

April 2011

# Tualatin Community Garden

Hosted by Boones Ferry Community Church

## Plan Your Garden

By spending a little time upfront to plan out what you want to grow, you increase your chances of a bountiful harvest this summer and fall. Remember to base the types of vegetables you grow on the eating habits of your family and friends. This will insure that you utilize every inch of space in your garden plot and that vegetables don't go to waste. Next, make sure to choose varieties that grow, mature, and yield well in our region. It's also important to plan your garden so that mature plants will have plenty of room and won't have to compete due to overcrowding. Remember that varieties such as pumpkins or squash will take up quite a bit of space. Check out the veggie calendar link on the next page for ideas on when to plant.



## Memorial Rose Garden is Expanding!

We now have space available for more rose bushes. We will buy, plant, and care for a memorial rose. Each dedicated rose bush will have its own plaque stating whom the rose honors. Suggested donation for each rose and plaque is \$100. Please visit the Tualatin Community Garden website for more information.



## Dates to Remember

- **Saturday, April 9<sup>th</sup> (9:30 AM)** – Garden workday. We will be building the raised beds for the expansion. Please bring tools such as cordless drills (and charger), quick clamps, saw horses, wheelbarrows, shovels, pitch forks, etc. If the weather is bad we will move the workday to Sat, April 16<sup>th</sup>.

March

- **Friday, April 15<sup>th</sup> (7:00 PM)** – Tim Lanfri from Community Garden Creators will be teaching a gardening class at the Boones Ferry Community Church. The class will cost between \$5 and \$20 depending on what each can afford.
- **Sunday, April 17<sup>th</sup> (12:30 PM)** – Garden kick off lunch

## What to Plant in April<sup>1</sup>

- Beets\*
- Broccoli (starts)\*
- Cabbage (starts)
- Carrots\*
- Cauliflower (starts)\*
- Celery (starts)\*
- Kohlrabi\*
- Spinach\*
- Corn
- Leeks
- Lettuce (starts)\*
- Onions (starts)\*
- Parsley (starts)
- Peas\*
- Potatoes\*
- Radishes\*

*\*Indicates these crops are easiest to grow when planted in April.*

## Manage Pests without Chemicals <sup>2</sup>

With the health and environmental impacts of pesticide use becoming more apparent, alternative methods of insect control are becoming more popular to home gardeners. The key to avoiding pest damage is prevention. Stressed plants are more susceptible to pests than healthy plants. Here are some methods to try:

- ***Select insect resistant vegetables*** –beans, beets, chard, peas, cucumbers, spinach, and squash are less susceptible.
- ***Keep plants healthy*** – water and fertilize adequately. Thin plants as they mature to avoid competition for nutrients and moisture.
- ***Remove weeds*** – these can be hiding places for insects.
- ***Attract beneficial insects*** - plant small-flowered plants such as daisies, cosmos, alyssum, yarrow, dill, fennel, angelica, clover, coneflower, and herbs. Aim to have something flowering throughout the season.
- ***Practice crop rotation*** – avoid growing the same crops in the same space year after year.
- ***Remove infested plants*** – remove all plant debris from diseased plants and those that are done producing.
- ***Hand-pick pests*** – this method may not be for all gardeners, but it can be very effective.
- ***Spray as a last resort*** – the least toxic insecticides include insecticidal soap, horticultural oil, and diatomaceous earth. Spot spray infestations only to avoid killing beneficial insects.



## Useful Links

<http://tualatincommunitygarden.com/index.htm>

March

<http://extension.oregonstate.edu/catalog/html/grow/grow/insects.html> - contains more information on common pests in Oregon

<http://www.portlandnursery.com/plants/docs/veggies/veggie-cal09.pdf>

## References

<sup>1</sup>Tim Lanfri, Master Gardener, Community Garden Creators

<sup>2</sup>Pest control information from Oregon State University Extension Service