



## Leith Community Croft Grower Information 2023

*Please read this in conjunction with the Grower agreement below, and the FAQs for Growers document (issued once EIC have allocated you a plot)*

We really appreciate your annual support in purchasing membership to Leith Community Croft.

We have decided not to increase our membership fees for 2023.

However as you can imagine in the last 3 years, with Brexit, the pandemic, the cost of living crisis and a general decrease in funding opportunities, it has been increasingly challenging to maintain and improve the level of services we wish to provide.

If you would be willing to make an additional donation towards our vital work, we would be very grateful.

Please

**DONATE**

**THANK YOU!**



## Items to Action. Please:

- Read the following information in this document
- Await an introduction email from EIC about your plot allocation
- Once allocation is confirmed - Pay Grower fee (ensuring you have previously paid for a Supporter fee for the year) EIC will send out a link for you to pay your Grower fee.
- Await an introduction email from EIC to your growing area
- Make contact with lead person for your growing area
- Make contact with other Growers in your area

If you have any questions about this, please reach out to [membership@earth-in-common.org](mailto:membership@earth-in-common.org)

## Important Information

### Grower plot allocation and Grower fee payments

Allocated Growing space joining details will **ONLY be sent out to those members who have registered a Supporter membership** - £15 per person, per annum (from date of sign up), AND who have indicated with EIC (via the Supporter membership application form) that they wish to become a Croft Grower, AND where there is a plot available for allocation.

The Grower fee is **£10 per person**, per annum (from date of sign up)

Payments auto renew on the same date each year until cancelled.

**Please note that anyone SHARING a plot with other adults, they must also register with us and complete the membership payment.**

**There is a Grower waiting list in place. All allocations of the Croft are assigned by the Earth in Common team and no-one should self-allocate space.**

We have both communal groups and sub-divided plot areas. All are welcome to join our waiting list no matter your skill level or experience.



If you have been on the waiting list you will be allocated to an area based on availability and as far as possible based on your preferences around the area's main ethos and gardening practices.

### Current Growing Areas

The groups below are the names of our current growing areas:

- The Bee's Knees / Bushytandy / Puddocks / Daddylongshanks / Emocks / Forkers / Goulliegoleans / Haver' Craws / Butterdeelies / Finkel / Kurly Kale/ / Stanwell Nursery / **Area L (new area still to be named)**

### Cancellation of membership

Please notify Earth in Common of any cancellation request (Supporter & Grower or Grower only) so we can update our records.

[Direct cancellation can be made on the EIC website, via your online profile. For details on how to cancel your recurring fees please get in touch.](#)

### Supporter Membership Benefits- a reminder

As noted above, before you become a Grower you are required to sign up for and purchase a Supporter membership. If you have not already done so please do so now. If you have made this Supporter membership purchase please see below for a reminder of Supporter benefits.

1. 10% Discount on courses and workshops.
2. Free access to the online learning section of the EIC website.
3. 10% Discounts on Hingabootery café and produce stall.
4. Newsletter from Earth in Common and the wider network of Edinburgh's food movement.
5. Regular Croft Commons events and knowledge-sharing activities.
6. Discount for booking The Croft for events, Inc. catered services from our café at The Croft – The Hingabootery, and equipment hire.
7. The chance to support and participate in a community project in Leith, for the people of Leith.
8. The opportunity to be added to the Grower waiting list. Becoming a Grower on Leith Community Croft incurs an additional annual fee of £10.



## What Does the Croft Grower fee contribute towards?

The Croft Grower's fee of £10 makes a contributions towards the additional services required, such as:

- Provision of tools from our Crofter Shed
- Provision of Water
- The Croft currently provides cold composting bins for Grower use (see Grower agreement)
- Administration costs of membership
- Enabling EIC to support a variety of individuals to participate in the croft regardless of horticulture skill levels, abilities, or economic standing.
- Regular Croft commons meetings to allow discussion between growers and EIC
- Regular Croft Work days, allowing people to work together on wider croft beautification and upkeep.

Being a Croft Grower includes participation in, and support towards the wider activities of Leith Community Croft.



## Contact us

All membership related enquiries should be made ONLY via [membership@earth-in-common.org](mailto:membership@earth-in-common.org) .

This will enable the team to keep track of all relevant correspondence with you.

For those who need more support or have less time to manage an area, please contact us and we will see how we can best support you.

## EIC Contacting You

Please check your spam/junk folder for emails from Earth in Common, and mark them as 'not spam' 'not junk'. These emails will predominantly come from Earth in Common Mailchimp account with [membership@earth-in-common.org](mailto:membership@earth-in-common.org) as sender.

If you change your name/address/email address during the period of your membership please let us know asap so we can update our records.



[www.earth-in-common.org](http://www.earth-in-common.org)



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Leith Community Croft is a community-led food growing initiative facilitated by Earth in Common charity (Charity Number SC044220) - a Scottish Incorporated Charitable Organisation.



