

# Common rules of Pelgu community garden



You are welcomed to be a community gardener!

Together, in our garden, we make sure that carrots and dill gather strength, as well as a green way of thinking and a sense of community.

## 1. Main contacts and communication information

- Manager of the garden is MTÜ Pelguaed.
- For questions, suggestions or any queries, please contact: [info@pelguaed.eu](mailto:info@pelguaed.eu)
- In case of urgent matters, please contact:
  - Martin Pennaste (+372 53425638, in Estonian and English) or
  - Ott Luigas (+372 53030138, in Estonian and English).
- Important announcements are sent to members' e-mails.
- General meetings of all members are held at least twice a year (spring and autumn), where we discuss current topics, seasonal activities and future plans.
- We review the rules and regulations together at the annual general meeting in the second half of the year.
- Pelguaed is located on the land which is owned by North Tallinn City District Administration, who holds the responsibility for general maintenance of the area.

## 2. General principles and rules of the garden

- In the community garden, together, the members grow the plants they like, while the focus is on edible, medical or otherwise useful plants.
- The community garden is part of the public space of the Pollinator Highway's (Putukaväil) green area and is open to all other interested guests who are not members.
- The greenhouse, some common gardening beds, compost boxes and other common garden equipment (e.g. shed, barbecue) are shared by all members.
- According to the wishes of the members and the possibilities of the garden, the members can get a gardening box or plot for their personal use for growing plants (hereinafter collectively referred to as "the garden bed").
- In addition to personal garden beds, the area has common beds and plantings of perennials, fruit trees and shrubs, the harvest or which is for everyone to use, both members and guests.
- In the community garden, we behave in an environmentally friendly manner, including avoiding the use of plastic, growing plants organically and preferring natural materials (e.g. a clay pot instead of a plastic pot).
- The garden area and its garden beds are designed in a uniform style. At the same time, personalization of garden beds by members with various elements creates coziness and is welcomed, provided that nature-friendly materials are used.
- The consumption of alcoholic beverages or tobacco products and being drunk is prohibited in the garden area.

- It is forbidden to make a fire (including barbeque grilling) in the area of the community garden, except on the designated grill, unless otherwise agreed with the contact person.
- It is allowed to stay with a well-behaved pet in the common garden, provided that the pet does not disturb other visitors and does not damage the plants. The pet must be on a leash and the owner is obligated to clean up after the pet by throwing the excrement into the household waste (NB! do not put it in the compost bin).
- If you doubt whether something is allowed or not - feel free to reach out to the contact person.

### 3. Members

- We welcome everyone (both private individuals and regional organizations), who are interested in urban gardening in collaboration with others, as well as those who share our values and want to participate in our community activities to achieve common goals (so-called supporting members who do not have their own personal garden beds).
- When reviewing applications and accepting membership, we consider:
  - place of residence - if there is a lot of interest, then the residents of North Tallinn are preferred (primarily those interested that are living in the closest settlements - Sitsi, Pelgulinn and Pelguranna)
  - motivation and willingness to contribute to community garden activities
- In a situation where the number of interested parties is greater than available garden beds, we will add interested parties to the waiting list.
- To become a member of the community garden, you must fill out the application form either online or in writing and hand it over to the contact person.
- We accept an applicant as a member of our community after the board has reached a decision, payment of the admission fee and membership fee has been made, and rules of procedure have been read and accepted.
- **ONLY AFTER ACCEPTED** as a member, we pay a one-time admission fee of 15 euros and an annual membership fee to the bank account of MTÜ Pelgued - EE787700771004574735 as follows:
  - 5 euros for supporting member;
  - for a member using the raised bed (A, B, C areas) - 25 € and for a member of a land plot (E area) - 35 € per year;
- Based on a member's written application, annual membership fee discounts may be granted if deemed necessary, for example to pupils, students, pensioners, unemployed persons, and refugees, or on other valid grounds upon submission of a written request.
- We calculate the annual membership fee per calendar year, and the payment deadline is March 1. We pay the membership fee for the current year even if we join during the year or if the membership ends during the year.
- By paying the membership fee on time, we also confirm our desire to continue as a member.
- When renouncing a personal garden bed, we inform the contact person in writing as soon as possible. After renouncing, we tidy it up and remove all

existing plants, unless agreed otherwise. The transfer of the right to use the garden bed to another persons or members is only permitted with the consent of the contact person. After renouncing the garden bed, the member can remain a supporting member if he wishes to do so.

- We will respond to comments or inquiries sent by the contact person as soon as possible, but no later than within 7 days, and we will remove the cause of the problem by the agreed time.
- If, as a member, you have repeatedly violated the rules, have not responded within a reasonable time despite repeated remarks, or have not dealt with the problem by the agreed time, the contact person has the right to exclude the member from the community garden by notifying the decision in writing. In this case, we clear the garden bed of all plants, unless agreed otherwise, and the garden bed will become a common one or given to the next person in the waiting list.
- In case of renouncing a garden bed or excluding a member, the annual membership fee, that has been already paid, will not be refunded.

