

May 2011

Tualatin Community Garden

Hosted by Boones Ferry Community Church

Workday Success!

The garden workday was a huge success and we were able to get all of the beds built and filled. Thanks to everyone who was able to help.



Seed Sharing Bin

We will be getting a seed donation from a local grange in the upcoming weeks. Laurie will send out an email once the seeds have arrived. There is a bin in the shed with seeds that you can feel free to take or add to.

Garden Mentoring

Laurie is organizing a garden mentoring program. Please contact her if you are new to gardening and would like some help or if you feel you have enough experience to mentor a fellow gardener. She is also available to meet with you if you need some help with the initial stages of your garden.

Memorial Rose Garden

There is still space available if you are interested in a memorial rose. We will buy, plant, and care for the 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

- **Late June/Early July** – Tim Lanfri, our master gardener, will be at the garden to answer questions.
- **July/August** – Laurie will be teaching a canning class

March

What to Plant in May¹

- Beets*
- Broccoli (starts)
- Cabbage (starts)
- Carrots*
- Cauliflower (starts)
- Celery (starts)
- Corn*
- Cucumbers (starts end of May)*
- Eggplants (starts end of May)*
- Kale
- Leeks
- Lettuce (starts)*
- Melons (starts end of May)*
- Onions (starts)
- Parsley (starts)
- Peas
- Peppers (starts end of May)*
- Potatoes*
- Pumpkins (starts)*
- Radishes
- Snap beans (mid-May)*
- Squash (starts mid-May)*
- Tomatoes (starts)*

**Indicates crops are easiest to grow when planted in May.*

Tomato Tips

May is the busiest planting month of the year and starting mid-May tomatoes and other warm weather veggies can be planted. The weather this spring has been unpredictable so you may want to have a cover ready in case a cold front comes through. Here are a few tips for a successful tomato crop:

- **Harden off seedlings before transplanting** – Place your plants in a sheltered area outside for a few hours a day. Gradually expose them

to more sunlight and less shelter so that they can acclimate to the outside climate.

- **Prep the soil** – Add lime to the soil to increase the soil fertility and help prevent blossom end rot. Mix in compost to add nutrients for the growing plants.
- **Bury the stems** – Plant your seedlings up to the first set of leaves. This will help the plants to develop strong roots.
- **Add mulch** – Once the weather gets warmer, mulch around the plant to help preserve water and prevent weeds.
- **Water deeply but infrequently** – Soak the bed about once every 5 days and water the soil, not the leaves. Our master gardener, Tim Lanfri, says that he waters very little in August to encourage the fruit to ripen.
- **Provide nutrients** – Organic liquid fertilizers such as fish emulsion will provide the plants the needed nutrients in a quick release form.
- **Pinch and prune** – Remove suckers that develop at the joint of two branches. These take energy away from the rest of the plant.
- **Give support** – Plants that lay on the ground are more susceptible to disease and rot. Use long stakes, sturdy cages, or fencing to elevate the vines. Last year we had tomato plants overtaking walkways between the beds so adequate support is key!

March



Peas growing in the Garden

Useful Links

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

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

References

¹Tim Lanfri, Master Gardener, Community Garden
Creators