Print Form

Plant Growth Facility

Nipissing University Plant Growth Facility Greenhouse User Guidelines

Space Allocation:

The greenhouse facility is for research and teaching use only. Greenhouse space will be allotted on a first-come-first-serve basis only. Where space is over subscribed, allocation will be decided by the Greenhouse Committee according to the following priorities:

Biology faculty research

Biology teaching

Biology adjunct research

Other Nipissing University users

Company research

All users must complete the **Request for Greenhouse Space** application form available on the Biology Plant Growth Facility web-site. This form should be submitted to Dave Vadnais at least two weeks before the intended project start date. Projects involving transgenic plant material or from industrial users will be reviewed by the Greenhouse Committee. Users will receive notification of project approval within two weeks.

If temporary storage of equipment, supplies or chemicals in the greenhouse facility is required as part of the project, all stored materials should be clearly labeled with the name of the investigator or Principle Investigator for the project. At the end of the project, all materials will be removed by the investigator. All costs associated with the removal and/or disposal of stored materials will be borne by the investigator or project Principle Investigator.

The maximum duration of a project is normally six months. Special permission for longer projects may be given by the Greenhouse Committee.

Access:

The greenhouse facilities are in a secure area of the H-wing. Access is obtained via a key obtained from the Finance Office (with permission from the Greenhouse Manager or Biology Technologist). Users must return the key to the Finance Office when the projects are completed or expired. Lost or stolen keys must be reported to the Finance Office immediately. Emergency access to the greenhouse facilities may be gained by calling campus security. Greenhouse facility doors must not be left propped open at any time.

Disease:

To keep the greenhouse facilities free from disease and pests, new plant materials must be inspected by Dave Vadnais prior to being allowed entry to the facilities. Infected or diseased plants must be treated before being placed in the facilities.

Plant Care:

Users are responsible for the day-to-day care of their own plant material. This includes watering, fertilizing, etc., unless automatic watering is warranted, which will then be programmed into the greenhouse control system by Dave Vadnais. Plants should be labeled with the species name, the name of the investigator, and date of introduction to the greenhouse facility.

To prevent accidental escape of transgenes into the environment, transgenic material will not be allowed to produce flowers in the greenhouse, unless specifically allowed under the Canadian Food Inspection Agency guidelines. Flowers on transgenic plants should be bagged to prevent cross-pollination, and all transgenic plant material (including roots and soil) must be bagged in autoclavable bags and autoclaved before disposal.

The Greenhouse Committee does not accept liability for any plant materials in the greenhouse facility.

Disposal of Plant Material:

All plant and research materials must be removed by the investigator at the end of the project. Soil and plant material (unless from a transgenic plant study) must be discarded in the designated areas. Diseased soil and plant material must be bagged in autoclavable bags and autoclaved before disposal.

Users are responsible for cleaning pots and containers after use. Users are responsible for keeping their assigned zones clean and tidy. Users must regularly clean the floor under and around the growth benches by sweeping and/or spraying with a jet of water to keep algae growth in the growth rooms to a minimum. Hoses and brooms will be available in each zone for this purpose.

The common areas (hallways and potting areas) must be kept clean and free from debris, materials and equipment to allow the free movement of carts and personnel to and from the growth zones.

The potting room area must be kept clean. Any spilled potting or plant material must be cleaned up immediately and deposited in the appropriate bin. Water spills from the sink area must be immediately mopped up to prevent a slipping hazard. When washing pots, the sinks must be left in a clean state, with all the soil from the pot washing process rinsed down the drain with copious amounts of water to ensure the soil makes it into the soil trap.