#### **4. Rules of conduct**

- Communication
  - We treat other members, contact persons, maintainers and guests of the communal garden in a friendly and respectful manner.
  - It is forbidden to take anything from other members' garden beds. Also, you may not sow, plant or water the garden beds of another member unless a mutual agreement has been made.
  - During a longer absence or in a situation where it is not possible to take care of your garden bed (e.g. illness), you should directly contact other members or your close ones about the care of the garden bed. If this fails/is not possible, you should inform the contact person as soon as possible. In cooperation, we can find a way to get your garden bed maintained and watered!
  - In an emergency, we call 112, the first aid box is in the shed.
- Joint activities and community contribution:
  - As members, we actively participate in joint events and otherwise contribute to the organization and development of the community garden according to our capabilities.
  - The general agreement is that each member contributes at least 15 hours of their time (approx. 2 hours/month) to the maintenance and organization of the garden during the season (April-October).
  - The nature of joint work may be different for each member, depending on the member's own interest, skills-knowledge and opportunities (including physical abilities).

- o Joint work can include, for example: participation in common garden work days, assisting in the organization of such days and other joint events, translation (Estonian-English-Russian), assisting the contact person in project management (preparation of reports, graphical design etc.), assisting in other activities, taking photographs, etc.
- o All events held in the garden are intended for members and their relatives as well as other interested parties who are not members.
- o By agreement with the contact person, members can also hold their own events in the community garden, which do not disturb other members or their gardening activities.
- o Let's take care of the common garden's well-being together! If you see trash, pick it up and put it in the trash bin. If you see that something is out of order or wrong - if possible, intervene yourself or notify the contact person.
- Use of the garden box, garden plot and the greenhouse:
  - o As members, we are responsible for the maintenance of our garden bed and its immediate surroundings (approx. 1m). We also remove weeds from the garden bed and its surroundings and make sure that the grass does not grow too high, we remove wilted, dried or diseased plants as soon as possible.
  - o We limit the growth of plants in our garden bed so that they do not disturb the plant growth of other gardeners or limit the access of other gardeners to the garden beds they use (e.g. pumpkin which has spread outside of the bed), unless otherwise agreed.
  - o It is a good practice to take care of your garden beds at least once a week.
  - o In the case of the area between the garden beds, we independently agree on the organizing of maintenance with the neighboring member (e.g. one member one week, another week another).
  - o Plants that are prohibited by the legislation in force in the Republic of Estonia (including [non-native species](#)), trees and tall (approx. over 50 cm) bushes are not allowed to grow in the garden bed.
  - o We avoid growing plants that can spread from the place of growth to the neighboring garden bed and are difficult to get rid of (e.g. earthen bulb, horseradish, raspberry, curly-leaved rosehip, etc.), or we grow such plants with great attention and limit its spread outside our garden bed.
  - o Unauthorized additions to the garden beds are not allowed. We keep the aisles of the beds free. You may not place pots and plant boxes in aisles or create additional garden beds.
  - o Before using personal installations (e.g. bench, scarecrow) in the garden bed, we ask permission from the contact person in advance. MTÜ Pelguaed is not responsible for the plants and personal inventory on the garden bed.
  - o We clean up after ourselves and sort waste by its type.

- o Garden and landscaping waste should be cut into smaller pieces and taken to the compost bin (except for sick plants, which must be thrown into the bio waste bin). We follow the instructions on the composting box.
- o We only use organic fertilizers and biological plant protection products. Mineral fertilizers and synthetic plant protection products are prohibited (e.g. Roundup).
- o We don't use glue traps, nets, poisons, etc., which cannot be associated with organic gardening.
- Use of water and watering systems:
  - o We use water purposefully and sparingly.
  - o We follow the watering guide, which can be found at every water intake point.
  - o For watering the plants, if it is available, we primarily use rainwater from the collection barrels.
- Use of common inventory and tools:
  - o We use common inventory (shed, grill, etc.), tools and equipment in a prudent and rational manner.
  - o We keep the shed locked when we are not in the shed, including when we are working on our personal garden bed.
  - o We make sure that the gates of the community garden are always closed behind us or others.
  - o The storage of personal belongings in the shed, including pots, fertilizers, etc. has to be coordinated with the contact person. Personal belongings have to be marked with a clearly visible name.
  - o When using the grill, we follow fire safety rules and do not leave the grill unattended. After using the grill, we clean it and wash greasy dishes outside (not in the toilet).
  - o We use common tools, inventory and equipment only in the garden area, unless otherwise agreed with the contact person.
  - o After using common tools and equipment, we clean them and put them back in their designated place.
  - o We use common tools safely and at our own risk.
  - o We plan and time noisy activities (e.g. using power tools) outside of organized events and night time.
  - o If the tools break, we notify the contact person as soon as possible and mark the tool with the appropriate label.
  - o When disposing of garden and landscaping waste, we follow the instructions on the compost bin.
  - o For the use of the greenhouse and common garden beds, we form a separate working group with interested parties and agree on joint use agreements.
  - o The general landscaping of the community garden (trees, shrubs and perennials), which do not grow in the personal beds, is maintained by the corresponding specialist. Plantings may not be removed or maintained

arbitrarily. With prior agreement and guidance, all interested members can participate in the maintenance of planting areas. Both members and other guests of the community garden can use the harvest of the fruit trees and bushes growing in the garden area.