

Allotment garden plot rules

The rules have been validated by the Technical Services Committee on 15 December 2021. Additional information is available in the allotment cultivation info release (also available at www.espoo.fi/viljelypalstat).

1. Renting

1.1 By paying the annual rent for the allotment plot, the leaseholder receives the lease to the allotment plot owned by the city. The price also includes irrigation water and waste management. The lease agreement is valid until further notice. [*Info release section 1.](#)

If cultivation/care on the allotment plot has not been started by 15 June or the allotment plot is overtaken by weeds, hay or items, the lease agreement will be dissolved, the leaseholder will lose their lease right to the plot and the city is entitled to rent it to someone else.

The invoicing period is 1 January–31 December and the notice period is 14 days. The agreement must be terminated in writing. If the agreement is signed after 1 July, no plot fee will be invoiced for that year.

1.2 The leaseholder must be at least 18 years of age and the same leaseholder can only rent one plot at a time. This section applies only to new cultivators starting from 29 January 2020. The leaseholder may not assign the plot lease agreement to a third party.

1.3 By signing the lease agreement, the leaseholder commits to following the allotment garden plot rules. The leaseholder is responsible for the correctness of their contact information. The lease agreement must be returned signed to the customer coordinator within 30 days from the date of the lease agreement. If the agreement has not been returned within the time limit, the city can rent the plot to the next person on the waiting list.

The rent must be paid by the due date. One payment reminder (Svea collection) will be sent for an unpaid invoice. If the invoice is still outstanding after the payment reminder, the city will dissolve the agreement.

Due to violation of the rules or inappropriate activity or behaviour of the leaseholder, the city may decide to terminate the plot tenancy unilaterally by giving notice. In such cases, the plot fee is not returned. [*Info release section 2](#)

1.4 The leaseholder must tidy up the plot during the term of notice. The leaseholder has 14 days from the term of notice to clean and empty the plot. Any perennials and equipment to be left on the plot must be agreed separately with the customer coordinator. The city is entitled to invoice in full any emptying or cleaning costs of the allotment plot from the leaseholder. The minimum charge to be invoiced is €100 + cleaning costs in their full amount.

2. Cultivation

2.1 The allotment plots are meant for domestic use cultivation only. All commercial activities are forbidden. If any sales take place, the city may terminate the lease agreement immediately without any term of notice.

2.2 The plot may only be used for cultivation, but 25% may be assigned for recreational seating.

2.3 The plot must be cultivated and kept tidy. If a cultivator has a temporary impediment (e.g. sickness, accident), they must contact the customer coordinator.

2.4 Plants must be placed so that they can be cared for from within the plot in question and in a manner not causing disturbances to other cultivators. In addition to useful plants and flowers, berry bushes and miniature fruit trees that grow to a maximum height of 2 metres may be grown on the allotment plot. The cultivator is responsible for keeping all their tools and plants, including roots and crowns, within their own plot. [*Info release section 3](#)

2.5 Planting and cultivating invasive species is forbidden. The cultivator must report all observations of invasive species within the allotment garden to the city. Invasive species are defined in the Decree and Act on Managing the Risk Caused by Alien Species. [*Info release section 4](#)

2.6 Greenhouses and plastic tunnels are only allowed on large plots of approximately 100 m². One seasonal, lightweight, plastic-covered greenhouse (with a height of less than 2 m and max. surface area of 2.5 m²) is allowed on the plot in addition to a plastic tunnel (with max. surface area of 2.5m²) **or** two plastic tunnels with max. combined surface area of 5 m². (Max. height of plastic tunnel(s) 1 m.

Row covers are allowed (both supported or unsupported) on plots of all sizes. The walls, ceilings and arches of all greenhouses and tunnels must be dismantled by 31 October. The dismantled parts can be stored on the plot in a tidy and centralised manner. [*Info release section 5.](#)

2.7 Raised beds with max. height of 40 cm are allowed on the plot. Raised beds may have timber edges. Digging planting holes and ditches deeper than 20 cm is forbidden.

2.8 Tools may be stored in a box (max. length 2 m x width 1 m x height 1 m). Tool boxes may be left on the plot over winter and each plot may have up to two boxes.

2.9 Permanent structures, such as canopies, stone edging or similar may not be constructed on the allotment plot. The city is entitled to remove all unauthorised allotment structures and invoice the cleaning costs in full + €100 from the leaseholder.

2.10 The plot may only be enclosed by a light-structured fence of subtle colour with a max. height of 120 cm (such as plastic-coated wire fence). The cultivator must be able to remove the fence if the City of Espoo needs to carry out maintenance work in the surrounding areas. Repellent ribbons are allowed during the cultivation season. The ribbons must be removed for winter unless the cultivator will monitor that they remain intact during the winter. [*Info release section 6](#)

2.11 Light-weight pieces of garden furniture (stackable/collapsible), wooden garden tiles and parasols are allowed on a plot. Tidy-looking terraces without fences are allowed.

