

Instructions and rules for allotments in the City of Kotka

Welcome! The City of Kotka has allotments in Karhuvuori and Helilä. Cultivating in allotments enables the production of food on a small scale and where its origin is known. Cultivating in allotments promotes health and provides an active environment with like-minded people.

Cultivating in allotments also has an educational perspective, as children can participate in growing food.

General Terms and Conditions

- Allotments are only leased to Kotka residents.
- The lease period is one cultivation season at a time (1 April–30 October). The leaseholder has precedence to the leased allotment.
- The allotments are marked with posts in the ground. It is forbidden to remove or move the poles. Any missing poles must be reported to maankaytto@kotka.fi.
- The rent must be paid by its due date; otherwise, the allotment will be handed over to the next farmer.
- Farmers are expected to take others into consideration and to behave courteously.
- The overall appearance of the allotment area must be kept tidy.

Using the allotment

- The allotment must be cultivated and managed. Cultivation must commence by the end of May; otherwise, the landlord has the right to dissolve the lease agreement and lease the allotment again.
- Weeds must be removed from the allotment. The edges of the allotment (ditch banks and walkways) must also be kept tidy.
- It is forbidden to make an open fire or burn rubbish and waste.
- The allotments have water for irrigation. In addition, the allotment may have a plastic barrel for irrigation. Iron drums are forbidden due to rusting. Hose irrigation is forbidden.
- The allotment must be returned empty of things and structures after the end of cultivation upon returning it to the city. If emptying the allotment is left to the City, the City will charge the farmer for the costs.
- The landlord will not be held liable for vandalism against crops, structures or equipment.

Permitted plants

- In addition to annual or perennial useful plants and flowers, berry bushes that grow to a maximum height of 1.5 metres may be grown on the allotment.
- Other plants with woody stems, such as trees, are not allowed on the allotments.
- When placing plants, it must be ensured that they remain in their own allotment, that they can be cared for in their own allotment and that they do

not cause harm to other farmers.

- Growing harmful invasive alien species such as lupin and Indian balsam is forbidden. The farmers must control harmful invasive alien plants and organisms (e.g. Gastropods) on the entire allotment area.
- The use of organic pesticides (e.g. pelargonic acid and pyrethrin) is permitted.

Structures and constructions

- It is permitted to build a small compost frame and a storage crate for garden tools. All equipment must be stored on one's respective allotment.
- Farmers are allowed to use gauze or a plastic tunnel with a maximum height of 0.5 metres. One small, lightweight plastic glasshouse may be placed on the allotment. The glasshouse must not cause any harm (e.g. shading) to the surrounding allotments.
- Fixed constructions such as barbeque grills or pergolas may not be built on the allotment.
- Wooden (not pressure-treated) pallet collars are permitted.
- The City has the right to remove constructions not complying with the instructions at the farmer's expense.

Composting and other waste management

- Garden waste is composted per allotment. Only garden waste produced on the allotment belongs to the compost. It is forbidden to compost household waste.
- It is strictly forbidden to take garden waste to the immediate surroundings.
- Other waste (e.g. plastics, paper and cardboard) must be sorted and taken to waste stations.

Passages and ditches

- The ditches and passages of the allotments must be kept open and clear of things.
- The paths connecting the allotments are 60 cm in width and they are divided between the allotments by their sides.
- It is not permitted to fill ditches with plant waste.
- All farmers must maintain the passages next to their respective allotment.

Have a happy cultivation season!