at the garden where Town of Stratford and SAWIG staff grow the produce. Produce can also be donated by gardeners who can not use all of what grew in their plots.





### Dates and Hours of Operation

The community garden is officially open from May 15 to October 31st from dawn to dusk. Children under twelve years of age must be accompanied by an adult. No pets are allowed within the designated garden area.

### Parking

Parking is allowed in the designated parking lot. Unauthorized vehicles are not allowed within the garden area, but please speak with staff if you need a more accessible parking location closer to your plot.

### Reserving and Renewing Your Plot

At the end of each season, returning gardeners will have right of first refusal, meaning we assume gardeners will be returning the following season and we will hold their plot until the payment deadline. An annual, non-refundable rental fee must be paid during dedicated renewal times below. Should returning gardeners not renew during the dedicated period, they will join the pool of gardeners that register as first-come-first-served.

- Returning gardeners who are residents of Stratford may renew between **January 9 and February 3, 2023**. *If fees have not been received by February 3 the gardener is not guaranteed a spot this year.*
- All returning gardeners (including those living outside the Town of Stratford) may renew between **January 23 and February 3, 2023**. *If fees have not been received by February 3 the gardener is not guaranteed a spot this year.*
- Priority reservation for all new gardeners who are residents of Stratford opens **February 13** and closes **February 17, 2023**.
- Reservation for all new gardeners opens **February 20** and closes **February 24, 2023**.
- If any plots are still available after February 24, we will assign plots on an individual basis.

Each gardener must attend a **mandatory initial garden meeting** each year for review of community garden rules and regulations. Failure to attend the meeting may result in the loss of your assigned garden plot. This meeting is also a chance for you to mingle and meet the other gardeners in your community! The meeting date for the 2023 season is:

**May 8, 2023, at the Stratford Emergency Services Centre.**

- **Plots 1 - 45 at 6pm**
- **Plots 46 – 87 and Stonington Plots at 7pm**

*The following guidelines are in place to help ensure the gardening season is safe, enjoyable, and successful for all gardeners!*

## GARDENING COURTESY AND COMMUNICATIONS

### General Courtesy Information

- The Gardens are drug and alcohol free. No smoking products of any kind or alcohol are allowed in or around the community garden.
- The Stratford Community Gardens is committed to a healthy, safe, and supportive environment for all individuals (including Town of Stratford/SAWIG Staff, Gardeners, and Members of the Public). All individuals have the right to garden in an environment free from harassment. Harassment or discrimination of any kind will result in the immediate revocation of the plot. This is up to the discretion of the Town of Stratford and Watershed Representative.

### Garden Theft

- There is always the risk of produce theft at the community gardens.
- To reduce the risk of theft, consider the following:
  - Theft may be unintentional – children should be supervised in the garden to ensure they are not picking other gardeners produce and loss of produce from animals such as crows and racoons may occur
  - Plant less familiar varieties that people may not want to pick (*i.e.*, yellow or purple tomatoes)
  - Plant root vegetables – vegetables growing in the ground are harder to harvest and less enticing those walking by
  - Harvest your produce as soon as it is ripe – or consider early harvest for produce that can ripen at home (*i.e.*, tomatoes)
  - Consider installing temporary fencing within your plot
  - Plant more than you need – donate the excess produce if it is not taken
  - Hide more desirable plants in a less visible location (*i.e.*, in the middle of your plot)



### Communication

- Owing to the number of plots in our gardens, our primary method of communication is email. We send out periodic reminders to all gardeners and reminders about maintenance to gardeners on a plot-by-plot basis. Please ensure you supply us an email address – if you do not have one, please provide an email address of a gardening partner that can be used.



- The primary staff members responsible for the Gardens are Kaylee Busniuk (SAWIG, Watershed Coordinator) and Maddy Crowell (Town of Stratford, Environmental Sustainability Coordinator). They can be reached by email: [stratfordcommunitygardens@gmail.com](mailto:stratfordcommunitygardens@gmail.com) or phone: [902-367-3605](tel:902-367-3605)
- Please report any vandalism or unsafe behaviour to the Town of Stratford at 902-569-1995.

