



## Reminders For Our Community Gardeners

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We're off to a great start this year in our garden. The raised beds are brimming with wonderful things to eat.

Thanks to all of you who have worked on the garden, either on our workday or another day weeding, getting new soil in the raised beds, and spreading the hog fuel on the pathways. Someone also swept out the shed — really appreciated.

A few reminders

- Keep the shed door closed and locked. A few times the knob on the inside has been turned so that the keypad isn't working and the door then is unlocked. Remember to check this

before you leave.

- Keep the pathways around your raised beds weed free. If everyone keeps up on this, it will keep our garden looking great.
- If you have some extra time while at the garden, spread some more hog fuel on places where it is sparse, weed around the benches, tables, etc., clean up/organize the shed or anything else to keep our garden in tip top shape.
- Don't let your plants fall over into the pathways. Keep your weeds pulled and take care of any dis-



eased plants so they don't spread to your neighbors.

- Release the pressure in the hoses and coil the hoses up for the next person to use. And be sure to turn off the water!

Dates to put on your calendar:

Saturday, Sept. 26  
Lunch Potluck

WE HAVE A FACE-BOOK PAGE. SEARCH FOR TUALATIN COMMUNITY GARDEN AND LIKE OUR PAGE!



### POTLUCK DINNER

Let's bring our summer growing season to a close by getting together for a lunch potluck. Everyone bring 2 dishes to share (main dish, salad, side, dessert, etc.). If you can, bring something made with produce from your garden. This can

even be something you preserved from your garden. It will be fun to share with each other what we have grown. We'll provide beverages, plates and utensils.

After our lunch, we'll have a time of discussion about our

## Community Garden Fall Potluck Saturday, September 26 at noon

year of gardening and what can make our community garden better. We'll also give away some prizes. Put this date on your calendar NOW!

## *Pests & Diseases*



Identifying the problem is the first step in finding a way to reduce or even eradicate the damage caused by garden foes. Keep in mind that the majority of garden visitors are either helpful or harmless. Beneficial insects include ladybugs, lacewings and many others. And don't forget the pollinators — bees being what we see most commonly in our gardens.

**Leaf, Fungal & Mildew Diseases** — A lot of this can be prevented by not planting too close (give plants room for good air circulation) or keeping foliage as dry as possible and not getting the leaves wet when watering. Almost all hot weather plants (squash, tomatoes, cucumbers, etc.) should be watered at the base of the plant not overhead watering. Sometimes removing the affected leaf is necessary. Some leaf diseases are spread by insects so covering the plant also may help in preventing the diseases spread.

**Small Insect Pests & Worms** — Many small insect pests can be kept under control by picking or spraying them off with water. Doing this before the infestation gets out of hand is important. Using a lightweight row cover can also help prevent some pests (like leafminers—those insects that destroy beet, chard and spinach leaves).

Most important in keeping pests and disease out of your plot is to catch things early. Check your garden regularly and carefully for pests and diseases.

**"Eden was garden...the garden is a place to go for quiet contemplation, a source not only of food but also of spiritual renewal and intimate contact with life's most basic processes."**

**Ed Smith, author of 'The Vegetable Gardener's Bible'**

## *Getting The Most From Your Garden*

The produce we grow takes a lot of nutrients out of the soil. Before you ever plant your beds you should add supplements to your soil. Compost, cover crops, granule fertilizers are all part of putting nutrients back in the soil. But then periodically after you have planted a liquid fertilizer will feed your plants and cause a much better harvest. You can use natural organic fertilizers like fish fertilizer or you can use a synthetic fertilizer like Miracle Grow. Fertilizing once a week will keep your plants productive.

Other helpful hints for getting the most from your garden:

- Keeping weeds and pests out of your plots and treating diseased plants give your plants the best chance to give you a maximum yield.
- Watering regularly but not over watering. Check the water in the soil by pushing a finger about 1-2" into the dirt. If it still feels moist you don't need to water yet. Too frequent watering keeps the roots shallow.
- Pay attention to every plant in your plot. If something doesn't look right and you're mystified, look it up in a book, research on the internet or ask your fellow gardeners for their opinion.



