

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

## Agenda 6: Gardening Session #6 for spring 2015

### Instructors

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

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

- ❖ Today's Junior Master Gardener Activity (JMG) will be conducted by Master Gardener Sandra Woodall on "Garden Friends or Garden Foes".  
<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Bexar-County-Youth-Gardens-Program/1447247425548890>
- ❖ **All** volunteers, children and parents need to sign-in and out. Check with **Ms. Mary** before you leave.
- ❖ **Remember!** *not to 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.
- ❖ **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, close and seal the bag tightly with a clip. Try to finish one bag at a time, so we don't have so many open bags.
- ❖ *Please: don't return any dirty tools to the tool shed. It is everyone's responsibility to keep that area clean!*

### Pre-plant Chores this Morning

- ❖ Pick up debris (weeds, rocks or trash) in-and-around your section and walkways. Throw material away in assigned trash cans. **Do not put anything in the compost bins unless instructed. Some of the Sections have a lot of weeds inside and around their plots. It's important to stay on top of weeds as soon as they appear.**
- ❖ Keeps a watchful eye on any roly-polies wandering throughout your Section and Plot. Dispose of these pests by crushing them.
- ❖ Notify your Instructor if you see any fire ant mounds so he/she can flag them.

## *Let's check on our plantings*

### □ **'Tycoon' and 'BHN 968' Tomatoes:**

Open up the wraps on your tomatoes and make sure your plants look strong.

-Make sure that your Instructor looks at your plants to determine if any are in need of replacement. This will be the only day to do so.

-Are the plants nice and straight? If not, the soil may need a little firming around the root ball and/or the plant stake needs to be adjusted to keep the plant nice and erect.

-Is the root ball of the plant exposed? If so, lightly cover with some soil from your plot.

-Is the main stem of your plant covered with too much soil? If so, gently remove some of the soil with your fingers.

-Is your cage nice and firm and anchored correctly?

-After completing today's plantings, fertilize both plants with Hasta-Gro as instructed on page 4. Then proceed with adjusting the wraps on the cages.

-**Wrapping the tomato cages:** Two people need to work together to tightly wrap each cage with the cloth, being careful not to tear it. **The cloth should barely be touching the bottom of the cage/soil line and proceed as high as it is cut.** Firmly fasten the cloth on each cage **at the back of your plot (not sides)** with no more than three-or-four **binder clips**. When completed, the cloth should be nice and firm as well as visibly open on the top like a chimney flue. Place the plant tag from the tomato plant on the outside front center of both plants.

□ **Irish potatoes 'Red La Soda' and 'White Kennebec':** Almost all of your Irish potatoes plants should be sticking out of the ground today. If not, let's give them another week. Hopefully, they were not planted too deep or the wrong side up/down. Make sure to remove any weeds, debris, rocks and roly-polies in this planting area.

**Note: After your plot has been watered, apply one teaspoon (only a few pills) of Sluggo-Plus in and around each group of Irish potatoes.**

□ **White and yellow Onion plantlets:** How do ALL your plants look? Remove any yellow leaves by carefully cutting them.

□ **'Cheers' Head Cabbage, 'Green Magic' Broccoli and 'Toscano' Kale:** Check the backside of the leaves for any cabbage looper caterpillars or their eggs and manually crush them.

**Note: Plants will be lightly drenched with Javelin Bt mixed at a rate of two tablespoons (1 oz.) per one gallon of water after they have been watered at the end of the day. Remember that a full water-can holds a total of two gallons of water.**



Cabbage looper caterpillar

## ~~~ Today's Planting's ~~~

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

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

Today we are planting:

- 1 **Anise Hyssop/Licorice Mint**

<http://www.johnnyseeds.com/p-7978-anise-hyssop.aspx>

- 3 rows of '**Provider**' **Bush Beans** with 10 seeds in each

<http://www.johnnyseeds.com/p-6477-provider.aspx>

- 4 '**White Stream**' **Lobularia** plugs. Handle and plant with much care.