### **PLANNING TIPS FOR YOUR GARDEN**

Before planting your garden, it is important to plan ahead. Here are a few helpful tips from the Town of Stratford Horticulturalist, Heidi Wood, to ensure your garden is a success this season:

- ★ Remove all weeds and ensure you pull out all parts of the root. This will help decrease the amount of weeding during the growing season and ensure your new seedlings have little to no competition.
- ★ Quality soil is essential in enabling your plants thrive. Work in a layer of compost over top of existing soil, this will naturally fertilize your plants, add nutrients, and provide for ideal drainage.
- ★ Most plants need 6-8 hours of sunlight. Positioning your garden in a North to South direction will maximize the amount of sun exposure. Plant larger plants like corn and tomatoes where they won't cast shade over shorter plants. Plants such as lettuce and spinach enjoy part sun and can be planted on the east side of these taller plants. Provide ample space between each plant and rows as noted on seed packages.
- ★ Companion planting where plants benefit from characteristics of other plants such as carrots and onions, is helpful in keeping your plants healthy. Keep these thoughts in mind while mapping out your garden.
- ★ Grow vegetables vertically to maximize your space such as beans or cucumbers.
- ★ If you grow fast maturing plants such as lettuce, you can plant several times throughout the season. Once harvested, sow another succession of seeds to get the most out of your space.
- ★ Plant what you know you can grow, maintain all season, and enjoy eating!



## PLOT RESPONSIBILITY

- Gardeners are responsible for all aspects of maintenance including planting, harvesting, weeding, and closing the gardens for the year.
- Gardeners must not enlarge or expand the plot space and remain on their assigned plot unless reallocated by the garden staff.
- The Community Garden does not allow synthetic pesticides (including insecticides, herbicides, and fungicides) or synthetic fertilizers.
- Plants growing taller than 4 feet (*i.e.*, sunflowers) need to be staked in place.
- All varieties of potatoes, perennials (plants that live more than two years), illegal plants, and highly invasive species (*i.e.*, purple loosestrife, garlic mustard, mint, lemon balm) are prohibited.
- Due to our short growing season and waitlist, gardeners are expected to begin working their plots by **June 15** or within two weeks of being assigned a plot mid-season. This means at minimum you should weed and till/loosen the soil in your plot, so it is ready to be planted.
- Due to quick growing weeds and ripening produce if a gardener is going to be away for more than two weeks, they must plan to have an alternate gardener tend to the plot.
  - **Plot Surrender**
    - If gardeners do not begin working their plot by the deadline or if the plot has been left untended for more than two weeks (without notice/explanation) the plot will be reallocated to next person on waiting list, the original gardener will surrender the plot (including rental fee) and **will not** be granted right of first refusal next year.
    - If notice is given and a gardener is unable to continue to garden/maintain the rented plot, the plot will be surrendered (including the rental fee) and allocated to the next person on the waiting list for the remainder of the season, however the original gardener **will be** granted right of first refusal next year.



## Plot Maintenance

- Lack of maintenance may result in loss of plot or security of plot in subsequent years. Prior to any action gardeners will be notified. If you have a maintenance concern, please contact us.
- Plots need to be worked on throughout the season and be kept in a tidy manner. Weeding should be conducted approximately once per week to avoid excess weeds and seeding of undesirable plants in garden.
- Gardeners must harvest produce regularly once ripe. Leaving fruits/vegetables to spoil, without notice or explanation from gardener, is considered neglect.
  - If a gardener cannot use all their harvest, there will be a designated **donation bin** in the shed. Donated produce will be offered to town residents for free.



- To help keep up with maintenance the plots will **be inspected on June 15, the first Wednesday of July, August, and September, and on November 1<sup>st</sup>** for the end of season inspection. See below for photo examples and the appendix for criteria used to evaluate your plot.
  - Email notifications will be sent to gardeners whose plots receive any “poor” scores or one or more of the following:
    - i. Mat of weeds or weeds spreading to pathways or neighbouring plots
    - ii. Produce spreading to pathways or neighbouring plots
    - iii. Weeds going to flower or seed
    - iv. Ripe, unharvested or rotting vegetables (*e.g.*, giant zucchinis)
    - v. Extremely stunted, wilted, or drought-stressed plants
    - vi. Unsecured plants over 4 feet tall
  - Gardeners must address these issues within 7 days or may lose gardening privileges and/or garden staff will address them for you. This could include pruning or snipping any part of plants outside of your assigned plot, harvesting produce at risk of becoming unusable, or removing unsecured plants over 4 feet tall.

