



Community Garden

at Community of Christ

990 Meridian Ave., San Jose

Founded 2017

July 2023—Newsletter #32



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

Marcia's soapy garden tips

HOW CAN SOAP HELP YOUR GARDEN?

First, what soap should you use in you garden? Use dish soap or castile soap. It easily dilutes with water limiting the chance it will harm vegetation. For using pieces or shavings of bar soap, use a highly fragrant soap like "Irish Spring."

An extra bit of trivia, for those who suffer from mosquito bites: keep a leftover piece of soap and rub it across the itchy bug bite for instant relief.

DETERING MICE OR EVEN DEER FROM YOUR GARDEN

Place several pieces of highly scented soap in areas where you do not want the pests. Sprinkling soap shavings around the garden may help keep unwanted pests from feeding on your plants.

BANISHING BUGS WITH INSECTICIDAL SOAP

To make your own insecticidal soap solution, mix 1.5 teaspoons of soap (see above) with 1 quart water. Put it in a spray bottle and lightly spray the infected areas. Insecticidal soap kills most soft-bodied insects, such as mealybug and aphids, by dehydration. Try to spray the bugs, not the plants. For aphid removal, you may need to spray several times.

<https://www.angi.com/articles/how-to-get-rid-aphids.htm>.

STOPPING SLUGS

Best to just pluck them off and plunk them into a bucket of soapy water.

BOOSTING WATER INTAKE

If your plants seem to be in need of water, use a mild soap solution like castile soap and water to houseplants. Also, some potting mix is difficult to re-wet when it dries out. Soap helps break surface tension and allows water to penetrate the roots.

See <https://www.angi.com/articles/how-soap-can-help-your-garden> for more information.

Thank you,
Marcia Plumb

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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.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.



Kudos and FYI's

Garden rules changed in 2023 to encourage you to bring friends to this space.

Evensong in the Garden – A secular community gathering of music, poetry, readings, campfire, conversation, walking the labyrinth on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays from 7pm – 8pm. (5/30, 6/13, 6/27, 7/11, 7/25, 8/15, 8/29).

July 2nd – Independence Day Celebration! – Come celebrate with us from 12:30 – 3:30PM. There will Hamburgers, Hot Dogs, Green Salad, Watermelon, Popsicles, Lemonade, Iced Tea & Water.

Activity: Music (recorded), Kiddie pool and other water toys, Bubbles, Balls/outdoor games, Labyrinth, Flower pressing, Contests & games, with prizes!

Gardening Hints and Tips

- The July list of what to do in the West starts with simple, predictable tasks like irrigation. Almost every plant, including drought tolerant succulents, appreciate a deep drink when it's hot and dry. It is critical to water vegetables, like tomatoes, frequently, while tougher veggies like squash and beans do well with a little less.
- Read more at Gardening Know How: [Regional To-Do List: Western Gardening In July](#)

July – Sept Vegetable/Herb/Fruit Guide



Color Legend	Sow Seeds	Plant	Harvest				
Plant	Seeds	Plants	JUL	AUG	SEP	NOTES	
Artichoke		Transplant					
Arugula	Direct Sow						
Asparagus		Transplant				Dig trench 12-18" wide and 6-8 " deep. Loosen soil deeper for best results.	
Beans	Direct Sow					Direct sow.	
Beets	Direct Sow					Thin to 3" apart, final spacing 5"	
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	Direct Sow					Dislikes transplanting	
Cauliflower	Direct Sow	Transplant				Brassica family.	
Celery		Transplant				Thin to 10-12 inches when seedlings have 3-4 true leaves.	
Collards	Direct Sow					Brassica family.	
Corn	Direct Sow					Needs to be planting in rows for pollination.	
Cucumbers	Direct Sow	Transplant				Consider growing vertically on support structures.	
Edamame	Direct Sow					Long growing season. Succession plant for continual harvest.	
Eggplant		Transplant				Transplant to garden or container.	
Endive	Direct Sow					Direct Sow and thin to 6-12 inches apart	
Fava Beans	Direct Sow					Prefers cooler weather.	
Garlic	Direct Sow	Transplant				Planting in Fall yields larger bulbs.	
Gourds	Direct Sow	Transplant				Plant in hills that are well-spaced.	
Green Beans	Direct Sow					Grow on support structure such as teepees.	

Horseradish		Transplant		Plant root cuttings 18 inches apart in trenches 3 to 4 inches deep.
Leeks		Transplant		Onion family
Lettuce	Direct Sow	Transplant		Plant in succession
Okra		Transplant		Soak seeds overnight before planting.
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			Direct 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.
Tomatoes		Transplant		May require staking. Transfer to bed or planter.
Zucchini	Direct Sow	Transplant		Plant 3-4 seeds per mound 4 inches high.
Basil	Direct Sow	Transplant		Direct sow.
Catnip	Direct Sow			Mint Family
Chives	Direct Sow	Transplant		Cut six to eight inches from the top of the plants. This allows vigorous growth throughout the season.
Cilantro (Slow Bolt)	Direct Sow			Direct sow.
Coriander	Direct Sow			Start indoors or direct sow. Thin seedlings to 8-10 inches.
Dill	Direct Sow			Direct sow.
Fennel	Direct Sow			Direct sow to avoid transplant shock. Not a good companion plant. Plant outside of vegetable garden.
Goldenrod	Direct Sow	Transplant		Attracts beneficial insects.

