



Welcome to the 2015 Garden

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We're seeing more of the sun — it must be spring. I know that with the warm sunny weather last week, my garden was calling me. It actually got dry enough so my husband rototilled and I planted some cool weather vegetables. It was probably too early and if there's a lot more rain my seeds won't do well, but I just couldn't resist a little garden work.

Once again we have many new gardeners. There were over 10 plots that were vacated from last year, though our waiting list is always around 20 people at the beginning of the year. So even now some remain on the waiting list.

We have a limit in our policy of no more than 2 plots per family.

If you decide to vacate your plot at any time in the future, it must be filled by the community garden. In other words, you cannot find someone yourself to take the plot. That would not be fair to those on the waiting list.

The renewals for next year will be handled the same way as this year. You will receive a notice both by email and by snail mail. It will give the last date that you can mail in your new signed forms and fee. After that date the plots will be rented out to those on the



waiting list. I will no longer make multiple attempts to contact you or wait for the paperwork and fees. It has just become too many weeks of work trying to get the garden plots filled.

Dates to put on your calendar:

Saturday, April 18, 10:00 am; **Free** Gardening Class

Saturday, April 11 — 9:00 am; Workday for the garden

Gardening Basics



Plan now to attend our FREE basic gardening class. It will be held at the church building. Our teacher will once again be master gardener, Tim Lanfri. He will

Gardening 101 Class

Saturday, April 18, 10:00 am

go over lots of basic gardening information. You will learn about soil amendments, when to plant what, spacing in raised beds, common mistakes gardeners make, what to plant from seeds, how to get the most

out of plant starts, fertilizing, year-round gardening and a lot more information. Tim will have handouts and slides for the class. At the end of the class there will be a drawing for lots of different gardening supplies.

Information on our community garden

Since we have new gardeners this year, I want to remind all of you about some of our garden guidelines.



- Everyone will receive a garden map and roster listing all the gardeners names, phone numbers and emails. This information is for renters use only and emails should only be used for things related to the community garden. There will be a laminated site map posted on the outside bulletin board at the shed with our gardeners last names.
- There is a cubicle for each gardener in the shed with the number corresponding to their plot. This is for storing your personal stuff. Everything else in the shed is open for anyone to use unless labeled otherwise. Be sure if you use a tool that belongs to the garden, to clean it up and return it to the shed.
- There will be a Y-connector on each faucet in the garden so that there can be 2 hoses at each faucet and a watering wand/spray nozzle at the end of each hose. Please be careful not to pull the hose across someone else's bed and coil the hose up when finished. Try to remember also to turn the water off and release the pressure in the hose. It will help our hoses to last longer.
- Be sure to keep what's growing in your raised bed inside your bed. Don't let plants or weeds fall over into the walkway.
- Our community garden has quite a bit of grass and weeds growing around each bed. We have sprayed the weeds (in the field) but it will be up to each gardener to keep the area around their plot as weed free as possible. If you are at the garden and have time to weed any of the common areas, like around the rose garden or shed, it would be greatly appreciated.
- In the spring when you first start your seeds or put transplants in your raised bed, either cover your bed with some kind of row cover or use a small fence around the perimeter of your bed. This will help keep pets and disc golfers from damaging your seedlings. We discourage our disc golfers from throwing in the garden and they actual receive a penalty for a disc that lands in the garden area, but since we share space with a disc golf course we have to find ways to keep our garden plants safe.
- We have had some difficulty with people taking produce from our garden. We will post signs again that explain that the plots here belong to individuals and no produce should be taken without the permission of the plot owners. If you see something suspicious don't hesitate to ask and explain to the person. Hopefully the issue will be kept to a minimum.
- Place your uprooted plants in the compost area located behind the shed. We hope to clean it out this year so we can get a fresh start on composting. Don't place anything but vegetation in the compost and avoid any type of items that might attract rodents.

"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'



Garden Workday — Saturday, April 11, 9:00 am

Part of being a member of the community garden, means participation in our garden workdays. I know it doesn't always work out for everyone to make it to the workday. If you can't make it, plan to spend sometime at another time doing weeding or other clean up work. At our workday some of the things we hope to do are: clean the shed, pull weeds, clean out the compost area and do other things to spruce up our garden so we

are ready for the 2015 gardening season. A load of soil will also be delivered and those who come to the workday will have first chance at adding to their raised beds some of the new soil. The soil is distributed on a first come gets it basis. We just ask everyone to remember that one dump truck load of soil will only add an inch or two to each plot so please don't take more than that amount. If you still need additional soil, you will need to

purchase it yourself. We will also have pathway material delivered to be spread between the beds. I want to get the weeds and grass out before we put new pathway material down.

Wear your work clothes and bring some gloves. If you have a wheelbarrow, bring it (extra ones are always needed). There will be bottled water on hand.



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. Feel free to send out a general email to the rest of the gardeners asking for someone to water or do some other specific task with your garden. Usually there are lots of people willing to help out.



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

Neighbors Nourishing Communities — will you join and make a difference in this community with your garden?

NNC is a non-profit grassroots organization whose mission is to provide nutritious produce to those in our community that cannot afford it. They are looking for gardeners who would be willing to set aside some of their produce for area organizations and community members in need.

In order to be a part of this community program you must register via email or phone. They will be offering education classes on gardening, cooking with garden produce, and at the end of the summer, canning classes. Those that enroll with NNC will be offered plants and seeds for your gar-

den. They hope to have a harvest dinner together at the end of the growing season.

Contact information: Chad Darby

Email: NeighborsNC@gmail.com

Or phone 503-523-7142



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

We're on the Web:

www.tualatincommunitygarden.com

Providing gardening and educational opportunities for the neighborhoods of Tualatin

***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.

What to plant in March and April



March and April are still too early to plant hot weather veggies. It's too early for peppers, tomatoes, squash and cucumbers. But it's not too early for peas, lettuce, spinach or a few other cool weather crops. Peas are usually started from seed right in the ground. You can start spinach too from seed. I often start lettuce, broccoli, cabbage and kale indoors right about now and transplant them to the garden in late April or early May. In order to be successful with indoor starts you must have a good light system. For the most part, Portland doesn't have enough sunshine

in a window to grow healthy starts. You can make your own light system easily and cheaply using PVC pipe, a few bolts, some chain and two 4-foot shop lights from Home Depot. Mine sits on a table in the garage and the lights are moved up on the chain as the plants grow.

Another option is starting plants in a cold frame. This would require building or buying a cold frame but it also is a great way to get a jump on the gardening season.

In our gardening class in April, Tim Lanfri will talk about his cold frame and bring starts that

he has grown from seed in the cold frame.

I usually don't put in my hot weather veggies until mid to late May. And then they sometimes need the protection of a row cover or wall of water or other means to keep warmer temperature around the plant.