### Examples of Proper Plot Maintenance

Below are examples of properly maintained and weeded gardens (including the outside edges of garden plot).

**1:** Example of properly weeded and healthy zucchini plants. **2, 3 & 4:** Examples of properly maintained and weeded garden beds.





## Examples of Improper Plot Maintenance



**Left:** Example of cherry tomatoes being left to spoil/overripen in the plot.

**Right:** Example of cucumbers and lettuce left to spoil/overripen in the plot.



**Left:** Example of overgrowth spilling into pathways and neighbouring plots.

**Right:** Example of overgrowth of tomato plants spilling into the pathways.



**Below:** Example of a plot left to be taken over by grasses. Frequent weeding will help to ensure your plot stays well maintained.



### Fall Clean-Up

- Plots must be tidied and prepared for winter by no later than **October 31** of each year. After October 31 any crops, equipment, or materials remaining shall be disposed of at the discretion of the Community Gardens staff.
- On November 1 the Community Gardens will conduct the end of season assessment (see appendix for criteria). Any renter who did not clean up and prepare the plot by October 31 may be denied a plot for the next gardening season.



### Examples of Properly Cleaned-Up Plots

**Right:** All plots are free of rotten/unusable produce, salvageable/usable produce, less than 25% of soil surface is weeds, most plot edges are free of weeds, all fruit/vegetable plants have been removed, and all structures are removed from the plots.



### Examples of Improperly Cleaned-Up Plots

The photos below show examples of uncleaned plots. **1 & 2** show extreme examples of plots that have multiple structures, unusable and usable produce, fruit/vegetable plants remaining, and significant weeds. **3 & 4** show plots that have been mostly cleaned out, but have had some structures and plant material left behind.





## SUSTAINABLE GARDENING

- Synthetic fertilizers are prohibited in the Community Gardens; therefore, we typically supply compost at the beginning of each season for communal use. Please follow instructions sent by email or posted on site regarding compost.
- Non-synthetic materials such as straw and leaves can be used as mulch to suppress weeds and conserve water. Please do not use wood chips or sawdust.
- Plant a diverse garden! A variety of plants will contribute to better soil health, decrease risk of disease, and increase the probability of a good harvest, should one variety not perform well.
- Use only the minimum amount of water required; keep watering times to early morning or evening to avoid losing water to evaporation.



## PEST AND DISEASE MANAGEMENT

- Pests and disease often target stressed plants, so the best management is proper tending of your garden. This includes ensuring it is getting sufficient moisture, air flow, and pruning/thinning.
- Common pathogens include:

- **Japanese beetle**

- i. These are an invasive species that are rapidly spreading on PEI. In summer 2022 we often found them on bean plants.
- ii. Proper management includes squishing them when you see them or shaking them off the plant into soapy water. Morning is the best time of day to do this as they are slower due to cooler temperatures.
- iii. This is a link to the information page on the PEI Invasive Species Council Website:

<https://peiinvasives.com/japanese-beetle/>



- **Powdery mildew**

- i. Powdery mildew is the name for a group of fungi that appear like a white or grey dust on plants. It is found most commonly on squash, zucchini, and cucumbers.
- ii. Management includes pruning affected leaves to increase air flow or spraying plants thoroughly with a mixture of 1 teaspoon baking soda to 4 cups of water.





**Left:** Extreme example of powdery mildew.

**Right:** Example of powdery mildew next to healthy leaves.



### ○ **Tomato blight**

- i. First symptoms of blight are irregularly shaped, water-soaked lesions on leaves, often with a lighter halo or ring around them. During periods of high humidity, white cottony growth may be visible on the underside of the leaf. Blight can also attack the fruit.
- ii. Our recommendations are to:
  1. Remove any diseased leaves from the plant (and from the ground) and put them into the compost pile. If it is a severe case, we suggest you strongly consider removing infected plants.
  2. Thin your tomato plants to space them appropriately. The space will make it slightly more difficult for diseases to spread quickly, and the airflow will keep the plants dry.
  3. After removing the diseased leaves, a spray can be made by combining a heaping tablespoon of baking soda, a teaspoon of vegetable oil, and a small amount of mild soap to a gallon of water and spray the tomato plants with this solution. It is important you spray this solution in the morning and when it is dry outside.



