

Spring 2015  
Children's Vegetable Garden Program  
May 30, 2015

### **Agenda 15: Gardening Session #15 for spring 2015**

**Instructors:** *Please review with **all** children together.*

**We are now taking applications for the fall 2015 session. Register early: Donations are always accepted and appreciated in order to grow and continue this program.**

<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 13<sup>th</sup> (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/>.
- ❖ 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.
- ❖ **Please: don't return any dirty tools to the tool shed. It is everyone's responsibility to keep that area clean and organized!**
- ❖ **Make sure that you sign in and sign out today.**

### *Morning Chores*

- ❖ 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.**
- ❖ Be very observant for roly-polys/sow bugs, cabbage looper caterpillars, cucumber beetles, stink bugs, tomato hornworm caterpillars, harlequin beetles, etc. Dispose of these pests by crushing them. If not, they will eat leaves and flowers off your plants.
- ❖ 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:**
  - Make sure that your tomato cages are firmly and correctly anchored, properly attached and pushed down into the soil. It was real windy last Sunday. Tie any branches that need support to their cages.
  - 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.
  
- **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 a 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.
  
- **'Toscana' Kale:** Harvest ALL your plants today.
  
- **Anise Hyssop/Licorice Mint:**
  - If necessary, cut or tie back your cherry tomato to prevent shading the hyssop plant.
  - Trim your hyssop plant back a little if it is shading your petunia plants.
  
- **'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.
  
- **'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.
  
- **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 within your plant for any fruit that is ready to be harvested. Harvest cucumbers by cutting the fruit from the vine.
- **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.**
- Destroy any cucumber beetles eating the leaves or blooms of your plants. **Drench your plants at the end of the day with liquid Spinosad.**

□ **Radishes:** It was kind of late to sow radish seeds? Most of these small plantlets should be harvested today and next week. They will not have ample time to size up and form a bulb. Use as micro-greens in tonight's salad.

## *Water Management*

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

- Water your planting area with low pressure for about 10-15 minutes. Be very observant of drainage in your plot and section. If the plots or walkways start flooding, let them drain a little and then proceed with watering.
- If necessary, unclog the irrigation lines with a paperclip.

## *Before you leave.....*

- ❖ 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.
- ❖ **Please check with Miss Mary and Miss Anne Marie for your "Special Projects" Section assignments.**

*Thanks Everyone! It is a great spring.*

*David Rodriguez*  
*Texas A&M Agrilife Extension Service*  
[dhrodriguez@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:dhrodriguez@ag.tamu.edu)  
<http://agrillife.org/about/>