

Spring 2015  
Children's Vegetable Garden Program  
February 21, 2015

## Agenda 1: Gardening Session #1 for spring 2015

**Welcome to the first day of this wonderful program! Let's all make it a great season!**

To save paper, every child/parent and gardening mentor will be e-mailed the weekly agenda and any other information needed. It is each and everyone's responsibility to bring the necessary copies to the garden as well as starting and maintaining a reference folder and gardening journal. The goal is to repeat these techniques back at your home, school or community garden. Hopefully by the end of this season, you are eating more fresh fruits and vegetables!



Barbara Rice will be conducting an Orientation with the parents this morning.

Every child that's participating in this program will need to complete a Pre-evaluation form and turn it in by the end of next week's session. These will be handed out next week.

### Friendly Reminders for Children, Parents and Volunteers:

- ❖ **INSTRUCTORS:** Make sure **all** volunteers and children sign-in and out every week and check with **Ms. Mary** before you leave.
- ❖ Do not 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 in the beds. If there are any issues or concerns, please notify your Section Leader(s).
- ❖ Pick up debris in-and-around your section and walkways. This includes any weeds, rocks or trash. Throw material away in assigned trash cans. **PLEASE DO NOT PUT ANYTHING IN THE COMPOST BINS.**
- ❖ **Handle your plants gently at all times** when planting, removing damaged leaves, checking for insects, tying up stems and harvesting,
- ❖ **Please: don't return any dirty tools to the tool shed. It is everyone's responsibility to keep that area clean!**

## Today's Gardening Chores

*Please go over the Check Box*

- Section Leader's, make sure that all Adjacent Section's such as 1 & 2, 3 & 4, 5 & 6 and 8 & 9 are all lined up together in regards to both their tomato cages and cucumber trellises. Make sure that support hooks for the tomato cages are anchored at the ring attachment and not the middle of the ring. These cages are very expensive and we don't want to bend or separate any of them.
- Instructors will flag and treat any fire ant mounds in and around the garden.
- There are 9 bags of *Espoma Garden-Tone* in the middle tool shed. One bag will be assigned to each Section. Please close up the bags tightly after usage as not to spill any as well as mark it with your Section's number.

### We start planting today!

The Planting Guide will hopefully be ready next week.

Today we are planting:

- One row of 6 white 'Kennebec' Irish potato pieces and one row of red 'La Soda' Irish potato pieces
- 2 broccoli transplants

**Note:**

- Handle plants and seeds carefully at all times.
- Use the irrigation on/off valve as a guideline.



- **Irish potatoes 'White Kennebec' and 'Red La Soda':** Locate the area of your plot between the cucumber trellis and the first tomato cage (the planting area should be a little over 4 feet wide). Evenly apply 2 cups of *Espoma Garden-Tone* natural derived organic granulated fertilizer to this planting area and lightly scratch the fertilizer into the soil.

We will be planting two rows of potatoes with 6 seed pieces in each row today. Two trenches will need to be evenly dug starting 6 inches away from the outside of the cucumber trellis and 6 inches away from the first tomato cage. Also, dig the trenches at least 4-6 inches away from the sides of the plot. Each row should be about a foot apart from one another. Try to pile the soil in the middle of the plot. Each trench should be 4 inches deep and then dusted with a half a cup of rock phosphate.

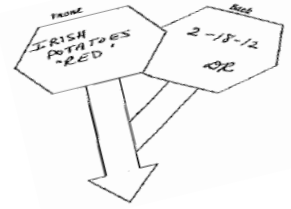
### Spuds in Space!

Potatoes were the first food to be grown in space. In 1996, potato plants were taken into space with the space shuttle Columbia

<http://www.littlepotatoes.com/potatoes101/fun-facts.php>

Space the individual seed pieces (cut side down) or the entire tuber for smaller potatoes, into their appropriate trenches (Red La Soda should be planted in the trench facing the front of the bed). Each potato piece should be evenly spaced 8 inches apart, as well as the same distance away from the cucumber trellis and the tomato cage. Back fill the soil into the trenches and lightly level the area out. Do not pack the soil. Notice that the middle of your plot should be shallower than the two planted rows. This will be important later for piling up the soil on the growing plants. Water the plantings in thoroughly with the water can.

