



Community Garden

at Community of Christ

990 Meridian Ave., San Jose

Founded 2017

August 2024—Newsletter #40



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









A message from the Garden Manager and Rhonda

MEET THE LADIES

This month we would like to introduce you to our chickens! Rhonda is the gardens lead for our volunteer team that tends to the chickens...she calls them "Chicken Tenders" ha-ha!

Below you will find 10 fun facts about chickens and on the following page you will find pictures, names and information about each of **our chickens**. This way when you visit you will be able to know who you are talking to!

10 fun facts about chickens

-  Chickens are living descendants of dinosaurs.
-  Chickens aren't completely flightless.
-  Chickens can dream.
-  Chickens have better color vision than humans.
-  Chickens have complex communication.
-  Chickens have great memories.
-  Chickens bathe by covering themselves in dirt.
-  Chickens have a pecking order.

Enjoy the fruits of your labor!!

Thank you,

Collette Lynner, Garden Manager

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Thank You's and FYI's

- **Thank you – Karen and Marsha** spent hours and hours trimming hedges along the north fence and herb garden this past week. It looks great.
- **Thank you – everyone helping Joann** who is recovering from back surgery.
- **Thank you – Bellarmine students** pulling at whatever bindweed you leave behind.
- **South Bay Modular Synthesizer Open Mic Nite** Sponsored by Grateful Gardens Is On Summer Vacation (No July or August Performances) Open Mic Nites Will Resume September 14
- **NO dogs off-leash while visitors are in the garden.**
- **When you use a garden hose** - please return the sprinkler head to the faucet (or in the case of the hose on the south side, to the hose caddy.) -- as a kindness to the next person. Also please try not to tangle long hoses.

If you want to volunteer for an assignment, send a text or call Collette 408-466-6292.

Stay tuned for announcements and the September Newsletter!

SAVE THE DATE

- August 13 & 27 Tuesdays 7pm, Evensong
- August 17 Saturday 8:30am Volunteer Workday
- August 24 Saturday Salsa party (time TBD)
- Sept 14 Saturday, 7pm Electronic Open Mic resumes
- **Sept 22 Sunday, 2pm Dedication of the Peace Arboretum**
- October 19 Saturday, Hymn fest and Ice Cream Social (evening, TBD)
- December - feedback needed for date - Volunteer Appreciation party
- January 18 Saturday, 6pm - Martin Luther King Jr Day of Remembrance: theatrical performance, dinner/reception afterwards

MEET THE LADIES



GRETA

Greta and Nina were donated to the Grateful Gardens in 2023 and both lay brown eggs. You can tell them apart because Greta's comb (on top of her head) is floppy. Greta is also slightly larger than Nina.



NINA



KIKI

Kiki, Pixie and Libby were donated to the Grateful Gardens in 2024 and were picked on by the other chickens in their old flock. Pixie and Libby still seem to get picked on frequently, so we are watching them closely. Kiki lays brown colored eggs that are speckled. Pixie lays blue eggs. You can tell them apart because Kiki is more reddish and Pixie has more missing feathers on the back of her neck.



PIXIE



LIBBY

Libby still needs to learn how to stand up for herself and often gets bullied by the other chickens. If you see the others picking on her, use your best mom or dad voice and say "Hey, stop it". Libby lays small peach-colored eggs.

Feeding chickens a balanced and complete diet is simple if you follow the 90/10 rule. Start with a complete feed (90%) and be careful not to over-treat your birds with goodies. Treats should be healthy treats that complement a bird's diet (cooked human food is generally a no-no).

A few flock favorites include:

Vegetables: Lettuce, Beets, Broccoli, Carrots, Kale, Swiss Chard, Squash, Pumpkins and Cucumbers

Herbs: Lavender, Mint, Oregano, Parsley, Cilantro, Thyme and Basil

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

ORGANIC GARDENING

We are an organic community garden. Please use only OMRI approved products including soil amendments, fertilizers, and pest control products.



Gardening Hints and Tips

Remember to water properly in August.

Water slowly and deep. Avoid shallow watering. Frequent shallow watering can use more water and cause plant stress. Watering deeply helps promote deeper root systems and can help plants be more drought tolerant.

Preparing for a fall garden

Don't plant the same family of vegetables in the same spot as they were in the spring. If you are sowing your seeds directly outdoors, plant them a little deeper than you would in the spring, as the soil is usually moister and cooler deeper down. It's time to clean up your plot and get rid of any dried, dead, diseased, or already-harvested plants. Do not throw diseased plants in your compost pile.

Get your bed made!