### ○ **Flea Beetle**

- i. Flea beetles are often found on crops including radishes, broccoli, cabbage, brussels sprouts, peppers and spinach.
- ii. Two common species occurring in PEI are pigweed flea beetle and eggplant flea beetle



Actual size of Eggplant flea beetle  
Photo: David Cappaert

- iii. Flea beetles cause crop damage by chewing holes into the leaves - severe damage typically occurs when plants are small and can cause wilted or stunted plants.

- iv. Suggested management includes:

1. Use row covers to keep beetles out when seedlings are small.
2. A homemade remedy includes 2 cups isopropyl alcohol, 5 cups water, and 1 tablespoon liquid soap. \*Test this mixture on a small part of your crop first to ensure no adverse effects on the crop



- o **Cucumber Beetle**

- i. Cucumber beetles are often found on young cucumber and zucchini plants. They can fly to move between plants, and they lay eggs just below the soil surface under plants.
- ii. The beetles eat the new growth, before the plant's leaves become pricklier as they get larger and can kill the plants before they become established.
- i. Suggested management includes:



1. Laying row cover (white fabric material- can be purchased at any garden supply store) over newly planted cucumber and/or zucchini plants so that the beetles won't land on the plants
2. If the beetles are already on the plants or in the soil, lay row cover and check for beetles 1 – 2 times per day. Eliminate (squish or put into a small container with isopropyl alcohol) any cucumber beetles that you find- check the underside of leaves and on top of the soil just under the plant. Continue this process for a couple of weeks until the plants grow large, prickly leaves and then the cucumber beetles shouldn't cause any more damage.

## Perennials You Didn't Plant Growing in Your Plot?

- In previous years, some gardeners have planted prohibited perennial species including mint, lemon balm, and strawberries, which grow and spread very quickly and can easily take over your plot. We encourage all gardeners to actively manage these plants if they are growing in your plot to try to eradicate them.
- Tips to manually eradicate lemon balm, mint, and strawberries:
  1. Moisten the soil and loosen the soil underneath the plant with a garden trowel/fork
  2. Remove all roots. Dispose of the plants in a garbage can. **Do not** put these in the compost pile – sending them in the garbage will incinerate the plants and not allow them to spread further.
  3. Mulch or cover the area to prevent regrowth. Mulch must be applied about 3 inches thick. Alternatives include black plastic or newspaper – ensuring the plastic/newspaper is secured and will not blow away.

- Tips to chemically eradicate lemon balm and mint:
  - **\*\*REMEMBER\*\*** synthetic herbicides are prohibited.
  - \*Note this mixture will kill other plants it comes in contact with\* A solution with a ratio of 2 cups of salt, 1 teaspoon of dish soap and 1 gallon of vinegar may work with frequent applications.

## PATHWAYS AND BORDERS

- To keep the garden site accessible and safe, all pathways must be kept clear and free of obstacles including tools and equipment and plants growing from your plot.
- Gardeners are responsible for weeding the outside edges of their plot in the pathways to assist us with keeping the pathways clear.

## COMPOST AND TRASH

- All waste (garden and synthetic) and recyclables should be placed in proper containers/areas.
- White buckets are available to put weeds and other plant material in while at your plot. Please bring the buckets back to the shed and empty the plant material on the compost pile behind the shed. Please do not leave plant material in the buckets.

## TOOLS, SHED, AND HOSES

- Respect all tools and property. Tools in the shed are communal and available to all gardeners.
- Community garden tools must be put away and locked in the shed. If you are the last person leaving the gardens, please **double check the shed is locked**, even if you haven't used it.
- Tools should be stored on the shelving unit in the buckets or hung on the shed wall.
- If a tool breaks, please let us know immediately so we can either replace it or remove it.
- The tiller will be available for use from **May 15 to June 15**. If you are unsure of how to use the tiller, please see the instructions in the appendix. If another gardener is around using the tiller, consider asking them if they could show you how it works. If you are still unsure, please contact us to make arrangements for instruction.
- Please do not leave personal tools on-site.
- Gardeners are welcome to bring temporary trellises, tomato cages, and other garden structures to use for the season. These need be removed from your plot each year by closing day, October 31. Structures in good working order may be placed neatly in the shed for use next year.





