

Spring 2015  
Children's Vegetable Garden Program  
April 11, 2015

## **Agenda 8: Gardening Session #8 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 Ruby Zavala the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service –Bexar County Youth Gardens Coordinator on Plant Growth and Development.
- ❖ **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.
- ❖ We will start composting behind the brown-fenced area. Dump any green material to the side of the compost pile facing the gate as designated by the pylon marker. So, everyone can start bringing coffee and tea grounds at this time to dump in the allocated location.
- ❖ *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:

- Unwrap both your **BHN 968 'Dwarf Cherry Surprise'** and **Tycoon** tomato plants. Neatly fold the cloths and place ALL the cloths and clips in their assigned Section boxes in an orderly fashion to be stored away in the large shed. **Note: this will make using the cloths easy next time.**
- 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.
- If your **Tycoon** tomato is not nice and erect in its tomato cage (moves around too much), gently remove its support stake and reset it as to keep it from moving around in the cage.
- Without pulling hard on your tomato plants, pinch of any leaves that are in contact with the soil by either pinching/cutting the entire stem off or at least half-way to the plant's main trunk. This will minimize soil splashing up on the foliage and help reduce disease potential.
- Fertilize your **Tycoon** tomato with one cup of granulated Organic fertilizer on the outer area of the tomato cage.
- Fertilize both plants at the very end of the day with some of John's Recipe fertilizer. Mix half a small bottle with one gallon of water. This will fertilize one plot.

### □ Irish potatoes 'Red La Soda' and 'White Kennebec':

- Make sure to remove any weeds, debris, rocks and roly-polies in this planting area **as well as any yellow leaves** on your plants.
- Evenly spread one cup of Organic granulated fertilizer throughout the outskirts of both Irish potato plantings.
- If you followed the initial planting instructions correctly, you should have a fairly large pile of garden soil in the middle of your Irish potato planting. Scratch off about two or three inches of this soil to "dirt up" the backside stems of your Irish potatoes; no more than three or four inches up the stems above the soil line.
- If you need compost to do this step and for the front "dirting" of your Irish potatoes, proceed to the area behind the brown fence to bring up what you need.
- **Note: This step may require the help of two people. One person to place the garden soil and the other to lift the lower stems of the plants. We DO NOT want to break any of the plants' stems, so be gentle.**

### □ 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 ON ALL these plants for any cabbage looper caterpillars or their eggs and manually crush them.***
- Drench all the plants at the end of the day with liquid Spinosad diluted at 2 oz. /gallon of water.

### □ Anise Hyssop/Licorice Mint:

- How does your plant look? Check with your Instructor to see if your plant needs to

be pinched back. If so, lightly pinch back and use the leaves in your salad tonight.

☐ **‘Provider’ Bush Green Beans:**

- Have ALL 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? Any need to be replaced? Remember this part of the plot needs to be thoroughly hand watered in today.
- Fertilize these plants at the very end of the day with some of John’s Recipe fertilizer. Mix half a small bottle with one gallon of water. This will fertilize two plots.
- Make sure your plants are helped off the ground if the water or fertilizer pushed their stems to the soil.

☐ **‘Little Ruby’ Alternanthera:**

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

☐ **Violet carpet petunias:**

- How do your plants look?
- Fertilize these plants at the very end of the day with some of John’s Recipe fertilizer. Mix half a small bottle with one gallon of water. This will fertilize three plots.

☐ **Yellow squash seeds:**

- Have they come up yet?

## ~~~ *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>

☐ **‘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. **If this was done last week, skip this step.**
- 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.

## *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 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.

*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](mailto:dhrodriguez@ag.tamu.edu)  
<http://agrilife.org/about/>