

Wotton-under-Edge Allotments

Everything you've always wanted to know about renting an allotment.

Allotments have their own legislation which dictates how allotments should be used. Here are some Do's and Don'ts to help you. Persistently breaking any of the rules mentioned in your agreements will result in you being sent a Notice to Quit your allotment plot.

Dos

- You can plant herbs and flowers as well as fruit and vegetables.
- You must always ensure gates are shut behind you.
- You can have a small lawned area as long as it's regularly mown and no more than 20% of your plot
- You MUST erect a clearly visible number board on you plot.
- If you have fruit bushes/trees etc you MUST maintain the area around them.
- You MUST cultivate and keep weed free at least 75% of your plot.
- You MUST pay your allotment rent within 40 days of receiving an invoice.
- If you vacate you must pay any rent owed.
- ALWAYS inform the Town Council if you change your address or telephone number.
- If you vacate your plot you must remove all belongings within two weeks.
- If your plot is overgrown when you first rent it you are entitled to one year's free rent provided the plot is cleared within a period of time agreed by the Town Council.
- Paths surrounding your plot should be maintained and kept to a minimum width of 18 inches (450mm).
- Always inform your site representative or the Town Council if you have any problems.
- You are responsible for maintaining the inside of any hedge adjacent to your plot
- Garden organically whenever possible. If you have to use weedkiller or other chemicals for treating invasive or deep rooted weeds please ensure that you take care not to contaminate neighbouring plots caused by spray drifting across the allotments.
- Try to compost your waste. Bonfires are not environmentally friendly and should be a last resort.



Don'ts

- You cannot sub-let your plot.
- You cannot use your plot for any trade or business.
- You cannot bring carpets onto allotment plots (legislation since 2012). Corrugated or sheet iron, barbed wire, ironwork, tins, drums or other similar metal objects must not be brought onto the site unless it is a proper container for water storage, for composting purposes or to incinerate garden waste.
- You cannot plant fruit trees on your plot. However dwarf rooted trees can be planted if permission is granted by the Town Council and cover no more than 25% of the plot.
- You cannot bring rubbish onto the allotments.
- You cannot block any pathways.
- You cannot use a sprinkler to water crops or use a hosepipe for more than 15mins at a time (hosepipes will not be permitted after the upgrading of the water supply to conform with Water Supply Regulations Act 1999. To achieve this pipes will have to be at a depth of 800mm and all stand pipes will be replaced with water troughs including additional ones to give a better coverage. This will be phased in over the next few years). Tenants must use water wisely as excessive use could result in costs being charged to the allotment tenants.
- You cannot wash crops or tools in water troughs.
- You cannot have smokey bonfires that cause a nuisance. If you do need to have a bonfire please ensure that the wind is blowing away from buildings. Never leave bonfires unattended.
- You cannot stay overnight on your allotment.
- You cannot cause a nuisance to other plot holders or neighbouring householders- nuisance could include bad language, getting drunk, playing loud music or using racist language.
- You or your children are not allowed to go onto other people's plots unless they have given you permission to do so.
- You cannot dig up paths between plots.
- You cannot use any form of harassment or violence on-site, be it physical or verbal.
- You cannot transfer your tenancy.
- You cannot bring firearms onto the allotments.
- You cannot keep any livestock or birds such as chickens, pigs, sheep etc on allotment plots.
- You cannot have sheds or greenhouses on the allotments. However you are permitted to have a tool box but it must not be more than a metre high and cover an area of not more than 2 metres square. Please use low level cloches or nets to protect crops against pigeons, cabbage white butterflies etc, again no more than a metre high.



CULTIVATION REQUIREMENTS

- From the start date of your tenancy agreement you have a three-month period in which enforcement for non-cultivation is not applicable. If you have started renting an overgrown plot extra time may be given for cultivation by the Town Council depending on its condition. After this time you will receive a fourteen-day Notice to Remedy or Letter of Concern.
- Good cultivation involves a regular level of work, ground with crops in or prepared ground ready for planting and a virtually weed-free plot.
- If you have fruit bushes/trees then the area around them must be maintained to a high standard and not be allowed to get overgrown and covered in weeds.
- You should not allow your plot to become covered in weeds that seed or spread to other plots.
- If you fail to improve the condition of your plot, receive three Notice to Remedy letters within three years, or fail to pay your rent within 40 days you will be issued with a one-month Notice to Quit.