## Hoses

- Please **do not drop the hose nozzle on the ground** – this causes the nozzles to break.
- When winding the hoses ensure you are going slow and steady. Follow these helpful tips:
  - Keep the water turned ON until the hose is wound up. This keeps pressure on the hose to hold its shape and not kink as it winds.
  - Don't use the reel to drag the hose in! Pull the hose toward the reel as you wind, so that the hose is not wound so tight that it kinks.
  - Fix kinks and tangles as you wind.
  - Once you are done winding up the hose turn the water OFF.
- Please ensure the valve/spigots are turned off when you are done. If you see another hose on or leaking, please let us know.



These rules/guidelines may be amended from time to time by the Town of Stratford without notice.

***HAPPY GARDENING!***



## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q. I have a large family; can I have a second plot?

A. Unfortunately, no. We are only able to allocate one plot per household. Occasionally, during the season we have plots that can be temporarily given to another gardener. If this is something you are interested in, please email us to be put on a waitlist.



Q. Can I have a larger plot?

A. Returning gardeners interested in a larger plot can be put on a waitlist for a larger plot once they become available. New gardeners typically will be given a small plot for their first year.

Q. Do you provide compost to gardeners?

A. Yes, we typically get a load of compost delivered to the gardens each spring. Check your emails or look for signage posted on site for more information.

Q. Why can't I keep plants in my garden over the winter or plant perennials/biennials?

A. We do not allow plants to overwinter in the gardens or planting of perennials/biennials because gardeners may switch plots or not coming back the next year, which can cause issues when a new gardener gets to their plot and finds unwanted plants growing.

Q. How do I keep the weeds at bay without using herbicides?

A. There are a few methods! Frequent manual removal is the most common – weeding once per week keeps the weed population low. In addition, you may decide to cover the exposed soil with natural mulch or landscape fabric. Any landscaping fabric must be removed at the end of the season.

Q. I have been gardening my own way for a long time, why do I have to adjust my methods now?

A. Since each gardener is renting plots at the community garden, they must follow our rules and guidelines. We understand it can be frustrating to change your methods, however, we have over 90 plots for rent so we can't make exceptions for single plots.

Q. I don't know how to use the tiller – can you help me learn?

A. Yes, please send us an email or call us and we can set up a time to meet you at the garden to help. We do not have the capacity to till your garden for you, but other gardeners may be willing to help if you ask around or put a message up in the shed!

Q. I have too many tomatoes (or other produce) – what do I do with them, so they don't go to waste?

A. In the shed we will have a dedicated bin that is for produce donations. Please put the produce in the bin and garden staff will donate it to the community!

- Q. I received an email requesting maintenance to be performed on my plot (i.e., weeding or pruning) and I disagree with your decision. Who can I talk to?
- A. Please let us know right away if you disagree with our decision by replying to our email. Please outline why you disagree, and our staff will take your comments into consideration and provide a response. If the issue is not a safety concern, we may be able to work with you to come up with a compromise.







# Stratford Community Gardens Application Form/Contract



<b>First Name</b>		<b>Last Name</b>	
<b>Names of Additional Family Members/Gardening Partners</b>			
<b>Address</b>		<b>Apt/Suite</b>	<b>Phone #</b>
<b>City</b>		<b>Postal Code</b>	<b>New Gardener</b>
			<b>YES      NO</b>
<b>Email Address</b> *Needed for all new gardeners– if you don't have one, please provide a gardening partner's email address*			

I understand that permission to work in a community garden is a privilege and will be granted subject only to compliance with the terms and conditions outlined, as well as adherence to the rules set forth on this form and the Garden Handbook. I understand and agree that:

Initials of Gardener      Initials of Garden Staff

_____	_____	This permit is not assignable or transferable.
_____	_____	This agreement covers the period of May 15-October 31.
_____	_____	No synthetic chemicals are allowed on any garden plot within the community gardens.
_____	_____	I am expected to begin working my plots by <b>June 15</b> or within two weeks of being assigned a plot mid-season.
_____	_____	Plots must always be kept well maintained; weeding must be conducted on a regular basis. Plots will be inspected on June 15 and the first Wednesday of July, August, and September– should action be needed, I must address issues within 7 days.
_____	_____	I must harvest my produce regularly once ripe and not leave it to spoil within my plot.
_____	_____	I must clear and prepare my plot for winter by no later than <b>October 31</b> of each year. Plots will be inspected on November 1. If I did not clean up and prepare my plot by October 31, they I may be denied a plot for the next gardening season.