## *Pruning Your Tomatoes*

Did you know that tomato plants are actually tropical plants? They love hot weather. In pruning tomato plants you must first know what kind of tomato plant you have. They fall into two categories, determinate and indeterminate. Determinate plants will set their fruit pretty much all at once, whereas indeterminate plants will continuously grow their fruit through the season. Determinate plants tend to be more bush like and do not

need much pruning. Indeterminate plants are more vine like and need pruning to get the best yield from the plant. Whether you purchase tomato plants or start from seed, the plant marker or seed packet will say what type the plant is. (or look up the variety on the internet).

To prune indeterminate tomato plants, look carefully at your plant. You will see small sucker shoots sprouting from the

spot where the stem and branch come together. Remove these sucker shoots before they get too large. You can also trim away some of the branches that only contain leaves and no flowers or fruit. Do not trim branches that are larger than a pencil width or you may damage the plant too much.

Keeping your tomato plant pruned will also give it more air circulation which helps it stay healthier.



## *Going on vacation?*

Most of you will have a week or two this summer where you will be on vacation and need someone to watch over your raised bed. There are several ways to ask for help in watering while you're gone. A general email to fellow gardeners, a post on our facebook page or using a 'water please' marker (they are painted red and hang-

ing on a nail just outside the shed door). Our garden is about community and helping to care for each other's plot is part of being a member of Tualatin Community Garden



**"The man who has planted a garden feels that he has done something for the good of the world."**

## *Donate What You Aren't Using*

**DON'T LET WHAT YOU GROW GO TO WASTE!**

If you have extra from your plot, please donate it. Don't throw it in the compost bin. The food pantry located at Rolling Hills Community Church is always happy to take homegrown produce.

Another option, is to contact Chad Darby who runs the non-profit, Neighbors Nourishing Communities. He can direct you in how to help out by donating the extras from your plot. (His info is on our roster).

I've even gone door to door in

my neighborhood with a basket asking if they want something from my garden.

Then there's the last resort of leaving that gigantic zucchini on someone's doorstep. But that's probably only if you don't like your neighbor!!



## Tualatin Community Garden

Located at Boones Ferry Community Church  
20500 SW Boones Ferry Rd.  
Tualatin, OR 97062

503-692-5140  
boonesferrycommcb@gmail.com  
www.bfcc.us

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### We're on the Web:

[www.tualatincommunitygarden.com](http://www.tualatincommunitygarden.com)

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Providing gardening and educational opportunities for the neighborhoods of Tualatin

Join our Facebook page. Search for Tualatin Community Garden on Facebook and like us.

*Tualatin Community Garden is a place for people to garden. Tualatin Community Garden (TCG) is sponsored and hosted by [Boones Ferry Community Church](#) as a non-profit, all volunteer group engaged in growing vegetables or flowers for their own personal use and to share with the community. Our hope is to actively engage youth, families and individuals from the community to develop creative skills in sustainable urban living and organic gardening.*

*In addition to maintaining a community garden, TCG hopes to provide **ongoing education classes** in gardening and food preservation.*

*It is our hope that Tualatin Community Garden will be a place to plant, harvest and grow together as a community.*

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## *What to plant in the heat of the summer or for fall.*



It can be a challenge to plant from seeds when it gets this hot. Sometimes I start seeds in pots outside just so I can monitor more closely the seedlings until they are ready to be transplanted to my garden. Another way I keep seedlings moist is by using a soaker hose. But if your garden is done with things planted earlier like peas, lettuce, etc. then it's time to plant a new crop.

If you still want to get a summer harvest you will have to plant something now that grows quickly and loves the heat. Many squash, basil, corn, eggplant and peppers can still

be planted until mid July. You can still get vegetable plant starts at some of the garden stores and with extra watering they should take off in your garden bed.

Crops for a fall harvest can also be put in now. Beets, broccoli, brussel sprouts, cabbage, carrots, cauliflower, chard, kale, lettuce, spinach are just some that can be started from seed in your garden and harvested in the fall months.

Make use of the shade in your plot. If you have a plant that is large and casting shade on another area of your garden, plant a cool weather crop such

as lettuce that will do well in that shade.

Check out some of the veggie planting calendars that can be found online for the Pacific Northwest. One of my favorites can be found at [www.portlandnursery.com](http://www.portlandnursery.com).