



Community Garden

at Community of Christ

990 Meridian Ave., San Jose

Founded 2017

February 2024—Newsletter #42



"To plant a garden is to believe in tomorrow." - Audrey Hepburn

A message from the Executive Director

A rainy day in the garden.

The garden committee has been working on our agenda for 2025. We are moving from the build the infrastructure phase to the program phase of the garden. We have developed a theme for 2025 which is:

We are of Value to our Community.

We are a place for people to come together in community, to heal nature, form relationships, learn new skills, learn how to create peace, find a place of spiritual solace, have fun and to be service to the community.

We are planning a number of events and workshops to explore concepts of peace making, climate change, make our immediate community a better place to live, food justice, art, music, and dance in the garden. We will continue with Evensong, Trunk or Treat, and perhaps a dog show in the fall.

Take a look at the garden calendar on our website and save the dates. [Grateful Gardens Calendar](#)

Thank you for your passion and participation in the garden. We invite you to this next phase of our garden life where our little patch of ground makes a difference in the community and the world.

Karen Marshall
Executive Director

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Thanks to www.kelloggarden.com for much of the information in this month's newsletter.

ORGANIC GARDENING

We are an organic community garden. Please use only OMRI approved products including soil amendments, fertilizers, and pest control products.



Upcoming Events - [Grateful Gardens Calendar](#)

<u>When</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>What</u>
2 nd Saturday every month	7PM – 8PM	South Bay Sonic Circuits! – Electronic and Synthesizer Open Mic (Free Snacks at intermission).
3 rd Saturday every month	9AM – 12PM	Grateful Gardens Workday
Fridays	Afternoons	ESL with Collette
April 13 th	Sunrise – Sunset	Palm Sunday Stations of the Cross featuring the art of Mary Button "Climate Change" in the Diane Barnett Peace Arboretum
2 nd & 4 th Tuesdays every month starting May 27 th	7PM	Evensong - A peaceful way to end your day with Poetry, readings, spiritual practices and sharing. Individual Labyrinth walk.
June 19 th	6PM – 8PM	Juneteenth Celebration Pot Luck Barbeque. Featuring Tabia African- American Theater Company.
October 31 st	6PM – 8PM	Trunk or Treat in the Garden

Climate Change Article 2/1/2025

Karen Marshall Executive Director

Hello Grateful Gardens Gardeners,

This is my first monthly column on climate change. The famous adage to writers is to write about what you know. The problem with this subject is my knowledge and my ability to write about it is very limited. I have googled the problem, always a reliable first step. My initial foray into the topic said I should give up air travel, coffee and chocolate. Oh, please just shoot me now. I recycle, compost, cut down on plastic, and I run a community garden. I guess that is not nearly enough. I did an estimate of my carbon footprint. The results concluded that my carbon emissions per year is 9.9 tons. The Paris Climate agreement would like us to be at about 2 tons per year. I am having a hard time wrapping my head around that number and where to start.

How about the definition of a ton of carbon dioxide: Yes, it is a ton, 2000 lbs. The visualizations online show this enormous sphere which dwarfs the humans on the ground. I produce 9.9 of these. It reminds me of a Borg ship pulled up alongside the Enterprise and Captain Picard is trying to reason with it. All the while the message from the Borg ship is "Resistance is futile."

So here is the thing, I am old enough that climate change and carbon footprint is probably not going to radically change my life, but it will change the life of my children and grandchildren. I must seek to understand the problem, do what I can do to not be part of the problem and seek help and participation of the community to solve the problem.

I would like to challenge this garden community to seek answers and solutions to this significant threat to the future of our children and grandchildren. My guess is that there are some of you that have advanced knowledge of this challenge and can begin to teach the rest of us how to proceed.

Please start sending your comments, advice, and wisdom so that we can begin our attack on the Borg ship that sits on our port side.

I will continue to read and educate myself and implement practices into my daily life.

Here is my first commitment, one day a week I will have meatless meals. This will save 133 gallons of water per meal, reduce my carbon footprint by eight pounds per meal, or 416 pounds a year. That does feel significant.

I hope you will participate in this conversation.

