



## **BACKYARD CROPLAND NEGOTIATING POINTS**

**TERM** - Clarify that your use is for an entire season, and that if the the property is sold mid-season, that you be allowed to finish out the current season. Specify a start and end date.

**RENT/BARTER/UPKEEP** - Specify what the landowner wants in return for your use of the land; typically it is cash, or a weekly supply of vegetables or keeping the land maintained.

**APPEARANCE** - Commit to keeping the plot you work neat and weeded.

**INSURANCE** - Clarify what insurance may be needed.

**CROPS GROWN** -Specify that you will maintain a working garden that will consist of common vegetables, herbs and flowers, and that you may have one or many different crops growing on the property at any one time.

**GROWING PRACTICES** - Specify that you use all organic growing practices.

**ACCESS** - Clarify how you will gain access to the yard.

**WORK SCHEDULE** -Set agreed upon times when you'll be working in the plot; ask to be granted some latitude with these times. If you do need to work at an unscheduled time, you can offer to do your best to give a half day's advance notice by phone and/or email.

**UNDERGROUND CABLES OR PIPES** – If you plan to operate a rototiller, have the landowner investigate to be sure there is nothing under the ground where you will be maintaining your plot.

**WATER USAGE** - Specify that you require the use of the landowner's water and describe the type of irrigation setup you will be using. Assure them you will make every effort to use water wisely; if water usage is an issue, you can suggest that they monitor it and offer to pay the difference between their usual bill and any increase that would be attributed to your activity.

**EQUIPMENT** - Specify that most work will be completed with simple hand tools such as hoes, shovels, scissors, knives, wheel hoes, seeders and other common manually operated garden tools. If you do plan to operate a rototiller advise the landowner on what that entails and verify that there are no utility lines near where you will be rototilling.

**CLOSEDOWN** - Agree that at the end of each season you will leave the plot tilled and leveled.

### ***Follow the Call to Good Eating....***

*We can't all go back to the land, and most of us don't want to. But many of us do share a sense that food production should again have a place in family and civic life. We can get started, now, in our own backyards and neighborhoods, by becoming SPIN (s-mall p-lot in-tensive) gardeners.*

*Can thousands of backyard, front lawn and small lots be an answer to thousands of acres of monocrops? You bet! **Find out how, with SPIN-Gardening, at [www.spingardening.com](http://www.spingardening.com).***