



Community Garden

at Community of Christ

990 Meridian Ave., San Jose

Founded 2017

May 2023—Newsletter #30



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

A Message from the Executive Director

Did you know that Grateful Gardens has been around since December 2016?!

There is a great video on the website that chronicles our development over the past seven years. Click [here](#) to go to the About Us page of our website.

Our vision statement is to provide a green sustainable space for the community to restore their soul, build relationships, and explore their unique potential. A place where all are welcome, all are loved, and all are worthy. We have achieved quite a bit of that vision.

There are two projects that have been on my mind since we started. The first is called the Peace Par Course which has morphed into a Peace Pole Garden. The idea of creating peace in our world is a very difficult concept. The peace pole garden will be four exhibits scattered throughout the garden which help people explore ideas around peace for me, peace for us, peace for everyone and peace for the planet.

I have envisioned a garden filled with art that inspires the soul.

The peace pole garden fulfills both ideas.



The second project is called Evensong. I first became acquainted with Evensong at St Paul's cathedral in London. It was an evening program of sacred music, spiritual readings, prayer etc. It is held at the end of the day as the sun goes down. It marks the passage of another day.

As you know at Grateful Gardens we have a natural outside sacred space in the campfire circle and the labyrinth. I envision an evening program. A campfire is glowing and the sun is going down. Inspiring music is playing or being sung. Poetry and stories are being read. The labyrinth lights up as we walk into the center and out again. There is an opportunity to share with each other our hopes, dreams and worries.

As a community we can explore what it means to create peace.

Look for information and dates for designing, creating, and installing these projects.



Karen Marshall
Executive Director

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Do you have garden questions, newsletter ideas OR have some free time? Check with Collette or Karen about projects that could use your help. please send an email to gratefulgardenssj@gmail.com

Thanks to www.kelloggsgarden.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.



Kudos and FYI's

The garden is so beautiful because of all the volunteers who've done backbreaking work through the Spring to tend common areas, rebuild the chicken habitat, and raise our shade canopy. These include Adel, Nasrat, Bill, Karen, Ty, Jenni, Lakshmi, Rhonda, Jim, Erin and Robert.

Garden rules changed in 2023 to encourage you to bring friends to this space. We've had two social events for gardeners in the last month: Tacos After Ramadan led by Jenni and a Salad Potluck led by Petra. Our second annual Juneteenth festival is coming up and we need help - please contact me if you want to help plan.

Ready and free for you to pick now: artichokes, snap peas outside the labyrinth, onions and romaine lettuce on the Hill, thyme, rosemary, lavender and feverfew in the herb garden.

Garden Manager - Collette

Gardening Hints and Tips

- May is a great time to plant warm-season vegetables like beans, melons and squash. You can plant most summer vegetables now, like tomatoes and peppers.
- Stay on top of weeds at least every other day if you can. Pull them out by the roots to prevent further growth. Also, check for insect pests and fungal problems.
- Read more at Gardening Know How: May Gardening Tasks – Things To Do In California Gardens
<https://www.gardeningknowhow.com/garden-how-to/garden-by-region/general/may-tasks-california.htm>

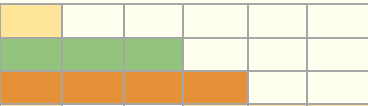
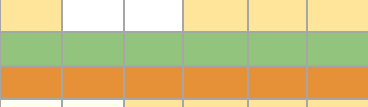
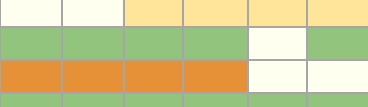
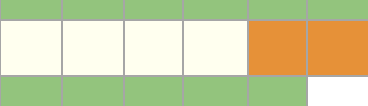
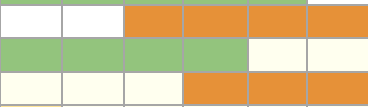
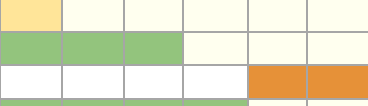
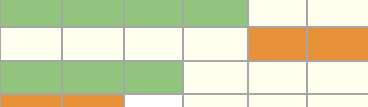
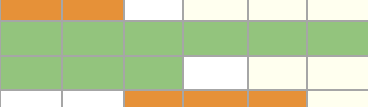
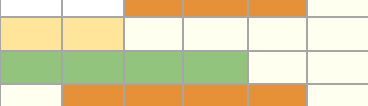
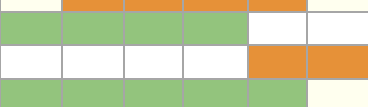
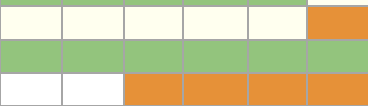
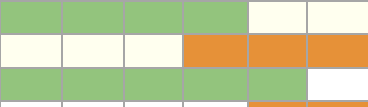
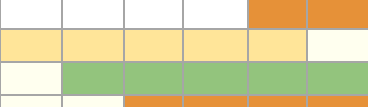
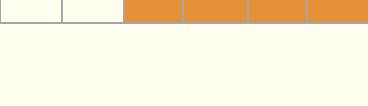




