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ALLOTMENT CULTIVATION INFO RELEASE

This info release includes general information about allotment cultivation. For more information, please contact vipa@espoo.fi. This release is also available at: www.espoo.fi/viljelypalstat

The City of Espoo monitors compliance with the allotment garden rules, issues instructions, rents out allotment plots and terminates lease agreements. The city will not give prior notification of monitoring rounds to the allotment gardens.

The numbered sections below are specifications to the lease agreement:

1. The allotment plot rent includes the plot, irrigation water and waste management. The city maintains public areas by strimming, for example. The goal is to trim all allotment gardens once or twice a summer within the scope of available resources. In addition, the city inspects locations of boundary posts, repairs seasonal water pipes and joints and maintains notice boards.
2. If the city observes violation of the rules or inappropriate activity or behaviour of the leaseholder, the city will submit a written notice to the cultivator in question detailing the observed non-conformities. If the cultivator fails to rectify the matter within the time limit set by the city, the city may terminate the lease agreement.
3. Cultivators must be able to tend to their plot from within the boundary posts. All plants, including their roots and crowns, must remain within the plot. Miniature fruit trees are allowed; larger trees consume too much energy from the allotments, shade the plots and are not considered part of urban allotment cultivation. **Different cultivation methods that increase diversity are allowed on the plot. These types of cultivation include biodynamic agriculture, permaculture, cultivation in unturned beds, cultivation under cover, etc.**
4. Plants classified as invasive species may not be cultivated on the plots (www.espoo.fi with the search term invasive species), and no chemical plant protectants or pesticides may be used in cultivation. However, if you notice giant hogweed on the plots or along their edges, please contact vipa@espoo.fi. More information about invasive species is available at <https://vieraslajit.fi/lajit>

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5. Greenhouses and plastic tunnels: The standard measure of a square meter is meter × meter, i.e. m². For example, a plastic tunnel may be 1 m wide and 2.5 m long (in total 2.5 m²).
Note: plastic tunnels may not exceed the height of 1 meter.

The Espoo Building Control Department does not allow permanent greenhouses. They fit the description of fixed structures and as such, are subject to a separate action permit. Furthermore, they would significantly alter the cityscape. The City of Espoo building ordinance, monitored by the Building Control Department, is applied to this rule.

At the end of the growing season, all cultivators must tidy up their plots (remove all waste, store gardening tools in boxes/take them home), dismantle any greenhouses/tunnel arches and their frames, and remove all bird nets for the winter season by 31 October the latest.

6. Any fences exceeding the height of 120 cm are not allowed on the plot (repellent ribbons (yellow) may be added to the fence). The City of Espoo building ordinance, monitored by the Building Control Department, is applied to this rule. All repellent ribbons must be removed for winter (by 31 Oct) if the cultivator will not monitor that they remain intact during the winter.
7. The allotment garden irrigation water system will be turned on at the beginning of May and closed at the end of September (more detailed information will be given seasonally on the notice board). THE WATER IS INTENDED FOR THE IRRIGATION OF CROPS. Cultivators may not equip water points with any permanent parts or remove any parts installed by the city. Temporary use of a water hose is allowed, but the use of sprinklers is forbidden. After use, cultivators must store water hoses on their own plots.

Any leaks/breakdowns in the irrigation system must be reported to the city (contact information is available on the notice board). If necessary, turn off water supply from a local/main shut-off valve. The locations of shut-off valves are shown on the allotment garden map on the notice board.

8. Uncomposted manure contains parasites and seeds and may cause nutrient run-off and odour nuisance to the surrounding environment. Cultivators are therefore not allowed to bring uncomposted manure to their plots.
9. The allotment garden waste bins are opened at the beginning of April and closed at the end of October.

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10. Plot boundary issues are resolved, for example, when boundary posts have been moved or deliberately destroyed. Any boundary posts accidentally or deliberately damaged must be reported by email to vipa@espoo.fi.

Cultivators must ensure that there are no items **or structures** between the plots. The vegetation **at the edge of the plot and in the in-between areas** must remain low and free of plants with woody stems. **The corridors and recreation areas on the plot, as well as other non-cultivated parts and the area surrounding the plot area must be kept mowed or low by other means.**

In renovated and new allotment gardens, the spacing between the plots will be clarified/widened during construction work.

11. Cultivators can keep track of forest and grass fire warnings on TV, radio or online, for example, at <http://www.ilmatieteenlaitos.fi/varoitukset> or www.foreca.fi/varoitukset.

NOTE! All fire-making is forbidden while forest or grass fire warnings are in force! For example, charcoal grills may give off sparks that can cause a fire.

OTHER GENERAL ISSUES

Sand

The city may bring used sand from children's sandboxes to the allotment gardens in the spring. **However, the city is not obliged to bring sand to the allotment plots and the sand is not cleaned separately.** If they want, cultivators can use the sand for improving soil. Furthermore, the city does not replace the soil on the allotment plots, with the exception of the accessible garden boxes (currently only available for rent at Silkkinitty).

Toilets

The Leppäsilta allotment garden has the only city-owned toilet facility that is maintained in cooperation with the cultivators. The Kauklahti allotment garden has a toilet maintained by KIPINÄ ry that is not maintained by the city. The toilet door code is only distributed to Leppäsilta cultivators and the code is changed annually. The code may not be disclosed to outsiders.

Allotment garden contact persons

The allotment gardens usually have contact persons (voluntary cultivators) who can give advice on general issues related to cultivation. Some allotments may have more than one contact person. Their contact information is available on the allotment garden notice board. Together the contact



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persons of different Espoo allotment gardens form a contact person network. Cultivators who are interested in joining the network are encouraged to contact their allotment garden contact persons.

Joining a waiting list for an allotment plot and contact information

You can join the waiting list for an allotment plot by emailing vipa@espoo.fi and stating in which allotment garden(s) you would like to rent a plot. Due to high demand, allotment plots are usually only rented to Espoo residents according to their placement on the waiting list (as of 2020).

Cultivators are responsible for ensuring that the city has their correct contact information, any changes must be reported to vipa@espoo.fi.

Different language versions of the cultivation rules

Cultivation rules/rental conditions and this info release are available in Finnish, Swedish and English on the City of Espoo website: www.espoo.fi/viljelypalstat