

Spring 2015
Children's Vegetable Garden Program
April 4, 2015

Agenda 7: Gardening Session #7 for spring 2015

Instructors: *Please review 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 beneficial insects and releasing Lady Bugs.
- ❖ **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.**
- ❖ Keep a watchful eye out on any roly-polys 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 both your tomato plants and make sure your plants look strong and are vigorously growing.
- Unwrap and fold up your winter cloth from your **BHN 968 'Dwarf Cherry Surprise'** tomato plant. Neatly place ALL the cloths and clips in their assigned

Section boxes to be stored away in the large shed.

- Without breaking any branches, carefully tuck all the tomato branches back into their cage. If this isn't possible, then you might need to tie the plant stem to its cage.
- Fertilize your **BHN 968** tomato with one cup of granulated Organic fertilizer on the outer area of the tomato cage.
- At the end of the day, replace the wrap on your **'Tycoon'** tomato.

☐ **Irish potatoes 'Red La Soda' and 'White Kennebec':**

- All your Irish potatoes plants should be sticking out of the ground by now. Make sure to remove any weeds, debris, rocks and roly-polies in this planting area.
- Evenly spread one cup of Organic granulated fertilizer throughout the outskirts of both Irish potato plantings.

☐ **White and yellow Onion plantlets:**

- How do ALL your plants look? Remove any yellow leaves by carefully cutting them.
- Evenly spread one cup of Organic granulated fertilizer throughout the outskirts of both onion plantings.

☐ **'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.
- Evenly spread one cup of Organic granulated fertilizer throughout the outskirts of all these plants.

☐ **Anise Hyssop/Licorice Mint:**

- How does your plant look? Does your plant need to be pinched back like last week? If so, lightly pinch them and use the leaves in your salad tonight.

☐ **'Provider' Bush Green Beans:**

- Have your beans germinated yet? If so, do they all have nice and healthy leaves on them? Replant any that haven't germinated or look unhealthy.

☐ **'White Stream' Lobularia:**

- How do your plants look? Sections 8 and 9 will plant theirs today. Remember this part of the plot needs to be thoroughly hand watered in today.

☐ **'Little Ruby' Alternanthera:**

- How do your plants look? Remember this part of the plot needs to be thoroughly hand watered in today.

~~~ *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 **'Diva' cucumber** <http://www.johnnyseeds.com/p-5540-diva.aspx>
- 2 **Violet carpet petunias transplants**
- 3 **Yellow squash seed** <http://www.johnnyseeds.com/p-7119-gentry.aspx>
- 4 **'White Stream' Lobularia** from last week in Sections 8 and 9.

□ **'Diva' cucumber:**

- The cucumber transplants are located underneath the large Cedar elm tree. Take caution in separating the plants from the flat; the cucumber plants bruise easily. Do not transplant any runty looking plants. Water the plants before planting.
- Locate the middle of your trellis that is directly facing the front of your plot and make sure that the planting area is completely free of weeds and debris.
- Apply one cup of available granulated Organic Fertilizer to the front and middle part of your support trellis.
- Plant one plant 2 inches away from the middle of your trellis with the longest part of the plant toward the trellis. Plant the cucumber even with the soil line and firm the soil in-and-around the plant. Use a support stake to train the plant toward the trellis.
- Proceed by slowly watering your plant in with the water can.

□ **Violet carpet petunias:**

Note: Dunk individual 6-packs of plants in a bucket of water to their soil line, to pre-moisten them before planting.

- Locate your Anise Hyssop herb plant in the plot. One petunia plant will be planted 8 inches in front of the Anise Hyssop and the other 8" behind the Anise Hyssop. **DO NOT** remove the peat pot from your transplants. Plant the plants even with the soil line and firm them in well.
- Proceed by slowly watering your plants in with the water can.

□ **Yellow squash seeds:**

- Locate the middle area of your plot between the last row of green bean seeds planted last week and your Anise hyssop herb. Apply and scratch in one cup of available granulated Organic fertilizer into this area.
- Plant your 3 yellow squash seeds with a triangular spacing with the top facing the front of the plot. Plant each seed 4 inches apart, with the tip of the seed barely below the soil level but firmed into the soil.
- Proceed by slowly watering your plants in with the water can.

Water Management

□ Be very observant of how your plot and section drain. 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 4, especially plots 24 -27 need to rake out and remove the excess mulch in the very front and back of their plots to help with excess water drainage.

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 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.

- Have you been more observant of what the produce section carries at the Grocery store? What is the cost of fruits and vegetables? What size of vegetables is the farmer shipping to the market?

- 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's going to be a great spring.

David Rodriguez

Texas A&M Agrilife Extension Service

dhrodriguez@ag.tamu.edu

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