

Community Beds – Quick Growing Guide

Approved September 2025

Community beds are designed for short-term learning and growth, as well as for tenants who wish to downsize when a full or half plot becomes too much. They must always be kept easy to hand over to the next gardener.

You CAN Grow

- Annual vegetables (lettuce, carrots, beans, peas, onions, cabbage)
- Perennial veg that are easy to clear (e.g. rhubarb, globe artichokes)
- Strawberries
- Small fruit bushes (currants, gooseberries, blueberries) – must be easy to lift/remove
- Herbs (parsley, chives, mint in pots to stop spreading)
- Pollinator-friendly flowers (marigolds, nasturtiums, calendula)

You CANNOT Grow

- **Fruit trees** (including dwarf trees) – **trees belong in the orchard, not in community beds**
- Asparagus (too long-term)
- Large shrubs or permanent bushes
- Invasive plants (raspberries, bamboo, willow, horseradish)
- Crops that spread uncontrollably into neighbours' beds
- Permanent structures (sheds, compost bins, fixed raised beds)

Responsibilities

- Keep beds tidy, weeded and productive
 - Remove plants, netting and materials when you leave (unless next tenant agrees to keep them)
 - Respect your neighbours – don't let plants spill into their beds
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 **Reminder:** Community beds are a **flexible, shared resource**. Grow crops that are enjoyable, useful, and **easy to clear** for the next gardener. **Fruit trees and long-term plantings belong in the community orchard.**