May – July Vegetable/Herb/Fruit Guide



Plant	Sow Seeds	Plant	Harvest				
	Seeds	Plants	MAY	JUN	JUL	NOTES	
Artichoke			█	█	█		
Arugula			█		█	█	
Asparagus		Transplant	█	█	█		Dig trench 12-18" wide and 6-8 " deep. Loosen soil deeper for best results.
Beans			█	█	█	█	
Beets			█		█	█	
Bell Peppers		Transplant	█	█	█	█	Ideal Temp 80-90 degrees
Broccoli	Direct Sow	Transplant	█	█	█	█	Select a variety best suited to your climate that will mature before hot weather begins.
Brussel Sprouts		Transplant	█	█	█	█	Long growing season. Flavor improves with light frost.
Cabbage	Direct Sow	Transplant	█	█	█	█	Cooler season crop
Carrots			█	█	█	█	
Cauliflower	Direct Sow	Transplant	█	█	█	█	Brassica family.
Celery		Transplant	█	█	█	█	Thin to 10-12 inches when seedlings have 3-4 true leaves.
Collards			█	█	█	█	
Corn			█	█	█	█	
Cucumbers	Direct Sow	Transplant	█	█	█	█	Consider growing vertically on support structures.
Edamame			█	█	█	█	
Eggplant		Transplant	█	█	█	█	Transplant to garden or container.
Endive			█	█	█	█	

Fava Beans				
Garlic				
Gourds	Direct Sow	Transplant		Plant in hills that are well-spaced.
Green Beans				
Horseradish		Transplant		Plant root cuttings 18 inches apart in trenches 3 to 4 inches deep.
Kale	Direct Sow	Transplant		Brassica family
Leeks		Transplant		Onion family
Lettuce	Direct Sow	Transplant		Plant in succession
Okra		Transplant		Soak seeds overnight before planting.
Onions		Transplant		
Parsnips	Direct Sow			Direct sow 1" apart in wide rows. Thin to 3-4".
Potatoes		Transplant		Give potato seeds a head start by pre-sprouting or chitting them before planting.
Pumpkins	Direct Sow	Transplant		
Radishes	Direct Sow			Plant in succession.
Rhubarb		Transplant		Possible to plant from seed, but less successful. Planting rhizomes recommended. Heavy feeders.
Rutabagas	Direct Sow			Directly sow 1-2" apart in wide rows. Thin to 8 inches
Shallots	Direct Sow	Transplant		Onion family
Snap Peas	Direct Sow			Plant in succession. Use support structure.
Soybean	Direct Sow			
Spinach	Direct Sow	Transplant		Plant in succession for continual harvest.
Squash	Direct Sow	Transplant		Consider growing on support structure.
Sweet Potatoes		Transplant		Grown from slips, not seeds. 50 Sprouts per slip. Wider spacing produces larger sweet potatoes.
Swiss Chard	Direct Sow	Transplant		Plant in succession.

