

West Mains Allotments - Information Pack – Updated May 2018

Please find below some information about the site, communal areas, annual events and general rules from the City of Edinburgh Council, which we will continually update. We hope you enjoy gardening your plot!

About West Mains Allotment Association Committee:

The committee currently consists of:

Rosy Naylor, convenor - plot 57 - email rosynaylor@gmail.com

Jane Robinson, secretary - plot 48a

Anne Sofie Laegran, treasurer - plot 38

Colin Mackenzie – plot 31

Dave Hills – plot 42

A new committee is elected each year at the AGM, held once yearly.
New plotheolders are very welcome to join the committee.

Please come and talk to us should you have any questions about your plot.
All questions of site maintenance are handled by Ian Woolard.

Communal areas:

The Cabin is available for plotheolder use. It contains facilities for making tea, a sink, and chairs. An area for the swap+share of seedlings, any excess produce is also positioned in front of the cabin.

Site wheelbarrows - there are two wheelbarrows available for plotheolders use situated by the Cabin.

Toilet:

We have an onsite toilet, the only plumbed in toilet on any Edinburgh site!
This is situated opposite to the Cabin, near to the back gate entrance.

Environmentally Friendly Gardening

An emphasis on environmentally sustainable practices is encouraged across the site. Plotheolders should not use weedkillers or pesticides outwith their plots and spray drift to adjoining areas must be avoided.

Site news + communications

Site news - You will see there are two noticeboards on site which are kept up to date with the latest information, as well as info inside the Cabin. We also have an e-newsletter (occasional) which is sent round with any relevant news - to signup please send your email to Jane Robinson at allotment@janerobinson.org.uk
Your email address will not be distributed to any third party.

We also have a website at www.westmainsallotments.org to follow our latest news and recent events, and a Facebook page which you can follow at www.facebook.com/westmainsallotment or via our website News page

In addition, to be kept informed of news from FEDAGA you can also sign up to their newsletter sent round regularly by email - please visit www.fedaga.org.uk to sign up.

Events: The following events are usually run each year.

Spring Get Together – usually involving a seedling/seed swap and refreshments (we also have a swap area in front of the cabin in use all year round)

Open Day each summer where we invite the public into the site and sell a range of produce, homemade cakes, preserves etc. Often this is held at the end of July. This raises funds which we put back into the site (ie general use compost, hire of skip etc).

End of Summer/Annual Get Together - held usually to accompany the annual AGM together with a talk, or related event of interest for everyone. Last year we also ran an Apple Press day which we hope to do again.

‘Creative Sessions’ – recently we have been holding a few creative meetups in the cabin for anyone wanting to have a go with sketching, painting, feltmaking etc. Anyone welcome to come, no experience needed. Often they involve demos from one member on a different medium each time. Meeting up one monthly on a Sunday morning, keep an eye out on the noticeboards or newsletter for dates, or email Rosy for info: rosynaylor@gmail.com

Other General Notes:

Security: Gate keys available from Ian Woolard. Please ensure you lock the gates after entering or leaving the site. The same keys open both the top and bottom gate, as well as the Cabin.

Driving around the site:

Please only bring a car onto site for the delivery of heavy items, and drive with due care (no more than 5mph). Please remove your car from site after delivery, do not leave it there while you tend your plot. We do not want the site to become a car park!

Compost deliveries:

We continue to organise the delivery of bulk compost to the site on behalf of ploholders each autumn and will aim to do so in future years. Sometimes we share some free compost to each plot in the autumn, depending on site funds. To purchase compost direct contact Caledonian Horticulture, tel 0131 339 5554 - compost made from green material collected by local authorities. Due to delivery lorry size, deliveries are made to the cabin area only.

Seed ordering:

As an allotment holder and member of FEDAGA you are entitled to a discount from Kings Seed. The scheme also brings income to FEDAGA. To take up the offer you need to sign up through FEDAGA's own page on the Kings Seed website at: www.kingsseeds.com/fedaga. If you have troubles signing up please see the FEDAGA information and contact details: www.fedaga.org.uk/seed-scheme.html

Site skip:

We plan to organize a site skip every eighteen months for the disposal for non compostable material. The next one is due Spring 2019.

Allotment water:

Site taps are turned off during the winter period, usually nov-march, although you can find running water in the toilet and cabin at all times.

Work parties:

From time to time we will ask volunteers to help with site maintenance such as developing the cabin area, working on the pond and wildlife area, or helping out organising events. Notices about these will be put onto the noticeboards nearer the time. All help very much appreciated. We also have a compost bin now in situ by the cabin for the use of any communal work such as around the cabin area.

Sheds:

Usually the practice is if you inherit a plot which contains a shed or greenhouse, that you give a small donation to West Mains Allotment Association. Please contact any of the committee for more information about this.

Keeping the Rats away:

Guidance as to best practices for keeping rats away generally include minimising hiding places, harvesting any ripe vegetables, keeping garden debris to a minimum, and turning your compost heap. Rats are shy and don't like to be disturbed.

Harvesting Water/ open vessels on plots: – please be careful to keep water in uncovered containers away from any open wounds, so as not to cause any potential infection.

Site paths:

Paths between plots are the joint responsibility of the adjoining plot-holders and shall be kept trimmed and generally weed-free with a minimum width of 45cm.

Site rules:

Please see below the general site rules that the City of Edinburgh Council issues for all Edinburgh allotment sites, for your information.

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 condition as possible, bearing in mind current weather and season. Unplanted areas should be reasonably free from weeds and not causing a nuisance to neighbouring plots. The soil should show evidence of being actively managed. Attention of plot-holders is drawn to the site inspection and termination procedures agreed by the Allotment Strategy Steering group.
2. **Site rules:** plot-holders are required to observe any rules that are particular to their allotment sites. If in doubt, plot-holders should contact their site association representative for advice.
3. **Dogs:** dogs 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 plot-holders. 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. Plot-holders 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, plastic, paper, treated woods, metals or other non-plant material may be burned. Burning synthetic material and treated wood may give rise to toxic and carcinogenic smoke. Plot-holders are required to give consideration to other plot-holders when choosing where and when to have a bonfire, and must not 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 plot-holder 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 plot-holders attention is drawn to these.
8. Water conservation: plot-holders 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.
9. Sheds, glass houses and other structures: The plot-holder is permitted to erect a wooden shed for storage of tools and materials; a glass house for cultivation of plants, fruits and vegetables; a cold frame. Plot-holders must observe Planning legislation at all times and must maintain structures in a reasonably good condition. CEC are currently assessing the regulations for the installation of any new polytunnels with permission from CEC now required, likely size limits being 9x6ft. Full new regulations due in 2018.
10. Barbed wire: plot-holders are not permitted to have or to use barbed wire on the plot. Use of barbed wire restricted to site boundary fences.
11. Personal conduct: plot-holders must not use the plot or allow the plot to be used for any illegal purpose and must be keep the peace at all times.
12. Rent: rent must be paid in full within 40 days of the date of 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 the Allotments Strategy Steering Group or other appropriate representative body, has the right to amend these rules from time to time.



EDINBURGH
 THE CITY OF EDINBURGH COUNCIL
 5000 GLENFARMS ROAD
 EDINBURGH EH12 6JF
 TEL: 0131 275 3000
 FAX: 0131 275 3001

**West Mains
 Allotments**

Map No: 11/000
Date: 07/11/03
Prepared by: A. Grevers
Scale: 1:1000
Sheet No: 2/01

© 2003 The City of Edinburgh Council. All rights reserved.
 The City of Edinburgh Council, Edinburgh, Scotland. LEA0007 0403