

Spring 2015  
Children's Vegetable Garden Program  
June 6, 2015

### **Agenda 16: Gardening Session #16 for spring 2015**

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

### **Last Day!!!!**

**Let's slow it down some today and really pay attention on how the garden is going to properly be put to sleep for summer. If you finish early, don't leave. There is plenty of work and help needed throughout the garden on many "Special Projects".**

**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/>.
- ❖ Plots should be nice and leveled (no craters) and left in an organized manner before you leave today. **DO NOT** walk inside or on your plot.
- ❖ We are composting *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 and previous dumped "Green Material"**. All green debris from your plot will be dumped in the compost pile. **DO NOT** throw any composted debris away in trash cans. Plastic tags or uncompostable debris from your plot may be thrown away in the trashcans. Bamboo stakes should be returned in an orderly fashion to the shed.
- ❖ Did everyone bring coffee grounds, tea leaves and approved 'Green Materials' to dump in the allocated compost 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.
- ❖ Cucumber trellises, tomato cages (anchored down properly), irrigation lines and below

listed plants, should stay in place in your plot.

- ❖ **Please: don't return any dirty tools to the tool shed.**  
**It is everyone's responsibility to keep that area clean and organized!**  
**The shed needs a good cleaning out and organization today. This includes taking everything out, consolidating it, inventorying it, sweeping it out, separating items that don't need to be in there, etc...**
- ❖ **Make sure that you sign in and sign out today.**
- ❖ Do you know your local farmer? The Braune Family is a real good one to start knowing.  
<https://www.facebook.com/braune.farms>

### *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 see what is going to be removed this morning and what stays*

- **'Tycoon' and 'BHN 968' Tomatoes:**
  - ALL tomato plants should be removed this morning by cutting them down at soil level. Do not dig the plants out.
  - Destroy any bad insects that you see in and around the plants.
  - Harvest and enjoy ALL tomatoes that are blushing and are completely green. Maybe enter some of your tomatoes next week in the Milberger's Landscape Nursery 'Top Tomato Competition'?
  - Place the tomato cages back in the same place and **anchor the cages down correctly** as the wind might blow them over.
- **Irish potatoes 'Red La Soda' and 'White Kennebec':**
  - ALL the Irish potatoes should have been harvested last week.
  - Level this area out and spread out the large hill of excess garden soil evenly out towards the tomato cage.
- **'Toscano' Kale:** Plants should be cut at soil level and not pulled out. Destroy any Harlequin bugs that are visible throughout the garden today.

- **Anise Hyssop/Licorice Mint:**
  - Sections 1-6 will leave their plants. But, cut them back half- way.
  - Sections 8 and 9 need to remove their plants. They can be taken home and wrapped in some moist paper. DO NOT leave any craters in the plot. Fill with extra soil if need be. Do cut the plants back by half-way as to balance out the root to shoot ratio.
  
- **'Provider' Bush Green Beans:**
  - All beans should have been harvested and cut last week at the soil level.
  
- **'White Stream' Lobularia:**
  - Leave all plants in the garden to be observed for a summer trial.
  - Destroy any harlequin bugs on the plants.
  - Water all the plants real good before you leave today.
  
- **'Little Ruby' Alternanthera:**
  - Section's 8 and 9 will leave all their plants to be observed for a summer trial.
  - Water all the plants real good before you leave today.
  
- **Violet carpet petunias:**
  - Leave ALL pretty blooming plants.
  
- **Yellow squash:**
  - Harvest what is ready this morning.
  - Remove ALL plants today by pulling the entire plant with the root and all.
  - Level out area. DO NOT leave any craters.
  
- **'Diva' cucumber:**
  - Harvest what is ready this morning.
  - Destroy any cucumber beetles eating the leaves or blooms of your plants.
  - **Section's 8 and 9 will remove their plants by cutting them at soil level.**
  - **Section's 1-6 will keep their plants to be harvested by the summer camps.**
  
- **Radishes:** Harvest everything today and use as micro-greens in tonight's salad. Wrap plants in a moist paper towel and place immediately in your cooler.

## *Water Management*

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

- Water all remaining plants real good before you leave today. This includes the entire garden as well.

## *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.**
- ❖ Children and parents, did you tell your Volunteer Instructors thank you? Tell Miss Mary, I’ll see you in the fall?

*Thanks Everyone!  
It was a great spring.  
Will you be back in the fall?*

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