

**Children's Vegetable Garden Program
Fall 2018 Session
October 6, 2018**



Agenda 5: Gardening Session #5

Instructors: *As a Section, please review with **all** children together*
In order for us to catch up, expect to stay till at least 12 noon today.

Special Note: October 20 is the day that we will put together and put out our fall scarecrows. It's fall time! Let's make a scarecrow to decorate your garden bed! Scarecrows are easy and inexpensive to make. You probably have most or all of the materials you need right in your own home. Please see attached word doc in your weekly email with a detailed list of materials needed and some inspirational pictures!

(Note: If possible, you can preassemble your scarecrow head and face so on Saturday October 20th, you only have to put the body together)

The scarecrow frame will be provided to you at the Children's Vegetable Garden on October 20th when everyone assembles them together. However, the frames we be left at the garden at the end of the session to be used for next year meaning, they can't be taken home.

Please start collecting plastic grocery store bags. They will be used instead of straw this year to stuff the body, arms and legs.

The Bexar County Master Gardeners and section leaders will be there to help you assemble the scarecrows and place in your garden bed.

Be creative and have fun!!!

Every Day Reminders for Children, Parents and Volunteers:

- Stress the necessity of proper clothing, shoes, sunscreen, mosquito spray, water, garden safety, etc.
- Emphasize the importance of being on time and being ready to work on the garden.
- Explain the importance of reading the weekly agenda before arriving at the garden every Saturday.
- Maintaining a well-organized binder and weekly garden journal is a great learning tool.
- Before leaving today, *please check with Ms. Mary or Mr. John* for your *Section Assignments*.
- Is everyone following the Children's Vegetable Garden Program (CVGP) blog every week? Sharing it with someone? <https://childrensvegetablegardenprogram.wordpress.com/>

- ❖ All volunteers, children and parents will sign-in and out every week (**with clean and dry hands**) and check with their Section Leaders, Ms. Mary, or Mr. John before they leave.
- ❖ All cell phones and other digital devices should be left in your vehicle. It's time to garden....
- ❖ 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.
- ❖ Make every effort to stay on top of weeding throughout all the sessions in the entire garden.
Weed, weed and weed...
- ❖ **Is Everyone Participating in the Compost Campaign?**
Children, families, and volunteers please 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

Rake out all excess mulch from your plots walkways to the main walkway.
Them level out the mulch in the main walkways which is impeding water drainage.

Dig out excess soil in your plot's walkways with grubbing holes and shovels which are located in the middle tool shed.

You can easily see where the soil is higher in the plots walkways, which needs to be removed to help soil drainage and water flow.

Then add this soil back into the low areas in your plot which especially any gaps that are visible in the inside edges of your plot boards. If any soil is still needed, retrieve it from the back compost/soil pile/
All irrigation lines, including the lines coming off the on/off valve should be clear of any soil.

Make sure plot is nice and level this morning and no weeds are present inside out outside the plot and walkways.

Make sure **all plant tags** are put at the very front of your plot, so they don't get lost when the plant gets too large.

Take all bamboo stakes out from your plot. The only ones that should be present are the ones attached to your tomato cage, helping your cucumber on your trellis (can be removed if the vine is not attached to it) and helping some of your Cole crops (not really needed if planted correctly last week).

How Are Your Plants Looking?

Fall Marigolds

- Make sure to carefully add any extra soil around this planting area if it needs it. This includes the side boards, etc.
Hand water these plants real good today.

'Green Magic' broccoli, 'Snow Crown' cauliflower and Head Cabbage Plants

- This is the last day to replace any of these plants with what we have left. Meaning, if you need a broccoli and all we have left today is cabbage then, that is what you need to replace it with. Section Leaders make a firm decision on any dead or bad looking plants. Check the backside of **ALL** your leaves and destroy any caterpillars and their eggs. Pinch off any damage or yellow looking leaves off your plants.
After your plants have been watered in correctly and real well, spray them with liquid Spinosad.

'Dwarf Cherry Surprise' BHN 968 and 'Ruby Crush' Tomatoes

- Does your plant need some help straightening up? Mr. Mayer will give you some inputs. Without breaking any branches carefully "tuck" your plants back inside their cages. If the branches look like they are going to break the vines need to be tied to their cages.

Pinch or cut off any leaves touching the soil.

Some of the tomato cages need to be straightened up. Example: Plot #9.

Fertilize the very outside ring of each tomato cage with one cup of organic granulated fertilizer.

Please do not spill any of this fertilizer and seal bags tightly upon returning them to the main shed.

Start and finish one bag of fertilizer.

'Sweet slice' Cucumber

- Are there any cucumbers ready to be harvested today, besides Plot #35? Remove the bamboo stake of your plant, if the plant is firmly attached to the trellis and the plant is not attached to it. Plots #17, 18 and 48 please remove all the fruit of your plants. **Mr. Mayer will explain why.** The plots that sowed snow peas last week, did any of them come up yet? Do we need to reseed today or next week?
After your plants have been watered in correctly and real well, spray them with liquid Spinosad. Make sure you spray both sides of the plant starting from the very top to the bottom. Plot #2; please remove your cucumber plant. Did snow peas get planted there last week? If so, do that today.

