

Community of Christ
Community Garden
Founded 2017

May 2022—Newsletter #23



GARDEN MANAGER ANNOUNCEMENTS

ARTICHOKES! – Feel free to go to the garden to get some artichokes. Below are some items you will need and some things you will need to be aware of.

🍷 Things to bring are.

- Gloves
- Sharp Sheers
- Bag

🍷 Before cooking the artichokes, you will want to soak them. *Artichokes need to be checked carefully for invasive organisms.* When soaking, check for bugs and worms by spreading out the leaves, submerging and squeezing the artichoke closed to try and expel anything hiding in the leaf folds. Use a strong vinegar solution in very cold water when soaking.

🍷 Here is a link at Harvest to Table on how to prepare artichokes for eating.

- [Harvesttotable.com/artichokes](https://harvesttotable.com/artichokes)

When visiting the garden be aware of three things:

- Congregations worship at the church on Saturday mornings, Sunday mornings, and Sunday afternoons so park on the row at the edge of the garden.
- Be careful around the plantings in the common area.
- The church controls use of the firepit, so contact Collette or Jim Marshall for permission to use it.

If you have any questions, suggestions, or new ideas, contact Colette at gratefulgardenssj@gmail.com

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A good resource for gardening questions is **UCCE Master Gardener Program of Santa Clara County.**

Go online to mgsantaclara.ucanr.edu to sign up for their monthly newsletter to receive timely garden advice plus a calendar of classes, plant sales and other events. You can also call them directly. Contact the **Help Desk** at 408-282-3105, 9:30-12:30, Monday – Friday.

KIDS KORNER

Welcome to our new Kids Korner section! This will be a section that depending on the content may show up on different pages. If you have content suggestions, please contact Collette.

- Have you ever started a plant from seed?
- What kind of plant?

Use the following link to print a fun Anagram for kids of all ages to complete! [Can you find me?](#)

Please use only OMRI labeled soil amendments in our garden beds



HOW DOES YOUR GARDEN GROW??

MANAGING PESTS

Slugs, pill bugs, sowbugs, earwigs, whiteflies, aphids, etc. can be treated with **Sluggo Plus** or **Neem Oil**.

Both are **OMRI** listed products for organic gardening. These can be found at Home Depot. Be sure to read the packages for complete application directions.

WEED MANAGEMENT

While some weeds are edible (purslane, nettles, dandelions), many are a nuisance and compete with your chosen plants for water and nutrients. A key part of weed control is not letting them go to seed; remove them before they are able to propagate. Hand pulling and hoeing are effective methods for killing many common weeds.

A hundred years ago, field bindweed was declared “the worst weed in California.” We’re still battling it. The only chance of controlling this invasive weed is to stay right on top of it and remove it as soon as you see any of it peeking up out of the ground. The roots can go as deep as twenty feet. Every time it starts growing above ground and photosynthesizing, it is storing energy in the roots, allowing it to put out new shoots. Carefully dig out as much of the root as possible, and do not put any part of it in the compost where it could regenerate quickly. **Blessings on our faithful weed pullers, including our friends from Bellarmine!**

Drought Tips

As your plants begin to grow, and as our drought continues, it is best to add mulch around your plants. This sits on top of the ground preserving soil moisture and keeping roots cool and moist. It not only holds in moisture, but also keeps weed seeds from being able to germinate and moderate the temperature of the soil.

Mulching can cool the soil for plants like blueberries, and it will help hold some heat in for summer vegetables as the air gets cooler. **We are trying to limit our watering times to Mondays and Fridays to conserve on water.** Also, except for new plants, it is best to water them along the base of the plants rather than from overhead. This allows for less evaporation into the air.

Our Santa Clara County clay soil absorbs water slowly, so only water for a few minutes at a time to allow the water to penetrate to the depth of the roots.

Bee Swarms – Don’t Panic!

Bees are very active in warm weather, especially in May, June, and July.

There is simply so much pollen and nectar to collect that sometimes, a bee colony may swarm!

If you see a swarm, don’t panic. Remain calm, move gently, and give the bees their space.

Bees generally swarm when they are looking for a new home because their hive has become crowded or there isn’t enough food or water. Swarming bees are loaded with food and are not interested in stinging people. Our beekeeper, **Ron McDowell**, keeps good watch over our bees.

