



Community Garden

at Community of Christ

990 Meridian Ave., San Jose

Founded 2017

September 2023—Newsletter #34



“To plant a garden is to believe in tomorrow.” - Audrey Hepburn

YEAR END EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

We have many events that are coming from now to the end of the year.

Since this will be the last garden newsletter for the year we wanted to make sure everyone got the information.

We hope to see you at the following events and We will be sending out updates and additional information as we get closer to them.

- ◻ 9/4 1-4pm Philippine cooking
- ◻ 9/12 7pm Evensong around the campfire
- ◻ 9/15 Garden workday
- ◻ 9/24 4pm Summer song fest and scarecrow assembly launch (details to come)
- ◻ 9/26 7pm Evensong around the campfire
- ◻ 10/28 Garden workday
- ◻ 10/31 6pm Trunk or treat and Scarecrow contest. (Details to come)

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Do you have garden questions, newsletter ideas OR have some free time? Check with Collette or Karen about projects that could use your help. please send an email to gratefulgardenssj@gmail.com

Thanks to WWW.kelloggsgarden.com for much of the information in this month's newsletter.

Lavender	Direct Sow	Transplant																	Direct sow spring or summer. Wound and digestive remedies. The herb can be harvested in the summer when just coming into flower (now) and can be dried for later use. The roots can be dug and boiled for a salad as they are starchy with a nutty taste.
Lavender (French - Purple Ribbon)	Direct Sow	Transplant																	Mint family, Medicinal anti-viral, attracts pollinators
Lavender Lavandula vera	Direct Sow	Transplant																	Mint family, Medicinal anti-viral, attracts pollinators
Lemon Balm	Direct Sow	Transplant																	Quick to self-propagate.
Mustard	Direct Sow																		
Oregano		Transplant																	Mint Family
Parsley	Direct Sow	Transplant																	Carrot family
Rosemary		Transplant																	Mint Family. Slow to germinate with 30% success rate.
Sage	Direct Sow	Transplant																	Thin and transplant when 2 true sets of leaves are present.
Tarragon	Direct Sow	Transplant																	Start seeds indoors. Low light. Room temperature.
Thyme		Transplant																	Mint family. Thinly scatter seeds and sprinkle with soil.
Strawberries		Transplant																	Plant in mounded rows.
Watermelon	Direct Sow	Transplant																	Direct sow 2-3 seeds per hill.

September Tips and Facts

Onions

Onions should be harvested in late summer when stalks turn yellowish or brown, dry out a bit, and topple over. Harvest them in early morning when temperatures are mild. Loosen the soil around the onion stalks (pitchfork maybe), then gently pull them up by the stalks.

Storage tips: after harvest allow the onions to lay on dry land for a few days out of direct sunlight, then bring them in and lay them out on a dry, flat surface that has good airflow and is cooler.

Onions should be left untouched for about 3 weeks until the stalks are completely dried out.

Store cured onions in a crate, netted bag or wire basket in a cool environment with low moisture. Will keep about 3 months.

Zucchini & Squash

Harvest Zucchini and Squash twice weekly, using a small knife to cut them from the stem. Leave 1" of the stem attached.

The more you pick the more your plant will produce.

Remove the overripe veggies as soon as possible to reduce

demands on the plants for moisture and nutrients.

Store summer squash on a counter for about a week. Do not keep in the refrigerator as they will get soggy over time and their flavor won't be as good.

Cucumbers

Harvest cucumbers when they are at least 6-8 inches long.

Pick cucumbers early in the morning when vines are cool and damp with dew.

Use a sharp knife or clippers to separate them from the vine.

NOTE: Twisting the stems can cause tearing of the vines and damage to the plant.

Keep cucumbers cool and fresh in the refrigerator.

Herbs

The optimal time to harvest herbs is in the morning, right after the dew has dried from the leaves, but before full sun hits the plant.

Pruning herbs should be done regularly, and you want to snip the tips of the plant right above a set of leaves. Never trim more than 1/3 of the plant at any one time.

Pruning encourages regrowth.



HELP CONSERVE WATER

San Jose is asking its residents to limit their water usage to **TWO DAYS PER WEEK**. Our address has been designated for allowing water usage on **Tuesdays and Fridays**. Please try to keep to this schedule.

Consider the following “water savers”

1. Mulch, to prevent evaporation. Straw is a great mulch for fruit-bearing and pod-bearing crops.
2. Add lots of compost to your soil
3. Use a watering can, if possible, and water the base of the plant.

Milpitas Food Pantry



Milpitas Food Pantry
Emergency Food & Food Assistance
For Residents of Milpitas and Alviso

EXTRA VEGGIES? If you have extra veggies, consider donating to a food pantry!

