

Children's Vegetable Garden Program Fall 2018 Session September 22, 2018



Agenda 3: Gardening Session #3

Instructors: *Please review with all children together in each section.*

Depending on the weather, we'll go forward the best we can with today's agenda. So keep an eye on your email for any cancellations or time changes early tomorrow morning, otherwise we are pressing on.

Special Reminders for Instructors and Parents Today:

- Familiarize the children/parents with the layout of the garden and the location of the restrooms and water fountain.
- Stress the necessity of proper clothing, shoes, sunscreen, mosquito spray, water, garden safety, etc.
- Emphasize the importance of being on time and ready to garden.
- Explain the importance of reading the weekly agenda before arriving at the garden every Saturday.
- Maintaining a well-organized binder and garden journal weekly is a great learning tool.

Every Day Reminders for Children, Parents and Volunteers:

- ❖ All volunteers, children and parents will sign-in and out every week and check with their Section Leaders, Ms. Mary, or Mr. John before they leave.
- ❖ All cell phones should left in your vehicle.
- ❖ Take care not to walk in or on any of the beds. It's very hard to replace irrigation lines and broken boards, we do not want to compact the soil. This includes the perimeter and center research beds. If there are any issues or concerns, please notify your Section Leader(s).
- ❖ Pick up debris in-and-around your plots, section and walkways. This includes any weeds, especially large rocks or any plastic trash. Throw material away in assigned trashcans. Do not put anything in the compost bins unless instructed.
- ❖ Please make every effort to stay on top of weeding during the entire session throughout the entire garden because they have arrived.
- ❖ **Compost Campaign:** Children, families, and volunteers are encouraged to bring coffee grounds, disposable coffee filters, tea bags, egg shells, vegetable scraps, and other appropriate compostable materials from their homes or from their local coffee shop. These materials will be added to the backside of our compost pile until further notice. The compost pile is located behind the brown-fenced area marked with a red pylon closest to the gate entrance.

Pre-Plant Chores This Morning

- Ms. Mary or Mr. John will say yes or no on this part.**

Rake up the excess soil in your plots walk ways that was left behind on the rebuild of your plots.

Then add this soil back into the low areas in your plot. All irrigation lines, including the lines coming off the on/off valve should be clear of any soil.

- Weed, weed and weed...

How Are Your Plants Looking?

- ‘Dwarf Cherry Surprise’ BHN 968 and ‘Ruby Crush’ Tomatoes**

Thank you to the volunteers who helped out this past Wednesday on planting the second tomato plants.

Do any plants need to be replaced such as **plots 32 and 38**? Do so today, please.

Make sure your plants are inside their cages and nice and straight? Use another stake if need be for this.

Make sure your root ball is not exposed. A few need to be lightly covered with soil this morning.

Pinch or cut off any leaves touching the soil and any tomato fruit that are present on the plants.

Some of the tomato cages need to be re-anchored, not on the ring of tomato cage as seen in the example plot.

- ‘Sweet slice’ cucumber**

Do any plants need to be replaced? If so, we only have a few replacement plants. We will probably plant snow peas next week in the plots that lack plants.

The plants that were lost was because they were not staked correctly, handled correctly or planted too high.

Is your plant trained correctly this morning to the trellis with your bamboo stake?

Make sure your root ball is not exposed. A few need to be lightly covered with soil this morning (probably already dead).

Today’s Plantings

Follow the Example Plot located in Section 3, Plot 14

Use the on/off irrigation valve as a guideline for the location of each plant.

Did you notice that your plot is divided into 4 mini-plots that measure 6’10”?

Fall Marigolds

Handle plants with care at all times.

- Today we are planting four transplants.

‘Taishan’ Orange marigolds/Mari-mums

<https://aglifesciences.tamu.edu/blog/2013/08/30/mari-mums-chrysanthemum-color-lasting-two-or-three-times-longer/>

The challenge in planting here is the irrigation lines cannot water these plants. We have to keep a good eye on them and water with the water can.



Use the irrigation on/off valve as a guideline. Your marigold plants will be **planted in the first mini-plot** between the front of the plot and the on/off irrigation valve. Apply one cup of organic fertilizer to this area and make sure that the area is topped off with soil. If possible **use excess soil in the plots' walkway or from your actual plot (ask Mr. Mayer)**.

Do not remove the transplants from the 6-pack until they have been thoroughly soaked. All 6-pack transplants (tray and all) should be carefully pre-soaked in a bucket of water just above the soil line of the plants/cell pack, until all air bubbles stop coming out from the soil line (**Do not do this if rain is forecasted or the plants roots look real wet**).

Two plants should be evenly spaced and planted on each side of the irrigation line and about 4 inches away from the top and bottom of the plot. (A total of four plants will be planted.)

Plant your plants a little bit deeper in order to cover the roots that are exposed on the main stem. **DO NOT remove the peat pot. Firm the plants in very well**, but take caution not to break the main stem or damage any leaves.

Proceed by slowly watering your plant in with the water can a couple of times and don't forget your plant tag.

Head Cabbage

Handle plants with care at all times.

Today we are planting two transplants.

<https://bexar-tx.tamu.edu/homehort/archives-of-weekly-articles-davids-plant-of-the-week/cheers-cabbage/>

Proceed twenty inches from the very inside of mini plot 1 into the plot. **Look at the example plot.**

For each transplant:

Space your cabbage plants out 12 inches away from the top and bottom of the inside part of the plot and space 18 inches from each other. Again, handle your plants with much care.

Do not remove the peat pot.

If the plants are too top heavy, plant your plants a little bit below the soil line or as deep as the first set of leaves (**Mr. Mayer will confirm**). **Firm the plants in very well**, but take caution not to break the main stem or damage any leaves.