## Stratford Community Gardens Application Form/Contract



Initials of Gardener    Initials of Garden Staff

\_\_\_\_\_    \_\_\_\_\_ Harassment of any kind may result in the reallocation of my plot to next person on waiting list and I may be denied a plot for the next gardening season.

\_\_\_\_\_    \_\_\_\_\_ I will have right of first refusal on my plot year to year, provided I have abided by the Rules as laid out in the Garden Handbook and continue to meet the eligibility requirements. I understand that I will not receive my plot if I have not renewed and paid by my respective deadline for the new gardening year.

\_\_\_\_\_    \_\_\_\_\_ If I do not comply with the above conditions this contract may be considered void and/or my plot will not be reserved for next season.

\_\_\_\_\_    \_\_\_\_\_ Signing this agreement releases the Town of Stratford and the Stratford Area Watershed Improvement Group from any liability, financial or otherwise, which may result from negligence or the inappropriate use of power and hand tools, either by me or by guests of mine.

I therefore agree to indemnify and hold harmless the Town of Stratford from and against any and all claims and proceedings in respect to any injury to myself or damage to my property that occurs in connection with the use of the garden by myself, my family, associates, or any other of my guests.

Signature of Gardener: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Town/SAWIG Staff: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

OFFICE USE ONLY	
Assigned Plot #:	Rental Fee Paid? (Y/N)
Rental Fee Amount:	Authorized Signature:

## APPENDIX

### Mid-Season Garden Assessment Criteria:

	Excellent	Fair	Poor
<b>Rotten/Unusable Produce</b>	Completely free of rotten/unusable produce	Few scattered pieces of rotten/unusable produce	Many pieces of rotten/unusable produce
<b>Pathway Edges</b>	All 4 edges clear of weeds	2-3 edges clear of weeds	1 or no edges clear of weeds
<b>Garden Weeds</b>	Scattered weeds (less than 25% of soil surface), none going to flower/seed	Over 50% of soil surface covered in weeds, few going to flower/seed	Mat of weeds, weeds spreading to pathways or neighboring plots, or over 50% of weeds going to flower/seed
<b>Overgrowth</b>	Plants completely contained within garden bed	Some plants threatening to escape garden plot	Plants growing into the pathways or other beds
<b>Disease/Plant Death</b>	No evidence of disease, no dead present	Some evidence of disease or signs of attempted management, or scattered dead plants	Significant disease present with no signs of attempted management or over 50% of plants dead
<b>Secured</b>	Plants over 4ft are secured reliably	Plants are secured but not reliably	Plants over 4ft unsecured

### End of Season Garden Assessment Criteria:

	Excellent	Fair	Poor
<b>Rotten Produce</b>	Plot is completely free of rotten/unusable produce.	Few scattered pieces of rotten/unusable produce left in plot.	Many pieces of rotten/unusable produce left in plot.
<b>Salvageable/Usable Produce</b>	Plot is completely free salvageable/usable produce.	Few scattered pieces of salvageable/usable produce left in plot.	Many pieces of salvageable/usable produce left in plot.
<b>Pathway Edges</b>	All 4 edges clear of weeds	2-3 edges clear of weeds	1 or no edges clear of weeds
<b>Garden Weeds</b>	Scattered weeds (less than 25% of soil surface), none going to flower/seed	Over 50% of soil surface covered in weeds, few going to flower/seed	Mat of weeds, weeds spreading to pathways or neighboring plots, or over 50% of weeds going to flower/seed
<b>Plants</b>	All fruit/vegetable plants have been removed from the plot.	Some fruit/vegetable plants have been removed from the plot.	Few or no fruit/vegetable plants have been removed from the plot.
<b>Structures</b>	All structures ( <i>i.e.</i> , trellis, tomato cages, stakes, string, garden ornaments) have been removed from the plot and adjacent area.	Scattered or single items are still ( <i>i.e.</i> , string or tomato cage) in the plot and adjacent area.	Few or no structures ( <i>i.e.</i> , trellis, tomato cages, stakes, string, garden ornaments) have been removed from the plot and adjacent area.



