

The Garden Connection

A newsletter for the gardeners at the Waukesha County Rental Gardens

Welcome Gardeners

Welcome to the 2025 season of the Waukesha County Rental Gardens! My name is Nate Winkler and I am the Coordinator of the Rental Gardens this year. I will be at the Gardens at different times during the week and look forward to meeting you.



Garden Update

As you know, this is the last year for the Rental Gardens at the Northview Road location. We said we would keep you informed of any updates we have regarding a space for 2026. As of today, we do not have a space for next year and do not have any other updates as we are still exploring other options.

About Our Newsletter

The Garden Connections Newsletter is sent out four times during the growing season. This is one way to share updates and information with all of you at once. In between newsletters, you can find up-to-date information and announcements on our website, <https://waukesha.extension.wisc.edu/community-development/rental-gardens/>, on the bulletin board at the Rental Gardens, or by email.

Thank You for Helping!

Everyone plays an important role in the Rental Garden Program, and we appreciate your assistance in helping to make the Rental Gardens a peaceful and productive space. A big thank you to those who continue to help manage the weeds and grass around your plots as this is an ongoing challenge. Also, thank you for being neighborly and helping each other out. If you have a concern regarding the gardens, please let us know. Email Lisa at lboyer@waukeshacounty.gov and/or Nate at npwinkler@wisc.edu. You can call Lisa at 262-548-7775.

Mulch Pile and Garden Pathways

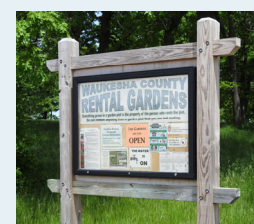
Feel free to take mulch from the large pile located to the north of the garden. It is best to use this wood chip mulch for garden paths in and around your garden. Most gardens have a path on one or more sides of your garden. We need your help to control the weeds in the pathways surrounding your garden plot. Please pull weeds and/or apply mulch using the mulch from the mulch pile at the garden.

We appreciate your help.

Please note: we do not recommend using wood chips as mulch around vegetable plants because their high carbon content can potentially deprive your vegetable plants of much needed nitrogen.

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Bulletin Board Garden Entrance

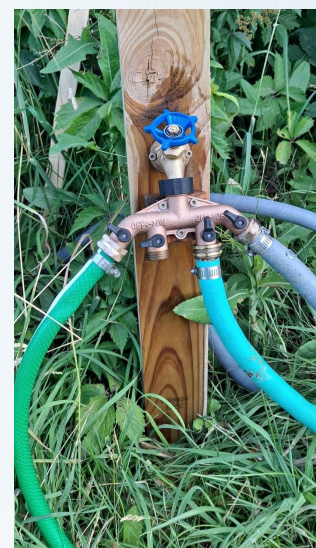
Please watch the bulletin board at the entrance to the garden for new messages or updates. It is the easiest way for us to get a timely message to the gardeners! If there is something that you feel we need to include in it, please let us know!

Water at the Gardens

There are six water connections sites at the Garden. Each water site location has a short hose attached for filling buckets and watering cans and at least one spot for attaching a personal hose. (Please keep buckets either covered or upside down in your plot as we don't want any standing water at the Gardens.)

Water notes:

- Water is turned on by flipping the switch.
- Please be considerate of the other gardeners and only connect your hose while you are actively using it.
- At some water sites, only one gardener's hose can be connected at a time, so if there is not an open spot for watering, wait until one becomes available.
- Under no circumstances should you disconnect the short hose or a long hose to hook up your personal hose (you may be cutting off the water supply to other water sites).
- Before connecting your hose, make sure you have plenty of slack so that the connection site is never stressed or tugged on while you are using your hose. The connection sites as secure as we could make them, but they are susceptible to damage.
- If you see a leak at any of the water connection points, please tighten the connection to stop the leak. If you need help with a leak, ask a fellow gardener to give you a hand. If you aren't able to fix it, please turn off the water at that location and call Lisa at 262-548-7775. If Lisa doesn't answer, press 0 for immediate assistance or leave a voicemail! If you can, also email both Lisa (lboyer@waukeshacounty.gov) and Nate (npwinkler@wisc.edu).



No Spraying of Weeds Allowed

Just a reminder, **no herbicides can be used to kill weeds at the garden.** This includes organic and homemade solutions. Please pull weeds and put down mulch to hinder growth.

Horticulture Helpline—Gardening Questions???

Do you have a gardening question? We can help! Contact the Waukesha County Extension Horticulture Helpline by emailing your questions to uwex1@waukeshacounty.gov or calling 262-548-7779 Tuesday mornings between 9 and noon. This resource is available at no-cost.



Questions/Contact Information

Questions? Concerns? Our office hours are 8 am to 4:30 pm, Monday—Friday. Email Lisa at lboyer@waukeshacounty.gov and/or Nate at npwinkler@wisc.edu. You can call Lisa at 262-548-7775. Please be aware that our phone system does not show missed calls, so unless you leave a message we will not know you called.

Nate Winkler

Rental Gardens Coordinator
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