None of the peat pot should be visible after planting and watering.

Don't forget your plant tag.

Yellow Squash

Handle seeds with care at all times.

Today we are planting four seeds.

'Multipik Yellow' Squash

<http://www.johnnyseeds.com/vegetables/squash/summer-squash/multipik-f1-squash-seed-2968.html>

Locate yourself at the end/backside of the plot/mini-plot #4.

Today, you are direct seeding four yellow squash seed in the shape of a diamond. Apply one full cup of Medina granulated fertilizer to this allocated planting area and very lightly scratch it in (**only if the soil is dry**).

Space and lay out your seeds before planting in this area as a Section. The first seed should be spaced 18” from the inside **middle** of the plot toward the cucumber trellis. Then two seeds will go 12” apart high and low from the first seed. The fourth seed should be planted 18” away from the first seed.

See the bamboo stakes in the example plot as a reference.

Each squash seed should be gently planted just below the soil surface with its point barely below the soil surface. Make sure that these are not planted too deep; the soil is firmed as well on the top and that they are lightly watered in. **No seeds should be visible after a real light watering.**

Don't forget to put out your plant tag.

Bush Bean

Ms. Mary or Mr. John will say yes or no on this planting; especially if the soil is very wet or heavy rain is forecasted.

Handle seeds with care at all times.

Today we are planting four rows of beans with 15 bean seeds per row (**60 beans total**).

‘Provider’ Bush Beans

<http://www.johnnyseeds.com/vegetables/beans/bush-beans/provider-organic-bean-seed-10G.html>

Use the irrigation on/off valve and example plot stakes as a guideline. **These will be direct seeded in mini-plot #2.**

Proceed 6 inches away from the inside center of the board into your plot. This is where your first row of green beans will be planted. So, mark this area with some identification bamboo stakes.

This will be the first row to direct seed 15 seeds.

The other three rows should be spaced 6 inches apart from one another and planted the same as the first row.

Each seed should be planted 2-3 inches apart in each row and evenly spaced from one row to the next.

Seeds should be planted an inch below the soil surface.

Check again after they have been lightly watered, to see if they need to be lightly pressed back in as no seeds should be visible.

Ms. Mary or Mr. John will say yes or no on this part; especially if rain is forecasted.

Fertilize all your transplants with one-quarter of a gallon of *Hasta-Gro* liquid soluble starter mix. Due to the weight of the water cans (about two gals), instructors will mix two oz. of *Hasta-Gro* with half the water can of water (about one gallon). Each plot will only need a one-quarter gallon of mixed fertilizer. This means that half a water can of mixed fertilizer will fertilize four plots. Do not get any of this fertilizer on the leaves, just on the soil around the plants.

❖ Follow the Children's Vegetable Garden Program (CVGP) blog every week.

<https://childrensvegetablegardenprogram.wordpress.com/>

Fertilizer: please refer to the table for amounts of fertilizer mentioned in the agenda.

Fertilizer	Amount	Where	When
<i>Milberger's Organic Fertilizer</i>	1 cup in the planting area	<i>Mixed with the planting soil around the marigold planting.</i>	<i>Mixed with the planting soil</i>
	1 cup in the planting area	<i>Squash planting area.</i>	<i>Before seeds are planted.</i>
<i>Hasta-Gro 2 ounces per gallon</i>	¼ gallon of mixture	<i>Around all transplants</i>	<i>After lightly watering in your plant.</i>

Each section should use one bag of fertilizer at a time (to avoid having so many bags open).

When you return a bag of fertilizer to the shed, close the bag tightly.

- ❖ *Please: Make sure that all the top boards of your bed get a quick sweeping off.*
- ❖ *Please: Don't return any dirty tools to the tool shed. It's everyone's responsibility to keep that area clean.*
- ❖ *Instructors make sure that all visible fire ant mounds or large areas of activity are flagged by the end of the day to be treated first thing tomorrow morning. All the flags that were designated for compost to the plots need to be removed to eliminate any confusion.*

Water Management

Ms. Mary or Mr. John will say yes or no on this part.

□ Become familiar with the irrigation system. Without getting anyone wet, water the planting area with low pressure for 10 to 15 minutes. **With a paperclip, make sure that every orifice in the irrigation line is unclogged. Due to the water pressure in the garden, no more than two sections should be watering during any given time frame.**

□ **Be observant not to flood plots or walk-ways. If the plots start flooding, let them drain a little, then proceed to watering again. DO NOT RELY ON THE SYSTEM TO WATER NEWLY PLANTED TRANSPLANTS.** If you are having trouble with the irrigation lines not watering, notify your Instructor. Instructor will try to fix it and if unable to fix it, Instructor will flag it and provide Ms. Mary with the section number and the problem.

□ **Section Leaders should hand water all their tomato plants by using the water hose with a water sprayer to help settle the soil around their plants at the end of the day. Be careful pulling the hose throughout the plots. Someone should walk behind the watering person after they have finished watering, to make sure that none of the roots have been exposed. If roots are exposed, address this immediately.**

Special Projects for Garden

Everyone needs to participate to maintain the beauty of the garden.

- Before leaving today, *please check with Ms. Mary or Mr. John* for your *Section assignments*.
- Are you completely finished? Make sure your Instructor has walked your plot and section before you leave.
 - Does everything look neat and clean (**no weeds**, trash, rocks, etc.)?
 - Are all your plants watered?
 - Are all your tools cleaned and placed neatly in the tool shed?
- Remember, you're ending time at the Children's Vegetable Garden (at this time) is around 11 am. This will go to about 12 noon when the weather starts cooling off and presenters and activities begin.

*Thanks Everyone!
It's going to be a great fall.
Happy Gardening!*

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