

Children's Vegetable Garden Program - Fall 2015 Session September 5, 2015

Agenda 3: Gardening Session #3 for Fall 2015

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

Friendly Reminders for Children, Parents and Volunteers:

- ❖ Please read the agenda *before* each session and come prepared for that day's activities!
- ❖ **All** volunteers, children and parents please sign-in and out every week and check with **Ms. Mary** before you leave.
- ❖ Take care not to walk in or on any of the beds. It's very hard to replace irrigation lines and broken boards, plus we do not want to compact the soil. This includes the perimeter and center research beds. If there are any concerns, please notify your Section Leader(s).
- ❖ Pick up debris in-and-around your section and walkways. This includes any weeds, palm saplings, rocks or 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 (some of the plots are getting messy).**
- ❖ **Coffee Campaign:** Everyone is encouraged to bring coffee grounds, disposable coffee filters and tea bags from their homes or from their local coffee shop. This compostable material 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.** This is where the approved material should be dumped. Has anyone set up a pickup of coffee grounds from your local coffee shop like Starbucks? 20 pounds a week added to our compost pile would be a huge help! Remember, this is compost that we all use throughout the garden.
- ❖ Visit and like us on Facebook and follow the Bexar Youth gardens blog for updates on the Children's Vegetable Garden Program (CVGP) and more.
<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Bexar-County-Youth-Gardens-Program/1447247425548890>
AND <https://bexaryouthgardens.wordpress.com/>
- ❖ **Please: don't return any dirty tools to the tool shed. It is everyone's responsibility to keep that area clean.**

Pre-plant Chores this Morning

- *In areas of your plot where nothing has been planted*, scratch up the soil with a three-prong cultivator, gardening rake and/or grubbing hoe to a depth of about two inches. **Take caution to avoid plants that are already planted.** Remember, *we are not tilling or digging deep into the soil.* Discard any rocks or large debris and break up any large soil clods. Plots should look nice and leveled with no craters. All the irrigation lines, including the lines coming off the on/off valve should be clear of any soil. If your plot has low places or lacks soil, then top it off with some of our compost material in the back of the brown fenced area.

How Are Our Plants Growing?

‘Tycoon’ and BHN 968 Cherry Tomatoes:

□ Are your plants straight and contained inside their cages? Are they growing nice and green? Trim any leaves off the plant that are touching the soil. Be careful not to remove the entire stem or pull hard on the plant.

‘Cheers’ Cabbage and ‘Green Magic Broccoli:

□ All your plants should be nice and straight today. Some more dirting up on their stems may be needed this morning. Miss Mary will walk the plots to see which plants need replacement.

Bunching Onions:

□ All 8 clumps should be sneaking out of the ground by today. If they are not, check to see if they were planted too deep. Wait till next week to replant.

Today’s Plantings

Follow the Planting Guide and the Example Plot located in Section 3, Plot 14

We will be planting 2 ‘Snow Crown’ cauliflower transplants, 1 ‘Sweet Slice’ cucumber and 45 ‘Provider’ bush green beans.

□ Please don’t remove the transplants from their 6-packs 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 the air bubbles stop coming out from the soil line. With this heat, it’s best to re-implement this old technique. Handle plants with care to avoid damage or bruised leaves (This includes returning plants that weren’t used to their “Mother Flat”).



‘Snow Crown’ Cauliflower:

□ Use the irrigation on/off valve as a guideline. Proceed 20” away from the inside center of last weeks planted cabbage transplants toward the cucumber trellis. This is where your cauliflower plants will be planted.

□ Space your plants out 14 inches away from the top and bottom of the inside part of the plot as well as 12 -14 inches from each other. Handle your plants with much care.

□ Plant your plants a little bit below the soil line or as deep as the first set of leaves. **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. There is no need to use bamboo support stakes.

We ALL need to do a better job this week on this step, as many of last week’s broccoli and cabbage plants were not done correctly.

□ Finish this process by hand watering the plants in a couple of times. **None of the peat pot should be visible after planting and watering.** Remember your plant tag.

‘Sweet Slice’ Cucumber:

□ Take caution in separating the plants from the flat; the cucumber plants bruise easily and need to be handled with two hands. Do not transplant any runty-looking plants. Water the plants before planting.

□ Locate the middle of your trellis that is directly facing the front of your plot and make sure that the planting area is completely free of weeds and debris.

□ One transplant should be planted 2 inches away from the middle of your trellis with the longest part of the plant toward the trellis. Plant the cucumber even with the soil line and **firm the soil** in-and-around the plant. Use a support stake to train the plant toward the trellis.

□ Proceed by slowly watering your plant in with the water can a couple of times. Remember your plant tag.

‘Provider’ Bush Green Beans:

□ Measure 12 inches away from the middle of the outer lip of your BHN 968 Cherry tomato cage towards the backside of the plot. The first row of beans will be planted here. The second row should be 8 inches from the first and the third another 8 inches. So, you should have a 2 feet plus planting area with 3 rows of beans to plant.

□ Each of the 3 bean rows will have 15 seeds evenly spaced about 2 inches apart in each row and evenly spaced out from one row to another. Lay out your seeds first for all 3 rows. Then barely push the seeds in below the soil surface to a depth of about ½ inch.

□ Water the beans in real well with your water can. Afterwards, make sure that none of the seeds are exposed. If they are exposed, lightly push them in or cover with a little soil. Then lightly tamp the soil in over the seeds.

Water Management

□ Without getting anyone wet, water the planting area with the irrigation system using low pressure for 10 to 15 minutes. **Make sure that every orifice in the irrigation line is unclogged with a paper clip. 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 in watering again. DO NOT RELY ON THE SYSTEM TO WATER NEWLY PLANTED TRANSPLANTS.** If your irrigation system cannot be fixed (Instructors, try first), flag it and then provide **Miss Mary** with the section number and problem.

A volunteer or two may need to supplement today’s watering at the end of the day by hand watering with the hose. Check all the beans

that none are poking out.....

Fertilize

☐ Fertilize all of today's and last week's plantings with a gallon of *Hasta-Gro* starter mix. Instructors will mix two oz. of *Hasta-Gro* with half a water can (about one gallon). Do not get any of this fertilizer on the leaves, just on the soil around the plants.

Special Projects for Garden

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

- ☐ Before leaving today, *please check with Miss Mary* for your *Section assignments*.
- ☐ Are you completely finished? Make sure your Instructor walked your plot and section, everything looks neat and clean (no weeds, trash, rocks, etc.), all plants are watered and all your tools are cleaned and placed neatly in the tool shed.
- ☐ Remember: your ending time at the Children's Vegetable Garden is around 12 noon.

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

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