



*A garden is a friend
you can visit anytime.*

Tualatin Community Garden

Reminders for the garden

Gardening at the community garden is now in full swing. Everyone has something planted in their garden plots and are harvesting the great produce these beds produce. Just a few reminders about gardening here at the Community Garden:

Remember to turn off the water and release the pressure from the hoses before you leave the garden.

Coil up the hoses after using them.

If you use tools from the shed, be sure to return them to the shed.

Make sure the shed door is closed when you leave.

Keep the area around your plot weed free.

Be an active member of the garden – help others out, keep the shed neat and tidy, pull the weeds for others, help out with watering when your gardening neighbors are gone. If you have extra produce, considering taking it to the Tualatin Food Pantry located at Rolling Hills Community Church on Borland Road.

Did you know... if you keep up with the harvest on your vegetables you will usually be able to keep the plant producing all summer. If you let something go to seed or get overgrown (like zucchini and broccoli) the plant thinks the growing season is over and will not produce any more vegies or fruit. It's not true for all garden plants, but for many, like broccoli, you can keep the plant producing all summer long.



HOW TO GET THE MOST OUT OF YOUR TOMATO PLANTS

- Stop watering your tomato plants by the end of July. (I only water them if we have several days of really hot weather)
- Trim away the sucker branches. These are the branches that have no flowers or tomatoes on them. Usually they go down while the fruit bearing branch goes up.
- Don't water the leaves, but only water at the base of the plant (this is a good rule of thumb for most watering in your garden)
- There's 2 kinds of tomatoes plants: Determinate – which sets its fruit all at once and Indeterminate – this kind sets fruit all through the growing season.
- About the 1st week of August, I trim off most of the flowering branches to encourage the plant to put its energy into ripening the fruit that's on the plant.

Canning Class

Thursday, August 22, 7:00 pm

Class will be held at Boones Ferry Community Church (in the basement). This class will focus on tomatoes. We will cover the basics of canning (both water bath and pressure canning) and then cover all the wonderful things you can do with tomatoes. There will be information and recipes on whole tomatoes, sauces, salsas, tomato soup, and drying tomatoes. Some of the class will be demonstration and some hands on.

The cost of the class is \$10.00. You can pre-register on the community garden website or by emailing me, Laurie Jarmer at artisticmachinequilting@gmail.com.

THOSE ANNOYING LEAF MINERS



I've noticed that many of the garden plots have leaf miners infecting their plants. Leaf miners only bother spinach, chard and beet leaves. They are a small black fly that lays tiny white eggs in a row of 3 or 4 on the back side of the leaves. When the egg hatches the small green worm eats it's way in the center of the leaf. What you notice is the brown patches or trails from the worm inside the leaf. If you break open a leaf around the brown patches you can often see the small worm. It then emerges as an adult fly and starts the process all over again. The best natural way to break this cycle is to keep your plants covered with some kind of cloth that doesn't bake the plant but allows both sunlight and watering through. I use either a kind of tightly woven cheesecloth (you can purchase it in packages at the grocery store in the canning aisle) or a gauze-type cloth over the plants.

Row covers will work as long as they are the kind that is a cotton fabric type. The other kind that has like little plastic bubbles in the fabric will just bake your plants.

Once you have an infestation of leaf miners they seem to spread and are difficult to get rid of even the next growing season. With beets, they don't hurt the plant but with chard and spinach, it's the leaves you want so you have to take action to get rid of them. There are sprays that can be used too, but I wouldn't recommend them since you can get rid of these pests by just covering your plants.

Fall and Winter Gardening

We live in a mild enough climate that there are many things you can grow into late fall and some even through the winter. I highly recommend you look at Territorial Seed Catalog for their charts and ideas of what you can plant. (Get a catalog free at www.territorialseed.com)

Here's what I usually plant in late July or early August for a fall harvest:

Lettuce (sometimes it's just too hot to start until September)

Beets

Chard

Spinach

Broccoli

Cabbage

This year I'm trying sweet potatoes and other types of potatoes to see how they fair into the fall.