Lavender	Direct Sow	Transplant		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		Mint family, Medicinal anti-viral, attracts pollinators
Lavender Lavandula vera	Direct Sow	Transplant		Mint family, Medicinal anti-viral, attracts pollinators
Lemon Balm	Direct Sow	Transplant		Quick to self-propagate.
Mint		Transplant		Quick to self-propagate,
Mustard	Direct Sow			
Oregano		Transplant		Mint Family
Parsley	Direct Sow	Transplant		Carrot family
Roselle (Red) Hibiscus sabdariffa		Transplant		Produces when days get shorter
Rosemary		Transplant		Mint Family. Slow to germinate with 30% success rate.
Sage	Direct Sow	Transplant		Thin and transplant when 2 true sets of leaves are present.
Tarragon	Direct Sow	Transplant		Start seeds indoors. Low light. Room temperature.
Thyme		Transplant		Mint family. Thinly scatter seeds and sprinkle with soil.
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.
Grapes		Transplant		Plant seedling vines 6-10 feet apart.
Honeydew	Direct Sow	Transplant		Direct sow 2-3 seeds per hill.
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 on Monday and Wednesday evenings. If you are interested, she can be reached at the following number 408.892.8924.

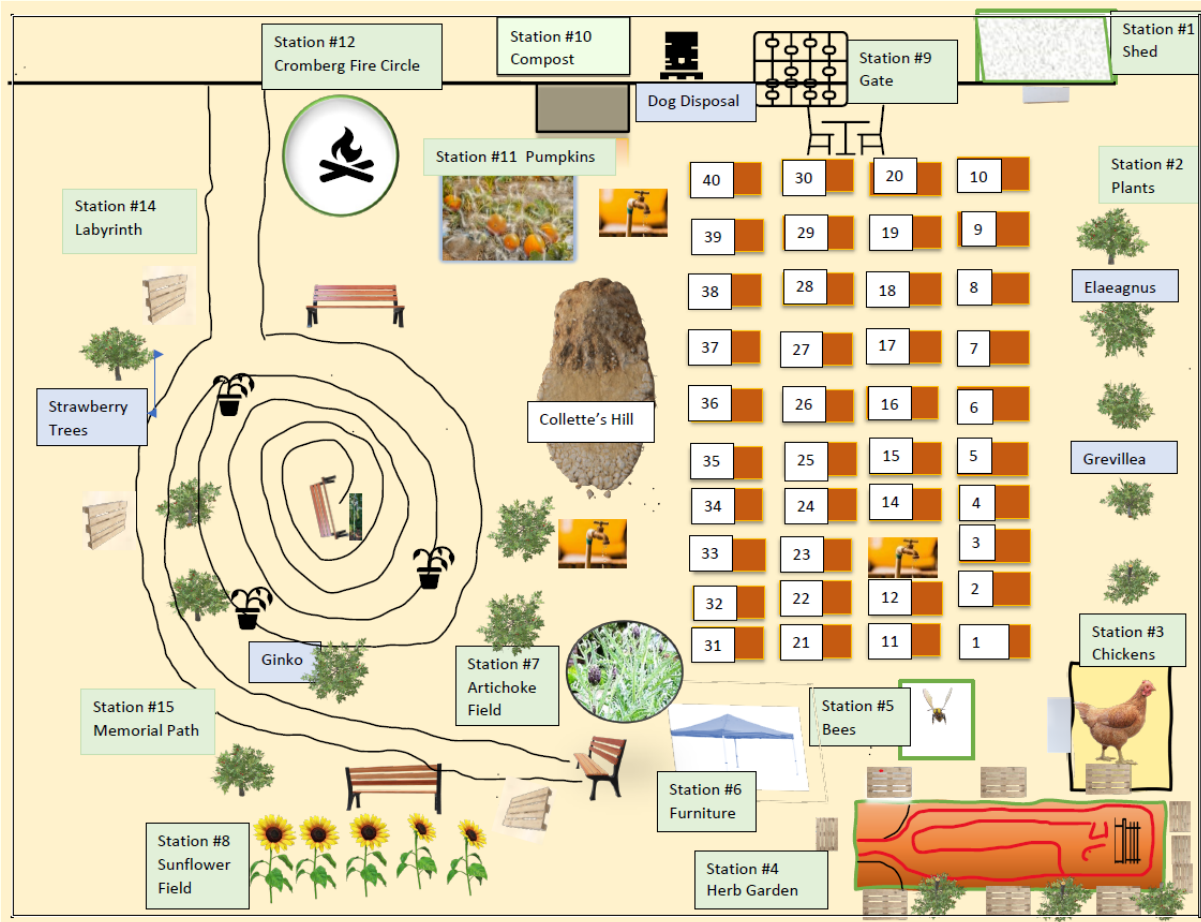


VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES - 6/24 - Volunteer Orientation

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.

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



PEACE
IS ALWAYS
Beautiful
WALT WHITMAN



Even Song