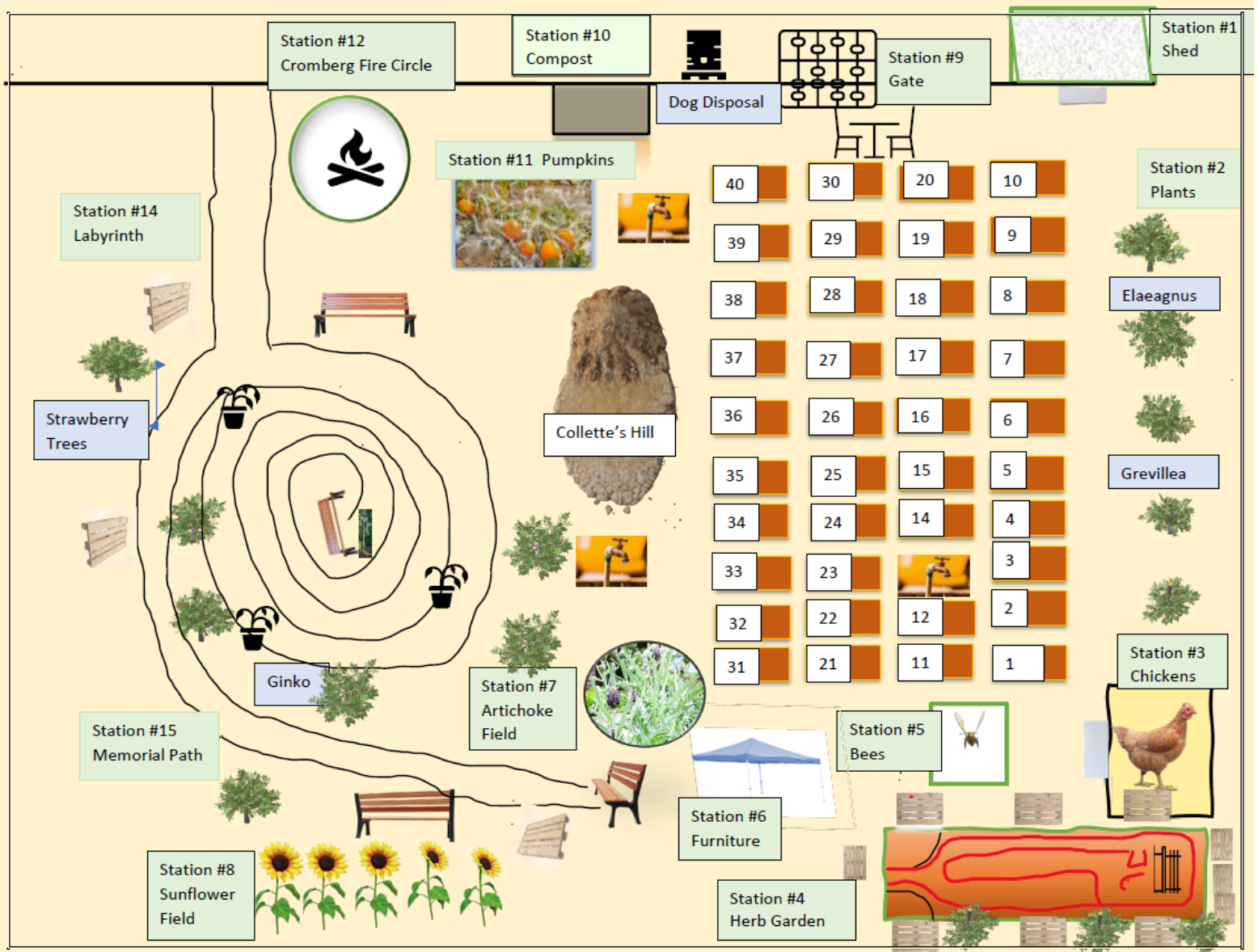
Marcia works at Milpitas Food Pantry and can pick up extra produce Monday and Wednesday evenings. If you are interested, she can be reached at the following number 408.892.8924.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

*The garden has many volunteer opportunities. **Following is a map and legend of the stations within the garden.***

The volunteer would adopt the station and maintain the area.

We'll be sharing more detailed information about this on the website.



Grateful Gardens Map Legend

Station 1: Shed and surrounding area – **Time:** 1-2 hours per week

Station 2: Elaeagnus, Grevillea bushes – **Time:** 1-2 hours per week

Station 3: Chickens – **Time:** 5-6 hours per week

Station 4: Herb Garden – **Time:** 2-3 hours per week

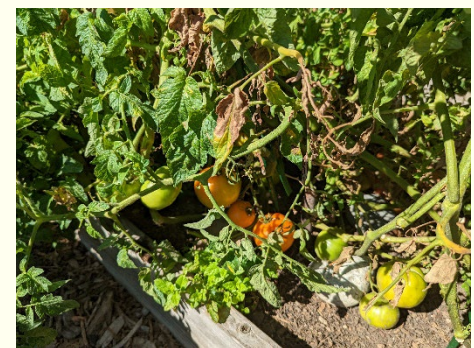
Station 5: Bees – Bees need specialized care by knowledgeable staff

Station 6: Furniture, Pop up – **Time:** varies based on project

Station 7: Artichoke Field – **Time:** 2-3 hours per week

Station 8: Sunflower field – **Time:** 2-3 hours per week

Station 9: Gate – **Time:** 2-3 hours per week



Station 10: Compost – **Time:** 4-6 hours per week

Station 11: Pumpkin field – **Time:** 2-3 hours per week

Station 12: Cromberg Fire Circle – **Time:** 2-3 hours per week

Station 14: Labyrinth – **Time:** 3-5 hours per week

Station 15: Memorial Path – **Time:** 1-2 hours per week

