

# Tualatin Community Garden

Hosted by Boones Ferry Community Church

## Welcome Back

The Tualatin Community Garden was a huge success last year and we are looking forward to another great year of gardening. We have plans to expand the number of plots this year and hope to accommodate as many people on the waiting list as possible. In addition, another memorial rose garden will likely be in the plan.

This is the first edition of our monthly newsletter so please feel free to make suggestions on topics you might find interesting ([jessiee223@gmail.com](mailto:jessiee223@gmail.com)).



## 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 Saturday, April 16<sup>th</sup>.

- **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 March<sup>1</sup>

- Beets
- Carrots
- Celery (starts)
- Leeks
- Onions (starts)\*
- Parsley (starts)\*
- Peas\*
- Radishes\*
- Potatoes\*

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

## How to Prepare Your Garden<sup>2</sup>

Now is a good time to prepare the soil for your upcoming garden. This is a very important aspect in assuring a successful harvest. As your garden beds are farmed throughout the year, the

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vegetables will be removing a lot of the nutrients from the soil and it is important to replenish these. Because the garden plots had such great soil at the beginning of last year, most of the gardeners had great success with anything they decided to plant.

Healthy garden soil will be active with microorganisms, plant nutrients, and organic matter. It will be easy to dig in, will allow air and water to reach roots, and will have good drainage. Luckily with a few simple steps you can recharge your soil for this year.

1. In order to improve soil tilth (how loose and fluffy the soil is) organic matter such as compost should be added to the garden each year. This should be viewed as a soil amendment rather than adding a significant amount of nutrients.
2. Nitrogen (N), Phosphorus (P), and Potassium (K) are important nutrients needed by your growing crops. When you are preparing your soil it is good to add a fertilizer (preferably organic) that contains all three elements N-P-K. One example is *E.B. Stone Organics Tomato and Vegetable Food*.
3. In general, soils in our area tend to be acidic. Adding lime will help to produce a more neutral soil PH level.

## Seed Starting Project- notes and advice from Laurie Jarmer

Seed starting can be a fun adventure. It's the most economical way to grow produce. Here in the Portland area one of the biggest challenges we face in seed starting is light. Placing seed starts on a window ledge is rarely adequate light to get good, healthy plants. Most of the time they become

spindly starts and don't transplant very well. So successful seed starts need an artificial light source. A plant grow light system can be purchased but they're not cheap. Here's an inexpensive but easy-to-make system for an artificial light source for seed starts.

### Materials:

- 1" PVC pipe
- 4 elbow connectors
- 8 T-connectors
- 4 end caps
- 4' shop light (comes with the chain)
- 2 fluorescent bulbs 5,000-6,000K (they don't need to be special bulbs)

Here are a couple photos of the plant light system my husband made for me a couple weeks ago. If you need more detailed instructions or if you want him to make one for you (there will be a cost for materials & time) contact me.



### Hints to using grow lights:

- Keep the lights only a few inches above the plants

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- Make sure you have lights that are high enough intensity and either blue or red hues of fluorescent
- Water plants from the bottom to prevent fungus



## Useful Links

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

<http://www.metromastergardeners.org/calendar/mar.php>

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

## References

<sup>1</sup>Planting information from Oregon State University Extension Service

<sup>2</sup>Tim Lanfri, Master Gardener, Community Garden Creators