Tomatoes		Transplant		May require staking. Transfer to bed or planter.
Turnips	Direct Sow			
Zucchini	Direct Sow	Transplant		Plant 3-4 seeds per mound 4 inches high.
Basil	Direct Sow	Transplant		Grown for its leaves which are used as a herb
Catnip	Direct Sow			Strong scent. Pink or white flowers
Chives	Direct Sow	Transplant		Onion family. Long hollow leaves. Cut six to eight inches from the top of the plants. This allows vigorous growth throughout the season.
Cilantro (Slow Bolt)	Direct Sow			Soft leafy herb with small whitish-pink flowers in clusters
Coriander	Direct Sow			Parsley family. Small green leaves.
Dill	Direct Sow			Aromatic blueish green plant with feathery leaves.
Fennel	Direct Sow			Hollow stems and feathery foliage.
Goldenrod	Direct Sow	Transplant		Plumes of fluffy yellow flowers. Attracts beneficial insects.
Lavender	Direct Sow	Transplant		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		Bush - Blue flowers. Mint family, Medicinal anti-viral, attracts pollinators
Lavender Lavandula vera	Direct Sow	Transplant		Purple/ blue Flowers. Mint family, Medicinal anti-viral, attracts pollinators
Lemon Balm	Direct Sow	Transplant		Lovely lemon scented leaves, Quick to self-propagate.
Marjoram		Transplant		Oval or round leaves on woody stems. Used in cooking and medicinally. Start seeds indoors.
Mint		Transplant		Aromatic green leaves. Quick to self-propagate
Mustard	Direct Sow			Produces billows of tiny, four-petaled yellow flowers. Brassica family. Consider staking plants.
Oregano		Transplant		Aromatic, dark green leaves/white, pink, purple flowers. Mint Family
Parsley	Direct Sow	Transplant		Aromatic dark green leaves/ yellow flowers. Carrot family
Roselle (Red) Hibiscus sabdariffa		Transplant		Tall, tropical, red and green shrub/ cranberry taste. Produces when days get shorter
Rosemary		Transplant		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.

Stevia	Direct Sow	Transplant		Aromatic herb used as a natural sweetener. Pair with Thyme and Marjoram.
Tarragon	Direct Sow	Transplant		Tender and leafy, aromatic herb. Start seeds indoors. Low light. Room temperature.
Thyme		Transplant		Small aromatic shrub with woody stems. Mint family. Thinly scatter seeds and sprinkle with soil.
Apples		Transplant		Plant seeds 12" apart. Transplant to 25' feet apart.
Blackberries		Transplant		Stratify seeds. Once seedlings are 4 inches in height, they can be planted outdoors.
Blueberries		Transplant		Start seeds in trays for later transplant.
Cantaloupes	Direct Sow	Transplant		Direct sow 2-3 seeds per hill.
Cherries		Transplant		Stratify seeds 4-14 weeks.
Currants		Transplant		Stratify seeds. When seedlings germinate, transplant them from seed flat into pots.
Figs		Transplant		Propagate indoors in pots until established.
Grapes		Transplant		Plant seedling vines 6-10 feet apart.
Honeydew	Direct Sow	Transplant		Direct sow 2-3 seeds per hill.
Peaches		Transplant		Stratify seeds.
Pears		Transplant		Stratify seeds.
Plums		Transplant		
Raspberries		Transplant		
Strawberries		Transplant		Plant in mounded rows.
Watermelon	Direct Sow	Transplant		Direct sow 2-3 seeds per hill.

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.