- Sections 8 and 9 will be planting 3 plugs of '**Little Ruby**' **Alternanthera**

### ☐ **Anise Hyssop/Licorice Mint:**

-Go a foot away from the middle outside of your BHN 968 tomato cage towards the front of the plot. This is where your plant will be planted. Carefully remove the plant from its container and plant level with the soil line. Firm the plant in real well and slowly water it in. Place the name tag in the very front of the plant.

### ☐ '**Provider**' **Bush Green Beans:**

**Note: Bean seeds will be inoculated with Nitrobacterium before they are planted, to help them perform their best.**

- Locate the middle boards of your plot and proceed 8 inches from the very inside towards the end of the plot. This is where the first row of beans should be planted. Bean seeds should be evenly spaced out from one another in each row as well as between rows. 10 bean seeds will be planted in the first row at ½ inch deep and 3 inches apart. The following two rows should be spaced 8 inches apart and the same spacing as the first. Before planting, fertilize the bean planting zone with one full cup of *Espoma* or *Lady Bug granulated fertilizer*. Lightly scratch the fertilizer in, while leveling out the planting area. Lightly water the area in and **double check that none of the bean seeds are visible**. Finish by inserting an identification tag.

☐ '**White Stream**' **Lobularia:** These are one of the newest Texas Superstar plant releases for 2015.

-Locate the area of your plot between the on/off irrigation valve and the very front. Apply one cup of *Espoma* or *Lady Bug granulated fertilizer* in this area. Make sure that the area is weed free and leveled out for planting. You will carefully plant 4 plugs in this area. Evenly space the plants out and be as consistent as possible between each section. Plants need to be handled with much care, planted leveled with the soil line, firmed in real well without planting them to deep or covering the plant leaves with soil. Finish by gently and slowly watering the plants in three or four times. Make sure to double check that your plants are firmed in well and none of their roots are exposed. These are very small plants to work with.

☐ '**Little Ruby**' **Alternanthera:** These are one of the newest Texas Superstar plant releases for 2015.

**Note: Only Section's 8 and 9 will be planting these today.**

-Locate yourself to the very backside of your plot. Go eight inches into the very inside of the plot and fertilize this area with one cup of Organic granulated fertilizer. Make sure that the area is weed free and leveled out for planting. You will carefully plant 3 plugs in this area. Evenly space the plants out and be as consistent as possible between each section. Plants need to be handled with much care, planted leveled with the soil line, firmed in real well without planting them to deep or covering the plant leaves with soil. Finish by gently and slowly watering the plants in three or four times. Make sure to double check that your plants are firmed in well and none of their roots are exposed. These are very small plants to work with.

## *Fertilize*

-After you have checked on all of your earlier plantings and completed today's plantings, fertilize your plants in with a quarter of a gallon of Hasta-Gro starter mix. This will include 'Tycoon' and 'BHN 968' Tomatoes, Anise Hyssop/Licorice Mint, 'White Stream' Lobularia and 'Little Ruby' Alternanthera. Due to the weight of the water can (2 gals), your instructors will mix 1 oz. of Hasta-Gro with half of the water can, about 1 gallon of water (not a full water can). Each plot today will need a quarter gallon of mixed liquid fertilizer. This means that a half water can of mixed soluble fertilizer, should feed about four plots. Do not let any of the fertilizer get on the leaves, just on the soil around the plants.

## *Water Management*

- Be very observant on how your plot and section drains. 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.
- Become familiar with the irrigation system. There are many irrigation lines that are clogged up. Your Instructor will show you 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 or walk-ways. If the plots start flooding, let them drain a little, then proceed in watering again. Section's 2 and 4 need please get with Miss Mary early, to address your drainage issues.

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

## *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 look 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.
- Have you been more observant of what the produce section carries at the Grocery store? Cost of fruits and vegetables? What size of vegetables the farmer ships to the market?

□ Remember, you're ending time at the Children's Vegetable Garden is around 12 noon and we have a lot of catching up to do today. 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's going to be a great spring.

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