

**Pelham Community Garden at Merriam Farm  
2025 Gardener's Agreement**

**Rules, Terms, and Conditions for Participating**

1. For the 2025 growing season, individual plots of 15 ft.x 15ft are available. Garden plots will be assigned on a first come, first serve basis each growing season with the following priority: (1) Handicap Accessible, (2) Pelham residents; (3) previous gardeners. Gardeners may request additional plots if available. Please note that there will be four (4) handicap plots available on a first come first serve basis.  
Do you need a handicap accessible plot? Y / N
2. The Pelham Agricultural Commission through the Pelham Parks and Recreation Department will begin to process applications on *April 25, 2025*. You will be informed of your acceptance in the garden via email, phone and mail. Once the spring garden preparation has been completed, plot numbers will be emailed to the gardeners, normally the first week of *May 1, 2025*.
3. The garden will officially be opened on May 31, 2025, and the garden will close by the end of the day October 18, 2025.
4. The annual fee for the Pelham Community Garden is Twenty-Five Dollars (\$25.00) and any and all payment shall be made at the Pelham Park and Recreation office located at the Town Hall. Checks should be made payable to the Town of Pelham.
5. Please keep in mind the following when planting your garden. Some plants cannot tolerate cold evenings and need to be covered in case of cool temperatures. Plants started from seed should be conditioned to the outside before planting. Bring the plants outside for an hour or two during the day, for a day or two before planting. Make sure you water your plants often during the first few weeks. They need extra water until their roots are established. Think before you plant! When mature, tall plants should not shade neighboring plants. Gardeners normally visit the garden 3-5 times a week during the spring planting.
6. Once plants are established, gardeners must tend their plots by weeding, watering, and harvesting. Mulches that are permitted include straw, grass clippings, and untreated wood chips **ONLY**. The following items are not permitted in any garden plots at any time: latex colored bark, mulch (i.e black, red, brown or black); colored newspaper; rubber matting; weed barrier cloth containing synthetic products. Use of fungicides, herbicides, insecticides or

pesticides is not allowed. Water is to be brought to site by hand until a water source is established. Unattended watering or using hoses is prohibited.

7. Only organic products are permitted – See OMRI link for references.

<https://www.omri.org/omri-lists>

8. I will have something planted by June 15, 2025, and keep it planted for the entire growing season. If I must abandon my garden plot for any reason, I will notify the Pelham Park and Recreation Department and the Pelham Agricultural Commission via email as soon as possible. The plots will then be given back to the community garden.
9. I will keep weeds at a minimum and maintain the areas immediately surrounding my garden plot, if any. I will carry out all trash, litter, and weed material out of the garden area, as well as from adjacent pathways. Any rocks that I excavate from the ground will be removed to a designated offsite area and not placed or piled in walkways or used as edging of my garden plot.
10. If my garden plot becomes unkept, I understand that I will be given ten (10) days' notice by the Pelham Agricultural Commission to clean up the plot. At the end of the ten (10) day period, the plot will be re-assigned or tilled at the Pelham Agricultural Commissions discretion.
11. At the end of the growing season, I will participate in the group cleanup of the garden area and agree to volunteer time or talents towards community garden efforts.
12. I will pick up my own crops unless given permission by another garden plot owners.
13. I will not bring pets into the garden area. Only service animals are allowed. Children must always be accompanied by an adult when in the garden area.
14. The Pelham Agricultural Commission and all community gardeners are tenants of the Merriam Farm property. We must respect all the no parking signs, walking trails and Blue Bird Area that skirt the garden edges. The parking area is open to all gardeners. So that we may continue to use the Merriam Farm property, please be respectful and mindful of the abutting properties as well as the property as a whole.

15. I will be considerate of all gardeners. I will not plant crops that might interfere or shade other garden plots. I will keep all my plants within the limits of my garden plot.
16. Composting at your garden and or on site is not permitted.
17. I understand that the garden is permitted to hand watering only and shall bring in my own water source until a water source is established on the property.
18. I will not bring household trash nor leave empty planting containers or labels at the garden.
19. I understand that neither the Pelham Community Garden nor the Town of Pelham, NH is responsible for my actions or those of my guests.
20. Garden operations must be conducted safely. I will follow the Best Management Practices for Agriculture in New Hampshire.

**I THEREFORE AGREE TO HOLD HARMLESS THE PELHAM COMMUNITY GARDEN, AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION OR THE TOWN OF PELHAM FOR ANY LIABILITY, DAMAGE, LOSS OR CLAIM THAT OCCURS IN CONNECTION WITH THE USE OF THE COMMUNITY GARDEN BY ME OR ANY OF MY GUESTS.**

I have read all the rules, terms, and conditions of the Pelham Community Garden. I promise to follow them in good conscience. I understand that failure to abide by these rules could result in forfeiture of my assigned garden plot and any garden donations and or payment thereof.

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone (required):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email (required):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

Office Use Only:    Date received: \_\_\_\_\_    Plot Number(s) Assigned: \_\_\_\_\_

Payment information:    Check    Cash    Check No. \_\_\_\_\_

Office Staff Member Signature: \_\_\_\_\_