Place one identification tag on each row of potatoes. The tag should have the name of the plant, as well as, a date and the gardener's initials. For example: (Front) Irish potatoes 'red' and (Back) 2/21/15 DR.



□ **Broccoli Transplants 'Green Magic':** Locate the tomato cage closest to the backside of your plot. Evenly apply 2 cups of *Espoma Garden-Tone* natural derived organic granulated fertilizer about a foot away from the middle-outside of the tomato cage going towards the backside of the plot. Lightly scratch the fertilizer into the soil. Space and plant the two broccoli plants 18" from one another. Plant the transplants a little deeper than the soil line of their containers, possibly covering the purple color of the main stem and or just below the seedling leaves. **Do not remove the peat pot.** The plants should be nice and erect. Gently firm the soil around the plant. Lightly water the plants with the water can. Place one identification tag in this planted area.

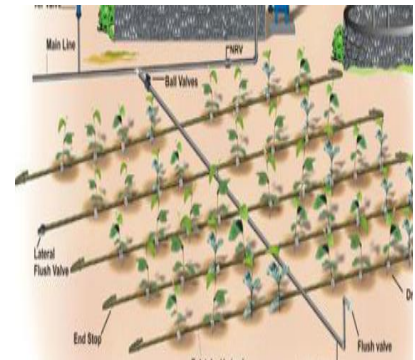
□ Apply 2 cups of *Espoma Garden-Tone* natural derived organic granulated fertilizer to the inside of each of the two tomato cages. Lightly scratch the fertilizer into the soil without removing the tomato cage.

□ Evenly apply 6 cups of *Espoma Garden-Tone* natural derived organic granulated fertilizer throughout the remainder of the plot.

□ Level and rake the plot area to scratch in the applied fertilizer. Discard all rocks, large debris and weeds. **WE ARE NOT TILLING OR DIGGING DEEP INTO THE SOIL, however much of the newly applied garden soil has caked and it needs to be loosened up some.**

□ Become familiar with the irrigation system. →  
Every orifice should be evenly dispersing water. If not, unclog with a paperclip provided. Without getting anyone wet, water planting area with low pressure for about **10 to 15 minutes**. **Do not flood plots or walkways. 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. New plantings should be watered by hand with the watering can as previously instructed.**

If your irrigation system cannot be fixed, notify your Instructor. [Instructor: see if you can unclog, if not, flag it and provide Ms. Mary with the section number and problem.]



□ **Starter Solution:** Fertilize both of today's new vegetable transplants of broccoli with a quarter of a gallon of Hasta-Gro starter mix. Due to the weight of the water can (2 gals), Instructors will mix 1 oz. of Hasta-Gro with half of the water can, about 1 gallon of water (not full water can). Each plot today will only need a quarter bucket of mixed liquid fertilizer. This means that half a water can of mixed fertilizer should do up to four plots. Do not let any of this fertilizer get on the leaves, just on the soil around the plants.

### *Before you leave:*

- ❖ Are you completely finished? Has your instructor or mentor walked your plot and section?
- ❖ Is your plot free of weeds, trash and rocks?
- ❖ Are all your plants watered?
- ❖ Are your tools clean and stored neatly in the tool shed?
- ❖ Do you know what time you're supposed to arrive next week?
- ❖ Does Ms. Mary or Ms. Anne Marie have any 'Special Chores' for your Section?

### *Homework!*

- ❖ Go to the produce section this week at your favorite grocery store and look what the farmer is shipping to market. Look at what the vegetables cost. Start researching on how to prepare these vegetables.
- ❖ Think about what you learned today and come back ready to use your new knowledge next week.

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

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