Fall is the time to add compost or amendments to your garden bed. This replenishes the nutrients and organic matter in your soil that the spring plants used. Fall is the time to plant garlic, but you won't harvest it until the following summer.

- Read more at Gardening Know How: [Regional To-Do List: Western Gardening In August](#)

August – October Vegetable/Herb/Fruit Guide

	Sow Seeds	Plant	Harvest				
Plant	Seeds	Plants	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOTES	
Arugula	Direct Sow						
Asparagus		Transplant				Dig trench 12-18" wide and 6-8 " deep. Loosen soil deeper for best results.	
Beans	Direct Sow					Direct sow.	
Beets	Direct Sow					Thin to 3" apart, final spacing 5"	
Bell Peppers		Transplant				Ideal Temp 80-90 degrees	
Broccoli	Direct Sow	Transplant				Select a variety best suited to your climate that will mature before hot weather begins.	
Brussel Sprouts		Transplant				Long growing season. Flavor improves with light frost.	
Cabbage	Direct Sow	Transplant				Cooler season crop	
Carrots	Direct Sow					Dislikes transplanting	
Cauliflower	Direct Sow	Transplant				Brassica family.	
Celery		Transplant				Thin to 10-12 inches when seedlings have 3-4 true leaves.	
Corn	Direct Sow					Needs to be planting in rows for pollination.	
Cucumbers	Direct Sow	Transplant				Consider growing vertically on support structures.	
Edamame	Direct Sow					Long growing season. Succession plant for continual harvest.	
Eggplant		Transplant				Transplant to garden or container.	
Endive	Direct Sow					Direct Sow and thin to 6-12 inches apart	
Fava Beans	Direct Sow					Prefers cooler weather.	

	Sow Seeds	Plant	Harvest			
Garlic	Direct Sow	Transplant				Planting in Fall yields larger bulbs.
Gourds	Direct Sow	Transplant				Plant in hills that are well-spaced.
Green Beans	Direct Sow					Grow on support structure such as teepees.
Horseradish		Transplant				Plant root cuttings 18 inches apart in trenches 3 to 4 inches deep.
Lettuce	Direct Sow	Transplant				Plant in succession
Parsnips	Direct Sow					Direct sow 1" apart in wide rows. Thin to 3-4".
Pumpkins	Direct Sow	Transplant				
Radishes	Direct Sow					Plant in succession.
Rhubarb		Transplant				Possible to plant from seed, but less successful. Planting rhizomes recommended. Heavy feeders.
Shallots	Direct Sow	Transplant				Onion family
Snap Peas	Direct Sow					Plant in succession. Use support structure.
Soybean	Direct Sow					
Spinach	Direct Sow	Transplant				Plant in succession for continual harvest.
Squash	Direct Sow	Transplant				Consider growing on support structure.
Sweet Potatoes		Transplant				Grown from slips, not seeds. 50 Sprouts per slip. Wider spacing produces larger sweet potatoes.
Tomatoes		Transplant				May require staking. Transfer to to bed or planter.
Zucchini	Direct Sow	Transplant				Plant 3-4 seeds per mound 4 inches high.
Basil	Direct Sow	Transplant				Direct sow.
Catnip	Direct Sow					
Chives	Direct Sow	Transplant				Cut six to eight inches from the top of the plants. This allows vigorous growth throughout the season.
Cilantro (Slow Bolt)	Direct Sow					Direct sow.
Coriander	Direct Sow					Start indoors or direct sow. Thin seedlings to 8-10 inches.
Dill	Direct Sow					Direct sow.
Fennel	Direct Sow					Direct sow to avoid transplant shock. Not a good companion plant. Plant outside of vegetable garden.
Goldenrod	Direct Sow	Transplant				Attracts beneficial insects.

	Sow Seeds	Plant	Harvest		
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				Brassica family. Consider staking plants.
Oregano		Transplant			Mint 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.
Blackberries		Transplant			Stratify seeds. Once seedlings are 4 inches in height, they can be planted outdoors.
Blueberries		Transplant			Start seeds in trays for later transplant.
Cantaloupes	Direct Sow	Transplant			Direct sow 2-3 seeds per hill.
Raspberries		Transplant			
Strawberries		Transplant			Plant in mounded rows.
Watermelon	Direct Sow	Transplant			Direct sow 2-3 seeds per hill.

Milpitas Food Pantry

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 on Monday and Wednesday evenings. If you are interested, she can be reached at the following number 408.892.8924.



Milpitas Food Pantry

Emergency Food & Food Assistance
For Residents of Milpitas and Alviso