

# THE CITY OF EDINBURGH COUNCIL

## RULES FOR ALLOTMENT PLOTHOLDERS

The following rules are to be observed by allotment plotholders and are intended to clarify responsibilities, assist in delivering a safe, healthy and rewarding experience for all plotholders, and help the Council manage allotment sites for the benefit of all and the environment.

- 1 Cultivation:** 75% of the plot area should be under cultivation at any time. Plots should also be well stocked with crops in as healthy a condition as possible, bearing in mind current weather and season. Unplanted areas should be responsibly free from weeds and not causing any nuisance to neighbouring plots. The soil should show evidence of being actively managed. Attention of plotholders is drawn to the site inspection and termination procedures agreed by the Allotment Strategy Steering Group.
- 2 Site Rules:** Plotholders are required to observe any rules that are particular to their allotment sites. If in doubt, plotholders should contact their site association representative for advice.
- 3 Dogs:** Dog may be brought on to the site but must be kept on a lead at all times and must not be allowed to become a nuisance to other plotholders. Any fouling must be bagged and binned by the owner.
- 4 Livestock:** The keeping of livestock, including bees, on the plot is not permitted.
- 5 Bonfires:** Generally plant material and weeds should be composted on site. Plotholders may burn only plant material arising from the plot itself, such as diseased plants and excessively woody material that cannot be composted. No material may be brought on to the site for burning and no synthetic materials, plastics, paper, treated wood, metals or other non-plant material may be burned. Burning synthetic material and treated wood may give rise to toxic and carcinogenic smoke. Plotholders are required to give consideration to other plotholders when choosing where and when to have a bonfire and must leave the fire untended.
- 6 Trees:** No trees other than fruit trees shall be cultivated or allowed to grow on the plot. If requested by the Council, the plotholder must agree to the removal of any trees over 7.5cm diameter at breast height.
- 7 Other Guidelines:** Other guidance is produced by the Council and others from time, such as advice on composting, promoting biodiversity, organic gardening etc, and the plotholders attention is drawn to these.
- 8 Water conservation:** Plotholders are reminded that water is not an inexhaustible supply and they should use it responsibly. Water conservation measures such as mulching are effective in reducing moisture loss and also help to control weeds.

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- 9 Sheds, glasshouses and other structures:** The plotholder is permitted to erect: a wooden shed for storage of tools and materials; a glass house for cultivation of plants, fruit and vegetables; a cold frame. Plotholders must observe Planning legislation at all times and must maintain structures in a reasonably good condition.
- 10 Barbed Wire:** Plotholders are not permitted to have or to use barbed wire on the plot. Use of barbed wire is restricted to site boundary fences.
- 11 Personal Conduct:** Plotholders must not use the plot or allow the plot to be used for any illegal purpose and must keep the peace at all times.
- 12 Rent:** Rent must be paid in full within 40 days of the date of the invoice. In the event that rents remain outstanding beyond 40 days, the Council reserves the right to terminate the lease.
- 13 Amendment of the rules:** The Council after consulting with the Allotments Steering Group or other appropriate representative body, has the right to amend these rules from time to time.

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