

Hastings and St Leonards Allotments Federation
Allotment Etiquette: Some do's and don'ts for tenants

Welcome to the world of allotments. You will find other gardeners a friendly bunch and very ready to offer help and advice as long as you remember that what you do on your plot, and elsewhere on site, may affect others. The basic principles of allotment etiquette are those of regular good neighbourliness: show consideration for other plotholders, respect their property and produce, and do your bit to keep your site secure, safe and tidy.

- Lock the gates after you enter the site and again when you leave it.
- Co-operate with your immediate neighbours to keep the paths separating your plots neat and tidy.
- Respect others' privacy: do not enter other tenants' gardens unless invited, and make sure your visitors don't either.
- Keep paths clear of tools and other items that act as obstacles and could cause injury.
- Keep your dog on a lead and off other tenants' gardens, and remove any dog mess.
- Keep your plot free of litter and pick up litter blown in by the wind when you see it.
- Compost organic waste such as weeds and crop residues and take all other rubbish home with you.
- Don't leave your car parked on site; vehicle access is for purposes of loading and unloading only.
- Avoid bonfires unless absolutely necessary (for example, to get rid of pernicious weed roots). Smoke can cause nuisance to other plotholders and properties adjacent to the site so check the wind direction first and do not leave fires unattended or smouldering.
- Check with your neighbours before using noisy machines and ensure that others' safety is not compromised by their use. Fuel should not be stored on site.
- Unattended hoses and sprinklers are not permitted but hand-held hoses may be used (except in case of water authority restrictions). Be aware that when you are using a hose other tenants are prevented from using the tap, and that water pressure elsewhere on site may be reduced.
- Re-fill communal water butts once you have finished taking water from them.
- Use water wisely: water your plants, not the soil. Watering thoroughly but infrequently is far more effective than watering little and often.
- Don't allow pernicious weeds such as ragwort and thistle to seed and thus spread to other plots.
- Promptly bag up any diseased plant material and dispose of it off site to prevent disease spreading.
- Inform the Council and/or your site secretary or Site Association if you are unable to cultivate your plot for a prolonged period due to extenuating circumstances such as illness.
- Don't erect sheds and other structures without written consent from the Council.
- Do cultivate all of your plot and enjoy the fresh air and exercise.

READ YOUR TENANCY AGREEMENT
If you breach your agreement you run the risk of losing your tenancy.