Karen Marshall
Executive Director

January – March Vegetable/Herb/Fruit Guide

	Sow Seeds	Plant	Harvest					
Plant	Seeds	Plants	JAN	FEB	MAR	Seed Depth	Plant Spacing	NOTES
Artichoke		Transplant				1/2"	3'	
Arugula	Direct Sow					1/4"	1"	
Asparagus		Transplant						Dig trench 12-18" wide and 6-8 " deep. Loosen soil deeper for best results.
Beets	Direct Sow					1/2"	5"	Thin to 3" apart, final spacing 5"
Brussel Sprouts		Transplant				1/2"	18"	Long growing season. Flavor improves with light frost.
Celery		Transplant				1/4"	12"	Thin to 10-12 inches when seedlings have 3-4 true leaves.
Eggplant		Transplant				1/4-1/2"	18"	Transplant to garden or container.
Horseradish		Transplant				3-4"	18"	Plant root cuttings 18 inches apart in trenches 3 to 4 inches deep.
Leeks		Transplant				1/4"	4-6"	Onion family
Lettuce	Direct Sow	Transplant				1/8-1/4"	8-10"	Plant in succession
Shallots	Direct Sow	Transplant				2-3"	6"	Onion family
Tomatoes		Transplant				1/8-1/4"	24"	May require staking. Transfer to to bed or planter.
Basil	Direct Sow	Transplant				1/4"	1"	Grown for its leaves which are used as a herb
Chives	Direct Sow	Transplant				1/8"	Scatter thinly	Onion family. Long hollow leaves. Cut six to eight inches from the top of the plants. This allows vigorous growth throughout the season.
Goldenrod	Direct Sow	Transplant				1/8"	Thinly scatter	Plumes of fluffy yellow flowers. Attracts beneficial insects.
Lavender	Direct Sow	Transplant				1/8"	5 seeds per 10"	Purple flowers. Direct sow spring or summer. Wound and digestive remedies. The herb can be harvested in the summer when just coming into flower (now) and can be dried for later use. The roots can be dug and boiled for a salad as they are starchy with a nutty taste.
Lavender (French - Purple Ribbon)	Direct Sow	Transplant				1/8"	5 seeds per 10"	Bush - Blue flowers. Mint family, Medicinal anti-viral, attracts pollinators
Lavender Lavandula vera	Direct Sow	Transplant				1/8"	18"	Purple/ blue Flowers. Mint family, Medicinal anti-viral, attracts pollinators
Marjoram		Transplant				3x seed diameter	2"	Oval or round leaves on woody stems. Used in cooking and medicinally. Start seeds indoors.
Mint		Transplant				1/8"	18"	Aromatic green leaves. Quick to self propagate
Mustard	Direct Sow					1/2-1"	2"	Produces billows of tiny, four-petaled yellow flowers. Brassica family. Consider staking plants.
Oregano		Transplant				1/8"	Scatter thinly	Aromatic, dark green leaves/white, pink, purple flowers. Mint Family
Parsley	Direct Sow	Transplant				1/4"	1"	Aromatic dark green leaves/yellow flowers. Carrot family
Roselle (Red) Hibiscus sabdariffa		Transplant				1/4-1/2"	Scatter thinly	Tall, tropical, red and green shrub/ cranberry taste. Produces when days get shorter

Rosemary		Transplant					1/4-1/8"	1 per pot	Fragrant, small pine needle-like leaves. Mint Family. Slow to germinate with 30% success rate.
Sage	Direct Sow	Transplant							Aromatic shrub with silvery leaves and purple flowers. Thin and transplant when 2 true sets of leaves are present.
Tarragon	Direct Sow	Transplant					1/2"	6 seeds per pot	Tender and leafy, aromatic herb. Start seeds indoors. Low light. Room temperature.
Thyme		Transplant					1/4"	Thinly scatter	Small aromatic shrub with woody stems. Mint family. Thinly scatter seeds and sprinkle with soil.
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Figs		Transplant							Propagate indoors in pots until established.

Milpitas Food Pantry

EXTRA VEGGIES? If you have extra veggies, consider donating to a food pantry!

Marcia works at Milpitas Food Pantry and can pick up extra produce Monday and Wednesday evenings. If you are interested, she can be reached at the following number 408.892.8924.



We invite you to share in the joy as we embark on the journey of nurturing our fledgling trees to life!

(Current view)



(Hope for the future)

