

Fairacres Road allotments - Notes for guidance

Welcome to the allotments! We hope you enjoy your time here. **Please read the Constitution and Rules** as well as these notes. We are an association and as such, along with having a plot to cultivate, there are certain obligations to help maintain the whole site. We do not employ anyone, so we all need to help mow paths, cut hedges, and assist in special projects. **You are expected to contribute a minimum of 2 hours a year to working parties.** Do check your plot regularly so as to keep on top of it. Weeds grow very fast! The committee inspects the site monthly and may contact you if they have any cause for concern.

PLEASE:

- **Keep your plot cultivated and weed free.** Make sure your plants do not overhang paths. **Leave paths clear** of all bags, tools, weeds, stones etc.
- If your plot borders a hedge, leave a gap along the hedge for people to gain access to the hedge for cutting.
- Maintain the soil fertility with regular use of compost or manure.

Keep all paths round your plot mown and the edges trimmed. You obviously share this task with neighbouring plot holders, but do not assume they will cut them. There is a petrol strimmer and a mower in the shed for communal use. **Ask Rodas for a demonstration or advice about these.** If they go wrong please let Rodas know. If you don't know Rodas, please contact a member of the Committee.

It is advisable to have a proper CONTAINER FOR COMPOST on your plot that is kept covered to stop weeds from continuing to grow. An uncovered mound is not recommended as it is a continuing source of weeds.

- **Green waste and annuals** should be composted
- **Perennial weeds, such as bindweed and couch-grass, usually continue to grow if put on a compost heap.** It is better to **bag them in large rubble bags** and take to the tip.
- **Woody cuttings** from fruit bushes may be burned if dry.

Please keep bonfires to an absolute minimum. They should not be used as your normal method of weed disposal. Do not burn any wet or green material. We need to be considerate of local residents and asthma sufferers. If you are going to have one, please do not light it before **dusk** and even then only when the wind is blowing away from Fairacres Road. There are **incinerators at the near the shed for general use. You can take one to your plot to use, but please return afterwards. Please ensure the bonfire is completely out before you leave it.**

We STRONGLY urge people to work organically. If you need to cover part of your plot for a while, either use cardboard/newspaper/black plastic and mulch. **Do not use carpet** as it contains toxic chemicals and can become embedded with weeds.

You MUST lock the gate if you think you are the last out. Keep tools out of sight. We periodically have trouble with break-ins.

The **polytunnel** is for everyone's use for starting off seeds. Please follow any notes for guidance that are displayed.

Your children are welcome, but come on as your responsibility. They **must not cross or go on to other people's plots or play with hose pipes.** Please be aware there are many potential hazards on site. **Your first season is a probationary period** to see whether you are able to maintain the plot satisfactorily.

Watch out for announcements on the notice board, website or sent by email. **Happy digging!**

FAIRACRES ROAD ALLOTMENTS – DO'S AND DON'TS

(SEE OVER FOR DETAILS)

DO

- ✓ **Make full and good use of your plot**
- ✓ **Mow or trim the adjoining paths**
- ✓ **Compost in bins or covered enclosures**
- ✓ **Take woody waste to the tip rather than burning it**
- ✓ **Cover your plot if you're going away for a while**
- ✓ **Lock the gate when you leave**
- ✓ **Keep an eye on your children**
- ✓ **Use the polytunnel – but read the rules first**
- ✓ **Give 2 hours a year to a working party**

DON'T

- ✗ **Allow perennial weeds to flourish**
- ✗ **Let your plants overhang the paths**
- ✗ **Allow weeds to grow on uncovered heaps**
- ✗ **Burn green waste**
- ✗ **Use carpet for covering**
- ✗ **Leave tools in full view**
- ✗ **Let your children play on other people's plots**
- ✗ **Expect others to clear your dead plants from the tunnel**
- ✗ **Dump rubbish/bring household waste to the site for disposal**