# Grower Agreement 2023

## Respect the Earth

1. I shall garden organically and sustainably.
2. I shall only use natural fertilisers. (e.g. seaweed/comfrey/nettle)
3. I shall not use chemicals. (e.g. pesticides/herbicides), and remain mindful of the effects of "natural" pesticides and herbicides.
4. I shall encourage biodiversity, e.g. growing plants to encourage beneficial insects and caring for the soil structure to encourage beneficial organisms, nutrient and water retention.
5. I shall be careful with water and remember to turn off the main tap once finished. If you do not know the code for the water box, please ask a member of staff via email.
6. I shall compost as much vegetation waste from my plot as practical, being mindful of which plants I am cold composting, to minimise pernicious plant and plant disease spread.\*
7. I shall do everything I can to collaborate with Earth in Common and the wider Croft Community to keep the number of vermin on site to a minimum.\*  
Guidelines and regular practices on this subject continue to be discussed regularly at Croft Commons meetings, and suggestions for action will be provided via our Grower newsletter.

\*Please note As we provide cold composting facilities on the Croft this will not kill any weeds seeds or invasive/pernicious plant roots/plant diseases. Also, be aware that cold compost bins are an attractive place for vermin to nest.

## Respect other Growers

These last few years have meant times are tough all round, so please remember to be patient and understanding of others you may see at The Croft, and take pride in being a member of this fantastic community whether you have been here for years, or if you are brand new.

1. I shall respect other Growers, the equipment and the Croft itself by staying on designated walkways, keeping within my plot (unless invited directly by other Growers to visit or help on their plot), and only harvest from my own allocated plot; cleaning and placing equipment back in the storage area after use; leaving the storage area tidy and locked.
2. I shall treat others as I would like to be treated, and remember that our golden rule is always to welcome and support newcomers.

## Be active and communicate

1. Croft Growers are strongly encouraged to attend the annual Grower allocation meeting, hosted on the Croft. This is the opportunity to welcome new growers, give feedback about the previous growing year, and also for the Earth in Common team to relay any pertinent information to Croft Growers about the year ahead. At least one representative of each grower area should seek to attend.
2. Croft Growers are strongly encouraged to attend Croft Commons meetings, hosted on the Croft. These meetings are an opportunity to gather and share ideas and put plans in action. Croft Growers are invited to attend as often as possible. EIC will schedule these. At least one representative of each grower area should seek to attend.
3. Croft Growers are strongly encouraged to take part in our regular Croft Work days to help maintain high standards, and help to beautify the wider Croft. EIC will schedule these.
4. All Croft Growers must communicate and remain in communication with their Area Lead and Area members. Different groups may use different platforms such as WhatsApp or text to communicate and group tasks and information.
5. I shall be in contact with my Area lead so they can help communicate any issues with the Earth in Common team for consideration and action where necessary.



6. If I am not able to look after my plot for any reason, it is my responsibility to let my group know so they might help with the upkeep.
7. If I am not able to commit to my plot, I shall let the EiC team know asap, so another aspiring Grower can benefit. This might not mean giving up your allocated plot entirely, depending on circumstances it might mean sharing your plot with someone on the waiting list.

### Be aware of the Grower waiting list

1. We currently have **27 people** officially on our waiting list, plus many more enquiries.
2. **IMPORTANT: PLOT NEGLECT!** If a plot is abandoned for weeks on end without any notice to the Area leads or to the Earth in Common team, and no concerted efforts are made to maintain the plot, the plot may be re-allocated to someone who is waiting to grow! If your plot remains unworked by you over consecutive years, EIC reserve the right to re-allocate to someone on the waiting list.

### Keep Safe & Secure

Leith Community Croft is on 'Common Good' land and is therefore open to anyone and everyone who wants to spend time with nature for a while. We strive for a policy of radical inclusivity.

1. I am aware that the Croft is an open and unsecured site, and as such this often means that people who are not Growers use the Croft. A small percentage of people using the Croft may from time to time display antisocial behaviour, inc crop theft, property damage and aggressive behaviour.
2. I shall help to make sure that the Croft is a safe and secure place for everyone, including children and vulnerable adults. **If I witness antisocial behaviour on the Croft, I will not put myself in danger and I will endeavour to report it to the police on 101 or police Scotland report form, or 999 if it is an active incident.**
3. I am aware that Earth in Common is striving to engage and work with some of the individuals associated with antisocial behaviour on the Croft. This work



is happening in collaboration with Leith Community Police and other local organisations.

4. I shall actively take part in the general care of the Croft, such as picking up litter, helping to maintain communal facilities that I use I.e., keeping the tool shed tidy, cleaning equipment/tools used (remove soil with brush), and by attending Croft Work days.
5. I shall be responsible for the behaviour of my guests, children and pets, respecting at all times the rights and feelings of fellow Growers and Croft visitors. Please use the public bins at each of the Link's side entrances for any rubbish and dog waste.
6. Neither Leith Community Croft nor Earth in Common is liable for any injury to me, my invited friends or my pets. They are also not liable for the loss of or damage to any of my possessions.

Earth in Common will review the details of this agreement on a regular basis. You will be notified of any changes.