

Spring 2015
Children's Vegetable Garden Program
February 28, 2015

Agenda 2: Gardening Session #2 for spring 2015

Instructors

*Please go over with **all** children (together).*

Before We Begin:

- ❖ Is everyone receiving and reading the weekly agenda? If not, let Miss Mary or Miss Anne Marie know.
- ❖ Has everyone started a Gardening Journal and Folder?
- ❖ Who's gardening at their home this spring and what are you planning on growing?
- ❖ Each Section will complete a Pre-evaluation form and turn it in today.
- ❖ Before your Section leaves today, you need to come up with a unique Team name and turn it in to Miss Mary.



Friendly Reminders for Children, Parents and Volunteers:

- ❖ **INSTRUCTORS:** Make sure **all** volunteers, children and parents 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. ***Do not put anything in the compost bins unless instructed.***
- ❖ **Handle your plants gently at all times** when planting, removing damaged leaves, checking for insects, tying up stems and harvesting.
- ❖ When you return a bag of fertilizer to the middle shed, please close the bag tightly. Also, try to finish one bag at a time so we don't have so many bags of fertilizer open.
- ❖ ***Please: don't return any dirty tools to the tool shed. It is everyone's responsibility to keep that area clean!***

Let's check on last week's plantings

- **Irish potatoes 'Red La Soda' and 'White Kennebec':** Make sure that none of your tubers are visible. If they are, lightly cover with some soil from behind the brown fenced area.
- **Broccoli Transplants 'Green Magic', Head Cabbage 'Cheers' and 'Toscano' Kale:** Are your plants nice and straight? If not, use a bamboo support stake and very carefully add a little soil on the stem. Many of the transplants were not planted deep enough last Saturday or firmly tamped in. If your plants need replacement, let your Section Leader know.

- **Identification Tags:** Check that each row of potatoes and the broccoli, cabbage or kale is labeled with one identification tag. The tag should have the name of the plant, a date and the gardener's initials, as described in last week's Agenda 1.

Pre-plant Chores this Morning

Please go over the Check Box

- Are all the Section's lining up equally in regards to spacing of the plants? Section's 1 & 2, 3 & 4, 5 & 6 and 8 & 9 please compare your plots to one another to see if the sections line up.

- Keep a watchful eye on any roly-polies wandering throughout your Section and plot. Dispose of them.
- Scratch up the soil inside your plot to minimize any caking of the soil. Remember, we are not tilling or digging deep into the soil. Plots should look nice and leveled with no craters.
- If you see any fire ant mounds, notify your Instructor so he/she can flag the fire mounds. DO NOT treat mounds today.



Armadillidium vulgare

Today's Plantings!

Use **Plot** #14 as a guideline.

- Remember to handle plants and seeds carefully at all times.
- Use the irrigation on/off valve located at the front of your plot as a guideline.

Today we are planting:

- kale or another cabbage/broccoli transplant
- 2 selections of onions; 36 plantlets of each

Special Notes for Planting: White and Yellow Onions

- **Two selections will be planted, try not to get them mixed up.**
- **Do not cut the onion tops after planting.**
- **Onions should be straight and evenly spaced out from top to bottom and from left to right.**
- **One bunch of onions will have about 60-100 sets. Two bunches of white and two bunches of yellow should be enough for an entire section.**
- **Small plantlets grow as well as big ones – but – be sure to choose nice healthy plantlets.**



- Apply two cups of Espoma Naturally derived Organic fertilizer in the entire area between the on/off irrigation valve and the cucumber trellis. Lightly scratch the fertilizer in and level out this planting area.

- **White and Yellow Onion sets:** On the **first row**, go 6 inches away from the on/off irrigation valve into your plot and plant one row of 12 **white** onion plantlets up and down the plot and evenly spaced out every 3 inches. The **second row** of 12 **white** onion plantlets should be spaced 6 inches away from the first row. The **third row** of 12 **white** onion plantlets should be spaced 6 inches away from the second row. Each individual onion plant

should be planted and evenly spaced out 3 inches apart. This is a total of 36 plantlets for the three **white** onion rows.

Continue with a **first row** of 12 **yellow** onion plantlets spaced 6 inches away from the third row of recently planted white onions. The **second row** of 12 **yellow** onion plantlets should be spaced 6 inches away from the first row. The **third row** of 12 **yellow** onion plantlets should be spaced 6 inches away from the second row. This is a total of 36 plantlets for the three **yellow** onion rows.

Each plantlet should be planted as deep as the point where the bulb starts tapering up. Make a planting trench about 1-to-2 inches deep and lightly dust the trench with some soft rock phosphate. The onion plants should be firmed-in, nice and straight, after they are watered. Finish the **each** onion section with one identification tag.

□ **‘Toscano’ kale, ‘Cheers’ cabbage or ‘Green Magic’ broccoli:** Most of you should have room to plant **one** kale, cabbage or broccoli transplant in the empty space near last week’s broccoli and cabbage planting. The choice is yours. Plant them the same way as last week and handle plants with care. You should now have four evenly spaced plants.

Instructor’s: Drench all the broccoli, cabbage and kale plants with liquid Spinosad before departing today.

□ **Starter Solution:** Fertilize all of today’s and last week’s “Green appearing” vegetable plants 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 four plots. Do not let any of the fertilizer get on the leaves, just on the soil around the plants.



Water Management

- Hand water all new areas of the plots and all plantings from last week.
- Be very observant of drainage in your plot and section. A grubbing hole or a rod may be needed if water is puddling up in your plot. Walkways may need some trenching to move the water out of your plot or section.
- Become familiar with the irrigation system. There are many irrigation lines that are clogged up. Instructor: show the children how to unclog them with a paperclip. Without getting anyone wet, water your planting area with low pressure for about 10-15 minutes.
- Do not flood plots on walk-ways. If the plots start flooding, let them drain a little, then proceed in watering again.

Do not rely on the Irrigation System to water your newly planted transplants.

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?
- ❖ Do Ms. Mary or Ms. Anne Marie have any "Special Chores" for your Section? Even if you have completed the *Daily Agenda* assignments you are still expected to help out with any assigned "Special Projects" prior to your departure.
- ❖ *How's your Journal coming along?*



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.

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

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Service

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