

Spring 2015
Children's Vegetable Garden Program
May 23, 2015

Agenda 14: Gardening Session #14 for spring 2015

Instructors: *Please review with all children together.*

Great job everyone with the Vegetable Show, Picnic, and recognition Ceremony last Saturday!!!

We are now taking applications for the fall 2015 session. Register early:
<http://www.sabot.org/education/childrens-education/childrens-vegetable-garden-program/>
Sometimes we can grow more produce of higher quality in the fall than the spring!

Friendly Reminders for Children, Parents and Volunteers:

- ❖ Mark your calendars for Saturday, June 13th (the Saturday following the last session of the spring 2015' Children's Vegetable Garden Program). Milberger's Landscape Nursery, who is a sponsor of our Program, will be hosting the 'Top Tomato Contest'. If you have vegetables that you are growing at home, your school garden or here at the Children's Vegetable Garden Program, please consider entering them. For more details on the competition: <http://www.milbergernursery.com/event/milbergers-top-tomato-contest/>.
- ❖ Don't forget to attend today's JMG (Junior Master Gardener) activity today. How is your gardening journal coming along?
- ❖ Is everyone liking us on Facebook and following 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>
<https://bexaryouthgardens.wordpress.com/>
- ❖ We are starting to compost *behind the brown-fenced area*. **Green material should be added to the backside of the compost pile facing the gate as designated by the pylon marker.** Everyone should start bringing coffee grounds, tea leaves and approved 'Green Materials' to dump in the allocated location. It's better than the landfill, unless you are composting at home! Please bring a 5-gallon bucket full of compostable material each week until further notice. *Last week a lot of green material was placed in the trash cans instead of the compost pile.*
- ❖ **Please: don't return any dirty tools to the tool shed. It is everyone's responsibility to keep that area clean and organized!**
- ❖ *Have you read and reviewed the agenda for this Saturday? If yes, please send me an email: dhrodriguez@ag.tamu.edu.*
Thank you to the two families who responded to this request two sessions ago!!

Pre-plant Chores this Morning

- ❖ Pick up debris (weeds, rocks or trash) in-and-around your section and walkways. Throw material away in assigned trashcans. **After all these rains, some of the Sections have a lot of weeds in and around their plots and section walkways. Please stay on top of weeds as soon as they appear.**
- ❖ Be very observant for roly-polys/sow bugs, cabbage looper caterpillars, cucumber beetles and tomato hornworm caterpillars. Dispose of these pests by crushing them. If not, they will eat leaves and flowers off your plants. Also, watch for our newest pests in the garden, harlequin beetles:



- ❖ Notify your Instructor if you see any fire ant mounds so he/she can flag them immediately.

Let's check on our plantings

- **'Tycoon' and 'BHN 968' Tomatoes:**
 - Thoroughly examine both your plants for any insects or insect damage. Properly dispose of any bad insects.
 - Harvest ALL pink blushing or red tomato fruit.
 - Tie any branches that need support to their cages.
- **Irish potatoes 'Red La Soda' and 'White Kennebec':**
 - Remove any weeds, debris, rocks and **yellow leaves** on your plants (particularly on the inside of the plant). Also destroy any roly-polies in this planting area.
 - Harvest some of your red and white potatoes. If the tubers are nice size and show any cracking, **harvest them all**. If the tubers are not cracking, then we can harvest only what we need today. Use the cracked tubers immediately for dinner tonight.
- **White and yellow Onion plantlets:**
 - Start harvesting as many onions today as possible to prevent them from rotting. Harvest the ones that have little or no top first. If they have a lot of green leaves and look very nice, keep those for another week or so. 'Super Sweet' onions at this size **DO NOT** store very long, so plan on using them quickly.

- **‘Toscano’ Kale:** (There should be NO remaining cabbage and broccoli plants in your plot by the end of today.)
 - *Check the backside of the leaves ON ALL these plants for any cabbage looper caterpillars and harlequin beetles, as well as their eggs, and manually crush them.*
 - Harvest any leaves that are ready.
- **Anise Hyssop/Licorice Mint:**
 - If necessary, cut or tie back your cherry tomato to prevent shading this plant.
- **‘Provider’ Bush Green Beans:**
 - Harvest, harvest and harvest. Young, small and immature bean pods are the ideal size. These bean pods grow fast, so don’t leave any behind!
 - Gently remove any broken or discolored leaves.
- **‘White Stream’ Lobularia:**
 - How do your plants look? Thoroughly hand-water this part of the plot today.
 - Destroy any harlequin bugs on the plants – especially Sections 8 and 9.
 - Have you have read this article on the first of three 2015 Texas Superstar plant selections?
‘White Stream’ Lobularia
<http://today.agrilife.org/2015/04/29/heat-tolerant-hybrid-alyssum-named-texas-superstar/>.
- **‘Little Ruby’ Alternanthera:**
 - Plants look pretty nice, right? Thoroughly hand-water this part of the plot today.
- **Violet carpet petunias:**
 - Don’t the blooms look pretty? Gently remove any yellow leaves and spent flowers.
 - If the Anise hyssop plants are shading your petunias, trim the hyssop lightly.
- **Yellow squash:**
 - **Treat the squash fruit like the green beans.**
 - Harvest, harvest and harvest. These squash fruit grow fast so don’t leave any behind. Young, small and immature squash fruit are the ideal size to harvest.
 - Some of the green bean plants need to be pushed away from your squash plants.
 - Notice there are three pheromone indicator traps for the squash vine borer moth, strategically placed throughout the garden. **Please, DO NOT touch these traps.**
- **‘Diva’ cucumber:**
 - Look very closely this morning within your plant for any fruit that is ready to be harvested. Cut and not pull fruit from the vine when harvesting.
 - How does your plant look? Is it nice and straight? **Make sure that the plant is trained on the trellis and not running on the ground. Some of the Irish potato plants need to be pushed away from the cucumber vines.**
 - Look for and destroy any cucumber beetles eating the leaves or blooms of your plants. Drench your plants at the end of the day with liquid Spinosad.

Water Management

Spot watering with water cans is needed in any areas your irrigation isn't completely reaching and deep watering.

- Be very observant of how your plot and section drain.
- Become familiar with the irrigation system. If necessary, unclog the irrigation lines with a paperclip. Without getting anyone wet, water your planting area with low pressure for about 10-15 minutes.
- Take care to not flood plots or walk-ways. If the plots start flooding, let them drain a little, then proceed with watering.

Special Projects for Garden

Everyone needs to participate.

This is everyone's garden.

- **Before leaving today, please check with Miss Mary and Miss Anne Marie for your Section assignments.**
- Are you completely finished? Make sure your Instructor or Garden Mentor 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.
- **Homework Assignment:** What is GMO? Here is an interesting article on GMO's related to orange trees:
http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2015/05/14/gmo-oranges-citrus-greening-southern-gardens_n_7244858.html
- Remember, your ending time at the Children's Vegetable Garden is 12 noon. Even though you have attended the Junior Master Gardener Activity, you are still expected to complete your *Daily Agenda* assignments prior to your departure.

Thanks Everyone! It is a great spring.

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<http://agrilife.org/about/>