Yellow Squash

- All 4 plants should be up today. If they are not, reseed them as well as any plants that do not look healthy.
After your plants have been watered in correctly and real well, spray them with liquid Spinosad.

Bush Bean

Not all the plots finished doing this last week.

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 will be direct seeded in mini-plot #2.

<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.

Proceed 6” 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” apart from one another and planted the same as the first row.

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

Seeds should be planted an inch below the soil surface.

We had a lot of beans visible on Sunday and Monday for the plots that planted last Saturday and it took us some time to replant them for you?

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.

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”?

Cilantro

□ Today we are planting three rows of cilantro with 15 seeds per row (**45 seeds total**).

‘Cruiser’ Cilantro will be direct seeded on the left side of the tomato plant in mini-plot #3.

<http://www.johnnyseeds.com/herbs/cilantro-coriander/cruiser-cilantro-seed-3755.html?cgid=cilantro#start=1>

Before seeds are planted in this planting area, the soil should be worked up with a three tine long-handled claw. When doing this remove any rocks or coarse debris. Also, work in one cup of organic fertilizer as well. The area should be very fluffy, nice and leveled when finished. Hand water the area real good before planting.

Proceed 8” away from the inside center of the board into your plot. This is where your first row of cilantro seeds will be planted. So, mark this area with some identification bamboo stakes.

The other two rows should be spaced 8” apart from one another and planted the same as the first row.

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

Seeds should be lightly tamped in just below the soil surface.

DO NOT water this area after the seeds are planted.
DO NOT forget your plant tag and its proper placing in your plot.

Carrot (Note how the seed are pelletized)

- Today we are planting three rows of carrots with 15 seeds per row (**45 seeds total**).
- ‘Early Yaya’ Carrot **will be direct seeded on the right side of the tomato plant in mini-plot #3.**
- <http://www.johnnyseeds.com/vegetables/carrots/yava-organic-pelleted-f1-carrot-seed-2681GP.html?cgid=carrots#sz=18&start=19>

Before seeds are planted in this planting area, the soil should be worked up with a three tine long-handled claw. When doing this remove any rocks or coarse debris. Also, work in one cup of organic fertilizer as well. The area should be very fluffy, nice and leveled when finished. Hand water the area real good before planting.

Proceed 8” away from the inside center of the board into your plot. This is where your first row of cilantro seeds will be planted. So, mark this area with some identification bamboo stakes.

The other two rows should be spaced 8” apart from one another and planted the same as the first row.

Each seed should be planted 2-3” apart in each row and evenly spaced from one row to the next. Seeds should be lightly tamped in just below the soil surface.

DO NOT water this area after the seeds are planted.
DO NOT forget your plant tag and its proper placing in your plot.

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

When you return a bag of fertilizer to the shed, close the bag tightly.
 Each section should use one bag of fertilizer at a time (to avoid having so many bags open).
 Don’t spill any fertilizer too...

Fertilizer	Amount	Where	When
<i>Milberger’s Organic Fertilizer</i>	1 cup	<i>Cilantro and Carrots</i>	<i>Mixed in during soil preparation</i>
	1 cup	<i>Each Tomato</i>	<i>Evenly applied on the outer lip of the tomato cage</i>
<i>Hasta-Gro 2 ounces per gallon</i>	1 gallon of mixture	<i>Around all plants that are growing</i>	<i>After watering everything properly and thoroughly in your plot. Do not get any fertilizer on your plant leaves.</i>

Water Management

- 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.

- Fertilize all the plants that are growing in your plot **after everything gets properly and thoroughly watered** with one 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). Do not get any of this fertilizer on the leaves, just on the soil around the plants.

- Liquid Spinosad should be diluted at ½ an oz. per 1 QT. Spray Bottle.
Applied on: Cucumbers, squash and Cole Crops today by thoroughly sprayed the plants entire leaves till drip.
This product is very expensive, so let's use it very wisely with our new spray bottles and measuring cups. If any of the spray is left in your Section spray bottle, then use it up on your tomatoes. Proceed by triple washing out your spray bottles.

Special Projects for Garden Miss Mary and John will assign these To the Sections

*Everyone needs to participate in maintaining the beauty of OUR garden.
And say, "I will take care of this".*

- Weed bed across Section 8 with a push pull grubbing hoe containing the blue salvia and coleus.
1 person 15 minutes

- Weed hops bed with a push pull grubbing hoe.
1 person 15 minutes

- Hand-Weed S1 "Demonstration Bed" containing cilantro (leave these) and basil plants.
1 person 15 minutes

- Go behind the brown fenced storage area and make sure that there is nothing holding any water for mosquito breeding.
1 person 5 minutes

-Weed and cut out trees growing in asparagus bed near the large mesquite tree.
1 person 20 minutes

-Walk outside to the mulched walkway of the garden near the fence-line and hand pull out any palm samplings.
1 person 10 minutes

-Weed the 'Mystic Blue' Salvia beds outside the white picket fence with a push pull grubbing hoe.
1 person 5 minutes

Before You Leave:

- ❖ *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.*
- ❖ *Please: Return tools, fertilizer, etc. back to where they belong. Example: Gallon of Hasta-Gro doesn't belong in the first shed.*
- ❖ *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.*

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, with the same type of tool with the same type of tool?

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