Tomato and other vegetable companion planting and Interplanting

The notion behind companion planting is that some plants naturally grow better together. Meaning they form natural alliances. How such alliances work is not completely clear.

Companion planting is based widely on reported observation. Some of these “companions” seem to discourage pests and disease; some seem to encourage growth and flavor. Others act to balance the soil.

Tomato companion plants – said to ward off disease, encourage growth and improve flavor are as follows.

- Carrots, leaf lettuce, nasturtiums, parsley, onions, chives and marigolds.

Considered poor tomato-growing companions.

- cabbage, fennel, potatoes, and kohlrabi.

For **interplanting**, some good companions would be a shallow rooted plant such as leaf lettuce. Interplanted with more deeply and complex rooted tomato.

Here are some good vegetable companions.

- to benefit carrots, grow onions;
- to benefit collards grow tomatoes;
- to benefit corn grow beans;
- to benefit cucumbers grow broccoli;
- to benefit tomatoes grow dandelion. (I think I would find another companion!)

Here are some poor companions.

- When growing beans avoid chives, garlic, leeks, onion, shallots;
- When growing beets avoid pole beans;
- When growing carrots avoid dill;
- When growing corn avoid tomatoes.

VEGETABLE PLANTING CHART

VEGETABLES	WHEN TO PLANT	NOTES
Beans (green)	Apr – July	Bush or climbing (needs support). From seeds.
Beans (shelling)	Apr – May	Need more heat and take longer to mature than green beans. From seeds.
Corn	Apr – July	Needs sun/heat. Marginal in cooler microclimates. From seeds.
Cucumbers	Apr – June	Best if grown with support.
Eggplant	May	Needs warm nights; results marginal in cooler microclimates.
Melons	Apr – May	Heat loving. Try only in warmest microclimates and start early.
Peppers (sweet)	April – June	Need warm nights, minimal protection in cooler microclimates. From seedlings.
Peppers (hot)	April – June	More productive than sweet peppers in cooler microclimates. From seedlings.
Potatoes	Feb; May; Aug	Need lots of space. Use nursery seed potatoes to help prevent disease.
Spinach	Mar – Apr; Aug – Sept	Best in spring or winter. From seeds or seedlings.
Squash (summer)	Apr – June	Needs lots of space & produces heavily. From seeds or seedlings.
Squash (winter) (Includes pumpkins)	Apr – June	Needs lots of space; best grown with support. Long season – plant early. From seeds or seedlings.
Tomato	April – May	Heat lover. Needs warm nights (60°+) for good fruit-set. Early varieties do best (not heirlooms) in cooler microclimates. Best to have support – cages or stakes. Best not to grow successive years in the same spot to prevent disease buildup. From seedlings.

VEGETABLE PLANTING CHART (Continued)

HERBS	WHEN TO PLANT	NOTES
Basil	April – June	Likes sun and heat. From seedlings.
Dill	April – June	Likes sun and heat – not good in foggy or windy gardens.
Cilantro	Year round	Year round in cooler microclimates, but best in winter or spring. From seeds in successive plantings & harvest whole plants. Sun or partial shade. Bolts quickly in warm microclimates.
Mint	Year round	Perennial; invasive, best grown in containers. Likes some shade, especially in warm months. From seedlings.
Oregano	Year round	Perennial: plant will spread. Full sun. From seedling.
Sage	Year round	Perennial; not fussy. Full sun. From seedlings.
Tarragon (French)	Year round	Perennial; dormant in winter. From seedling. Full sun.
Thyme	Year round	Perennial: plant will spread. Full sun. From seedling.
YEAR ROUND VEGETABLES		
Beets	Year round	Best in winter. From seeds or seedlings.
Carrots	Feb – Aug	Year round. From seeds.
Chard	Year round	Year round in cooler microclimates. From seeds or seedlings.
Collards	Year round	Best in winter. From seeds or seedlings.
Kale	Year round	Best in winter. From seeds or seedlings.
Leeks	Feb – Oct	Year round but best in winter and spring. From seeds or seedlings.
Lettuce	Year round	Year round in cooler microclimates. From seeds or seedlings.
Mustard	Year round	Best in winter. From seeds or seedlings.



TO PLANT A
GARDEN IS
TO BELIEVE
IN
TOMORROW.
-Audrey Hepburn