

## Children's Vegetable Garden Program - Fall 2015 Session September 12, 2015

### Agenda 4: Gardening Session #4 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. Pay close attention to the plots *and* the walk-ways.**
- ❖ **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 or at least 4 inches from plants that have*, 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, but don't pack the soil down hard.** 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 Plant's 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. Fertilize each plant with one full cup of Ladybug organic brand fertilizer evenly distributed on the outside lip of the tomato cage.

### **'Cheers' Cabbage and 'Green Magic' Broccoli:**

- All your plants should be nice and straight today. Examine the backside of your plants leaves very carefully for any caterpillars and their eggs. Gently smash them by rubbing your thumb across them.

### **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. Replace any that are not growing by today.

### **'Sweet Slice' Cucumber:**

- How is your plant looking? Hopefully, you followed last week's planting instructions and your plant is twining it's tendrils to the trellis with help from a properly placed bamboo stake as seen in Plot 14 "The example plot". If your plant has already attached to the trellis and not the bamboo stake, then remove the bamboo stake. If the plant has attached itself to the bamboo stake, don't remove the stake.

### **'Provider' Bush Beans:**

- Did everyone check their beans after they were thoroughly watered in and before they left last Saturday? Many of the bean seeds were on top waiting to be replanted on Sunday? How many are up today?
- We will decide this morning to replant or possibly wait another week. **Miss Mary** will give instructions this morning.

## Today's Plantings

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

We will be planting 2 'Snow Crown' cauliflowers, 4 Orange Tishean marigolds/mari-mums and 4 'Dreamland' mixed colored zinnias transplants today.

- **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. Take much caution in separating the 6-pack plants from their**

flats and in returning them to their flats.

### **‘Snow Crown’ Cauliflower:**

□ Use the irrigation on/off valve as a guideline. Proceed 20’ away from the inside center of the cabbage plants 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 as to be lined up with the cabbage plants. 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.

**Take your time on this step to insure it is done correctly. When the plant is properly planted there is no need to use bamboo support stakes.**

□ 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. Finish by labeling your plants with ONE plant tag.**

### **‘Tishean’ Orange Marigolds/Mari-mums:**

*Take a look at this beautiful local planting:*

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

□ Use the irrigation on/off valve as a guideline. Your marigold plants will be **planted in the middle** between the front of the plot and the on/off irrigation valve.

□ 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 below the soil line or just a little 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 or so. Remember your plant tag.

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

### **‘Dreamland’ mixed colored zinnias:**

*Wow, another plant!!!*

<http://today.agrilife.org/2014/08/22/fall-zinnias-named-texas-superstars/>

- Follow the same procedures as you did with the marigolds. ***But do not plant them deeper, just level with the soil line.*** They will be planted at the very backside of the plot and starting 6-8 Inches in from inside board.

## *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.**

## *Fertilize*

- Fertilize all of today's and the green and growing plants 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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