



NEW ALRESFORD TOWN COUNCIL

Alresford Recreation Centre, The Avenue, Alresford, Hampshire, SO24 9EP
Tel: 01962 732079 Website: www.newalresford-tc.gov.uk

ALLOTMENT RULES

1 Use of Land

The plot must be used for the cultivation of fruit and vegetables for personal use. Up to 25% of the plot may be used for cultivated flowers for personal use. Selling produce from the allotment plot is not permitted. The plot holder is responsible for their plot.

2 Cultivation and condition of plot

A new plot holder must cultivate the allotment to an agreed standard - 50% of the land available for cultivation within the first six months, and 75% thereafter. All plot holders are required to cultivate a minimum 75% of their plot during the growing season. Tenants are required to maintain their plot in a good and tidy condition.

3 Allotment Society

Membership of the Alresford Allotment Society is mandatory for all plot holders. Membership fees are payable annually and will be collected with the annual rent by NATC.

4 Access to the sites and vehicles

The car parks at Spring Gardens and Watercress Gardens Allotment sites are for the use of plot holders. Plot holders must ensure that if they are the last to leave, the gate is closed behind them. Vehicles must be driven and parked sensibly, causing no obstruction or inconvenience to other plot holders. Vehicles are only allowed in the car park while the plot holder is in attendance. Overnight parking is not allowed.

Parking for the Watercress Gardens allotment site is in fenced land adjacent to the Watercress Farm. There is absolutely **no** parking in the entrance area to the Watercress Farm. This is private land.

There is no parking on the Watercress Gardens allotment site, with the exception of a 15 minute loading bay by the entrance. There is a right of way for others through the land that must not be blocked.

5 Water management

The use of sprinklers is **not** permitted at the allotments. Hosepipes and trickle hoses are

permitted, but only when the plot holder is present. Where possible, and where there is a building on site, plot holders must install water butts and use this as a water supply in the first instance.

The water supply is switched off during the winter months (November – March). If a severe frost is forecast the Council reserve the right to extend this period.

If there is any damage to the water supply or pipes it is to be reported to NATC immediately

6 Buildings

The erection of sheds or greenhouses will only be permitted after prior consultation and written agreement by the Council. Buildings must be no larger than 1.8 metres by 2.4 metres (6ft by 8 ft) and be of purpose-built construction. All building must be at ground level and concrete bases are not permitted. Sheds and greenhouses should be adequately maintained and should be used solely for storing materials for use on the allotment. No other buildings are permitted.

All buildings must have a device fitted such as a water butt, minimum size 50 Litres which enables the collection of rainwater.

7 Plot Boundaries and Paths

Plot holders are required to assist in the maintenance of adjoining paths. Grass paths should be kept clean by regular cutting and kept free of weeds. Plot holders must not obstruct paths and must keep them clear of trip hazards.

Boundary lines between allotments must be kept clear of weeds, stinging nettles and climbers. All hedges on plots must be kept properly cut and trimmed by the plot holder.

No fences or hedges are to be put up without written agreement from the Council and the use of barbed wire is prohibited

8 Fruit trees and cages

Plot holders are responsible for the trees on their plot. No trees other than fruit trees shall be planted on plots or allowed to self sow. Fruit trees grown on your plot must not exceed 1.5 metres in height and it is recommended that you choose dwarf fruit trees from the supplier. Before planting a fruit tree, consider its position relative to neighbouring plots and footpaths. They must not cause a nuisance in terms of shading or overhang footpaths or boundaries and consideration must be given to the size of the area the roots will cover. If fruit trees are planted near to a boundary they must be planted as a 'step over' and kept at a low level below 50 cm.

Fruit cages must not exceed 2.3 metres in height and shall be proportionate, well-constructed and maintained. Every effort should be made to ensure they do not cast shade on neighbouring plots. Concrete footings are not permitted.

In order to prevent birds becoming trapped in fruit cages, plot holders must carry out checks

on the integrity of their cages every time they visit the Allotment Gardens.

Outside of the fruit season, fruit cages must be left open with a clear and easy exit for wildlife at all times.

In the event that a bird is seen inside a fruit cage, other plot holders should assume that the cage is compromised and open it and leave it wide open in order to release the bird and prevent more being trapped inside. They should contact the Chairman of the Allotment Society to report this, giving the plot number. A Committee member will notify the plot holder, who must take immediate action to carry out effective repairs and confirm to the Chairman accordingly. In the event of persistent non-compliance by that plot holder the Council will be informed and the Council may notify them to remove their cage permanently.

9 Trees and hedges

Trees and hedges at the Allotment sites (not on plots) shall not be cut, pruned or lopped by plot holders. Plot holders must contact the Council if there is an issue or concern with a tree or hedge at the site.

10 Ponds

Small wildlife ponds no greater than 1 metre square and 30cm deep, are permitted so long as they are a minimum of 1 metre from the plot boundary.

11 Dogs and Children

Dogs brought onto the site are the responsibility of the owner and must always be kept under control. They must not foul or cause a nuisance or present a health and safety issue to other persons on the allotment site.

Children must be supervised at all times.

12 Livestock and bees

No bees or livestock are to be kept at the Allotments.

13 Bonfires, bbqs and lighting

Bonfires, bbqs and outdoor fireplaces such as chimineas and firepits are not permitted on the allotment sites.

No artificial lighting is to be used in the Allotment Gardens, whether for decorative or any other purpose.

14 Vermin

Plot holders must maintain their plots in a manner that discourages vermin from forming nests. No plot holder is allowed to set their own traps or to put down poison. Plot holders are responsible for the removal of vermin/insect nest on their plot and any associated cost for their removal.

NATC must be informed of any vermin infestation.

15 Chemicals

NATC encourage all plot holders to utilise organic and environmentally sound methods of pest and disease control, but it recognises that it is not always possible to do so. Plot holders must take proper precautions when using sprays/liquids to avoid adverse effects on the environment or on neighbouring plots. Chemicals must only be used, stored and disposed of in accordance with the law and manufacturer's instructions.

16 Waste

Only the composting of plant material is allowed on the Allotment sites. All other waste material must be removed from the site and disposed of in an appropriate manner.

17 Liability and Insurance

The allotment sites are covered by the Council's public liability insurance, however this only covers claims that are deemed to fall under the Council's responsibility, such as infrastructure including paths and boundary hedging and fencing. Plot holders are responsible for any other liability arising from their use of the Allotment Gardens and for the security of sheds and their contents as well as providing insurance cover for them.

18 Duty of Care

The plot holder has a duty of care even when not on site. The plot holder shall take care when using machinery, store tools safely and not leave any hole uncovered or unprotected so as to constitute a hazard. The Council accepts no responsibility for loss or damage to property or produce, or personal injury however caused.

19 Disputes/Nuisance

Abusive, aggressive, threatening or confrontational behaviour towards the Council's representatives, adjoining owners or occupiers of the Allotment Plots will not be tolerated.

Plot holder will not enter, take or remove any plants, crops or materials from other Allotment Plots without the Tenant's permission.

Any disputes, questions or issues between plot holders, or with adjoining landowners/householders, which cannot be resolved amicably shall be referred to the Council. The Council's decision will be final in all cases. Failure to abide by these rules and/or the Council's decision may result in a termination of the tenancy.