2.12 Water points may not be equipped with any permanent parts, nor may any parts installed by the city be removed from them. The use of sprinklers is forbidden. Large tidy-looking container(s) for storing irrigation water can be added to the allotment plot. The maximum combined volume of the containers is 400 litres. The cultivator must immediately report to the city any leaks detected in the irrigation system and turn off water supply, if necessary. [*Info release section 7](#)

2.13 The use of chemical plant protectants and pesticides is not allowed in cultivation.

2.14 Manure and fertilisers may be stored only in sealed bags or barrels for personal use. Only compost manure is allowed. Manure may not be composted on the plot. [*Info release section 8](#)

3. Waste management

3.1 The leaseholder is responsible for keeping their plot and its immediate surroundings tidy and pleasant-looking. The leaseholder must take away all large pieces of waste at their own expense. The allotment gardens have mixed-waste bins but leaving any rubbish next to them is not allowed under any circumstances. [*Info release section 9](#)

3.2 Weeding waste must be composted in a composter or compost frame on the allotment plot. Exceptions are plant residue containing difficult plant diseases and surplus vegetables that attract rodents, which can be put in mixed waste bins. A composter may be left on the plot for winter. It is forbidden to pile up plant residues and litter in the surroundings of the allotment garden. The allotment gardens that have a shared composter available for use are separately mentioned on the City of Espoo website.

3.3 It is forbidden to bring or store items not needed in cultivation on the allotment plot (e.g. water basins, car tyres, sofas, household appliances). Allotment plots are not reuse/storage areas for items not needed in cultivation. The city is entitled to dispose of such items from the allotment and invoice the cleaning costs in full + €100 from the cultivator.

3.4 Damming of public area trenches and covering them with tarpaulins or other items is forbidden.

Postal address
Public Works Department/Infrastructure Services
Nature Conservation Unit
P.O. Box 6520
02070 City of Espoo
vipa@espoo.fi
Lease agreement terminations in writing or by e-mail. See contact information

Telephone
040 639 3961

4. Boundaries

4.1 Cultivation must take place within the boundary posts. Moving plot boundary posts is forbidden. All costs arising from resolving allotment plot boundary issues will be charged in full from the person having performed such acts.

[*Info release section 10](#)

4.2 Cultivators must keep vegetation at the edge their plot low (approx. 20–25 cm from the edge).

4.3 Two or more plots may not be connected or enclosed together with a continuous enclosure.

5. Other issues

5.1 The city is not liable for any damage to the plants or structures on the plot caused by vandalism or natural disaster.

5.2 Portable charcoal grills are allowed. Making an open fire on the plot is forbidden. Burning rubbish and other waste is forbidden. Cultivators must observe laws and ground fire and forest fire warnings that are issued. **All** fire-making is forbidden when the above-mentioned warnings are in force. [*Info release section 11](#)

5.3 Pets are allowed as long as they do not cause disturbance to others or the surrounding nature and remain on the cultivator's plot.

6. Silkkiniitty allotment plots

6.1. If an allotment cultivator wants to enclose their plot, the fence material must be green or plastic-coated wire mesh with a maximum height of 100 cm. The fence posts can be either round wooden posts with a maximum diameter of 60 mm, rectangular wooden posts measuring 45 x 45 mm or coated metal posts for fencing with the same maximum dimensions in green or black colour. Rabbit netting is allowed (in metal colour) with a maximum height of 100 cm. The post height must match that of the fence, the use of repellent ribbon is not allowed. (Replaces section 2.10).

6.2. Miniature fruit trees according to section 2.4. of the rules are not allowed at Silkkiniitty, in other regards the rule applies.

6.3. Protecting plants with row covers is allowed (supported or unsupported), plastic tunnels and greenhouses are not allowed (replaces section 2.6.).

6.4. A tidy-looking water tank of any colour, with a maximum capacity of 200 l, is allowed on the plot. (Specification to section 2.12.).

6.5. There is a biowaste collection container by the notice board at Silkkiniitty, and all plant residue from the allotment plots must be taken there (the city no longer provides a compost to prevent problems with rats). Composting on your own plot is not allowed. (Replaces section 3.2).

6.6. Allotment plot No. 20: Garden boxes for the physically disabled

6.6.1. The city delivers garden boxes to the area only upon request (max.4 boxes) and is responsible for their maintenance.

6.6.2. The city is responsible for replacing the soil in the boxes once a year and maintaining the crushed stone fines surface.

6.6.3. Perennial plants are not allowed.