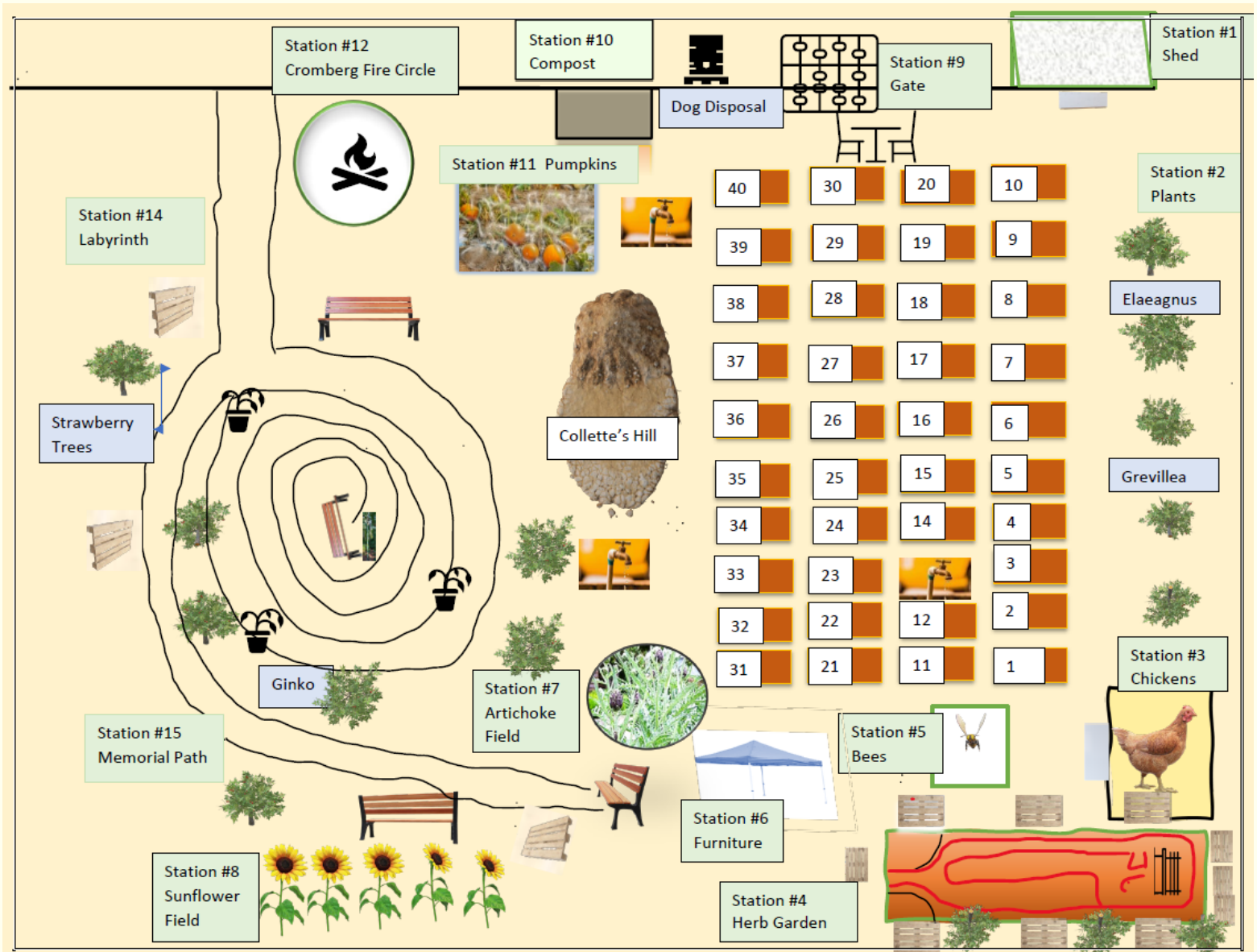


VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

The garden has many volunteer opportunities. **Following is a map and legend of the stations within the garden.**

The volunteer would adopt the station and maintain the area.

We'll be sharing more detailed information about this on the website.



Grateful Gardens Map Legend

Station 1: Shed and surrounding area – **Time:** 1-2 hours per week

Station 2: Elaeagnus, Grevillea bushes – **Time:** 1-2 hours per week

Station 3: Chickens – **Time:** 5-6 hours per week

Station 4: Herb Garden – **Time:** 2-3 hours per week

Station 5: Bees – Bees need specialized care by knowledgeable staff

Station 6: Furniture, Pop up – **Time:** varies based on project

Station 7: Artichoke Field – **Time:** 2-3 hours per week

Station 8: Sunflower field – **Time:** 2-3 hours per week

Station 9: Gate – **Time:** 2-3 hours per week

Station 10: Compost – **Time:** 4-6 hours per week

Station 11: Pumpkin field – **Time:** 2-3 hours per week

Station 12: Cromberg Fire Circle – **Time:** 2-3 hours per week

Station 14: Labyrinth – **Time:** 3-5 hours per week

Station 15: Memorial Path – **Time:** 1-2 hours per week