## QUICK START INSTRUCTIONS FOR TILLER USE

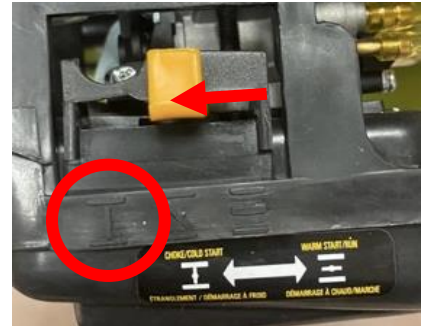
\*For more detailed instructions see next section - Full instruction manual available in shed\*

### Starting a Cold Engine

**(Use this method if no one has used the tiller right before you)**

1. Place the rototiller on a flat surface
2. Move the ignition switch to the "ON" position
3. Move the choke lever to the 'cold start' position
4. Press the primer bulb slowly **6** times
5. Grab the recoil starter handle with your right hand, support the rototiller with your left hand (and one foot if needed) & pull sharply until engine starts
6. After the engine starts and runs for 10-15 seconds, move choke lever to "run/warm start" position

**WARM START UP:** Follow instructions as above, except you put the choke lever to the 'run/warm start position' to begin. Warm start-up is only used if tiller has been very recently used and is 'warmed up'.



## WHEEL HEIGHT INSTRUCTIONS

1. To adjust the wheel height on the tiller, unscrew the yellow knob on the back
2. For transport to and from your plot, move the wheels to the lowest setting and tighten the yellow knob
3. For tilling, move the wheels to the top setting and tighten the yellow knob
4. Pull lever on right handle to start tilling





## DETAILED INSTRUCTIONS

### Instructions for the **Radley 43cc 2 Cycle Front Tine Rototiller**

#### **A) ADDING FUEL TO ROTOTILLER**

- 1. Call the Town of Stratford or SAWIG to do this!**

#### **B) STARTING THE ENGINE**

##### Starting a Cold Engine

1. Place the Rototiller on a flat surface
2. Move the ignition switch to the “on” position (figure 1)
3. Move the choke lever to the ‘cold start’ position (figure 2)
4. Press the primer bulb slowly **6** times (figure 3)
5. Grab the recoil starter handle with your right hand, and support the rototiller with your left hand (figure 4)
6. Pull the recoil starter handle sharply until the engine starts and runs
7. After the engine starts and runs for 10-15 seconds, move choke lever to “run/warm start” position (figure 2)

#### **C) STARTING A WARM ENGINE**

1. Place the Rototiller on a flat surface
2. Move the ignition switch to the “on” position (figure 1)
3. Move the choke lever to the ‘run/warm start position’ (figure 2)
4. Grab the recoil starter handle with your right hand and support the rototiller with your left hand. (Figure 4)
5. Pull the recoil starter handle sharply until the engine starts and runs

#### **D) STARTING A FLOODED ENGINE**

1. Place the Rototiller on a flat surface
2. Move the ignition switch to the “on” position (figure 1)
3. Move the choke lever to the ‘run/warm start position’ (figure 2)
4. Hold the throttle trigger fully depressed in a fast position (figure 6)
5. Pull the recoil starter handle repeatedly until engine starts and runs. This could require pulling the recoil starter handle many times, depending on how badly the unit is flooded
6. If the engine still does not start, allow the unit to sit for about 15 minutes and repeat steps 1-5

## E) ADJUSTING THE ENGINE SPEED

NOTE: this rototiller is equipped with a centrifugal clutch, so the tines will not turn until the engine speed is increased. To increase the engine speed, lift the throttle trigger. To slow the engine down, slowly release the throttle trigger. Completely releasing the throttle lever will return the engine to idle and will stop the tines from rotating

## F) STOPPING THE ENGINE

1. Release the throttle trigger and allow the engine to idle for a few moments (figure 6)
2. Move the ignition switch to the 'stop' position (Figure 1)



Figure 1



Figure 2





Figure 2



Figure 3



Figure 5



Figure 4