



Community Garden

at Community of Christ

990 Meridian Ave., San Jose

Founded 2017

April 2023—Newsletter #29



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

A Message from the Garden

The Stakes are high! (Staking Plants)

Staking a plant means driving stakes into the ground and fastening plants to them using plant ties.

Stakes provide strength and support, especially during heavy winds or even considering the weight of the fruit.

Staking certain vegetables, or tall flowers, is suggested in Grateful Gardens because the raised bed boxes do not allow for plants to have a lot of space. So, growing vertically gives the plants more access to sunlight and more support to keep them from drooping. It also helps in the event the plants are exposed to a lot of wind.

Some plants just will not stand up straight without support, no matter what! Here is a list of Must-stake plants:

blackberries	cucumbers	gourds	melons
peas	peppers	pole beans	tomatoes

Staking vs. trellising: Staking involves the use of pole-like material to support your climbing plant while trellising involves the use of rope or twine to support your climbing plant in such a way that your plants do not make direct contact with the soil. Single wooden poles, or a “teepee” of poles let you attach plants with plant tape or even nylon stockings. please don’t use wire which could snap a plant. Another simple training method is to build tomato cages, or even use store bought wire ones, but often the wire ones are not tall enough. The garden may have some “tomato cages” that you may borrow.

And don’t forget Mulching: In raised beds it is good to keep a light layer of mulch around the plant base keeping the soil shady and cool when the sun is hot. It also allows the plants to use the moisture without it evaporating too much.

Fertilizing: Use a fertilizer that is low in nitrogen and potassium but also high in phosphorus.

For more information, go to home.howstuffworks.com/staking-vegetables.

ORGANIC GARDENING

We are an organic community garden.

Please use only OMRI approved products including soil amendments, fertilizers, and pest control products.



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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.

The Joy of a Seedling

Some of us were reading an article this last week where someone we know was sharing a story about a neighbor who is a friend of their daughter.

In this story she shared that she went over to her neighbor’s house to check out some seedlings she had started. Her neighbor was given a growing table with special grow-lights for Christmas, and she’s used it to plant hundreds of tiny seeds which are now lovely young plants. In a short time, she is going to have a thriving garden that bears amazing fruit!

As she thought about how through the dark days of winter her neighbor has faithfully and gently watered these sprouts and shown light on them so that they could thrive, an idea emerged.

She realized that maybe we all have similar projects going on, they are just on a different scale. As long as we are tending to them and shining a light on whatever that project might be, maybe we are all gardeners!

April – June Vegetable/Herb/Fruit Guide

			Sow Seeds	Plant	Harvest	
Plant	Seeds	Plants	APR	MAY	JUN	NOTES
Artichoke		Transplant				
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					
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.
Collards	Direct Sow					Brassica family.
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.
Garlic	Direct Sow	Transplant				Planting in Fall yields larger bulbs.

			Sow Seeds	Plant	Harvest	
Plant	Seeds	Plants	APR	MAY	JUN	NOTES
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.
Kale	Direct Sow	Transplant				Brassica family
Leeks		Transplant				Onion family
Lettuce	Direct Sow	Transplant				Plant in succession
Okra		Transplant				Soak seeds overnight before planting.
Onions		Transplant				
Parsnips	Direct Sow					Direct sow 1" apart in wide rows. Thin to 3-4".
Potatoes		Transplant				Give potato seeds a head start by pre-sprouting or chitting them before planting.
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.
Rutabagas	Direct Sow					Direct sow 1-2" apart in wide rows. Thin to 8 inches
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.
Swiss Chard	Direct Sow	Transplant				Plant in succession.

			Sow Seeds	Plant	Harvest	
Plant	Seeds	Plants	APR	MAY	JUN	NOTES
Tomatoes		Transplant				May require staking. Transfer to to bed or planter.
Turnips	Direct Sow					
Zucchini	Direct Sow	Transplant				Plant 3-4 seeds per mound 4 inches high.
Basil	Direct Sow	Transplant				Grown for its leaves which are used as a herb
Catnip	Direct Sow					Strong scent. Pink or white flowers
Chives	Direct Sow	Transplant				Onion family. Long hollow leaves. Cut six to eight inches from the top of the plants. This allows vigorous growth throughout the season.
Cilantro (Slow Bolt)	Direct Sow					Soft leafy herb with small whitish-pink flowers in clusters
Coriander	Direct Sow					Parsely family. Small green leaves. Start indoors or direct sow. Thin seedlings to 8-10 inches.
Dill	Direct Sow					Aromatic blueish green plant with feathery leaves.
Fennel	Direct Sow					Hollow stems and feathery foliage. Direct sow to avoid transplant shock. Not a good companion plant. Plant outside of vegetable garden.
Goldenrod	Direct Sow	Transplant				Plumes of fluffy yellow flowers. Attracts beneficial insects.
Lavender	Direct Sow	Transplant				Purple flowers. 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				Bush - Blue flowers. Mint family, Medicinal anti-viral, attracts pollinators
Lavender Lavandula vera	Direct Sow	Transplant				Purple/ blue Flowers. Mint family, Medicinal anti-viral, attracts pollinators
Lemon Balm	Direct Sow	Transplant				Lovely lemon scented leaves. Quick to self-propagate.
Marjoram		Transplant				Oval or round leaves on woody stems. Used in cooking and medicinally. Start seeds indoors.
Mint		Transplant				Aromatic green leaves. Quick to self-propagate
Mustard	Direct Sow					Produces billows of tiny, four-petaled yellow flowers. Brassica family. Consider staking plants.
Oregano		Transplant				Aromatic, dark green leaves/white, pink, purple flowers. Mint Family
Parsley	Direct Sow	Transplant				Aromatic dark green leaves/yellow flowers. Carrot family
Roselle (Red) Hibiscus sabdariffa		Transplant				Tall, tropical, red and green shrub/ cranberry taste. Produces when days get shorter
Rosemary		Transplant				Fragrant, small pine needle-like leaves. Mint Family. Slow to germinate with 30% success rate.

			Sow Seeds	Plant	Harvest	
Plant	Seeds	Plants	APR	MAY	JUN	NOTES
Sage	Direct Sow	Transplant				Aromatic shrub with silvery leaves and purple flowers. Thin and transplant when 2 true sets of leaves are present.
Stevia	Direct Sow	Transplant				Aromatic herb used as a natural sweetener. Pair with Thyme and Marjoram.
Tarragon	Direct Sow	Transplant				Tender and leafy, aromatic herb. Start seeds indoors. Low light. Room temperature.
Thyme		Transplant				Small aromatic shrub with woody stems. Mint family. Thinly scatter seeds and sprinkle with soil.
Apples		Transplant				
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.
Cherries		Transplant				Stratify seeds 4-14 weeks.
Currants		Transplant				Stratify seeds. When seedlings germinate, transplant them from seed flat into pots.
Figs		Transplant				Propagate indoors in pots until established.
Grapes		Transplant				Plant seedling vines 6-10 feet apart.
Honeydew	Direct Sow	Transplant				Direct sow 2-3 seeds per hill.
Peaches		Transplant				Stratify seeds.
Pears		Transplant				Stratify seeds.
Plums		Transplant				
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 Monday and Wednesday evenings. If you are interested, she can be reached at the following number 408.892.8924.

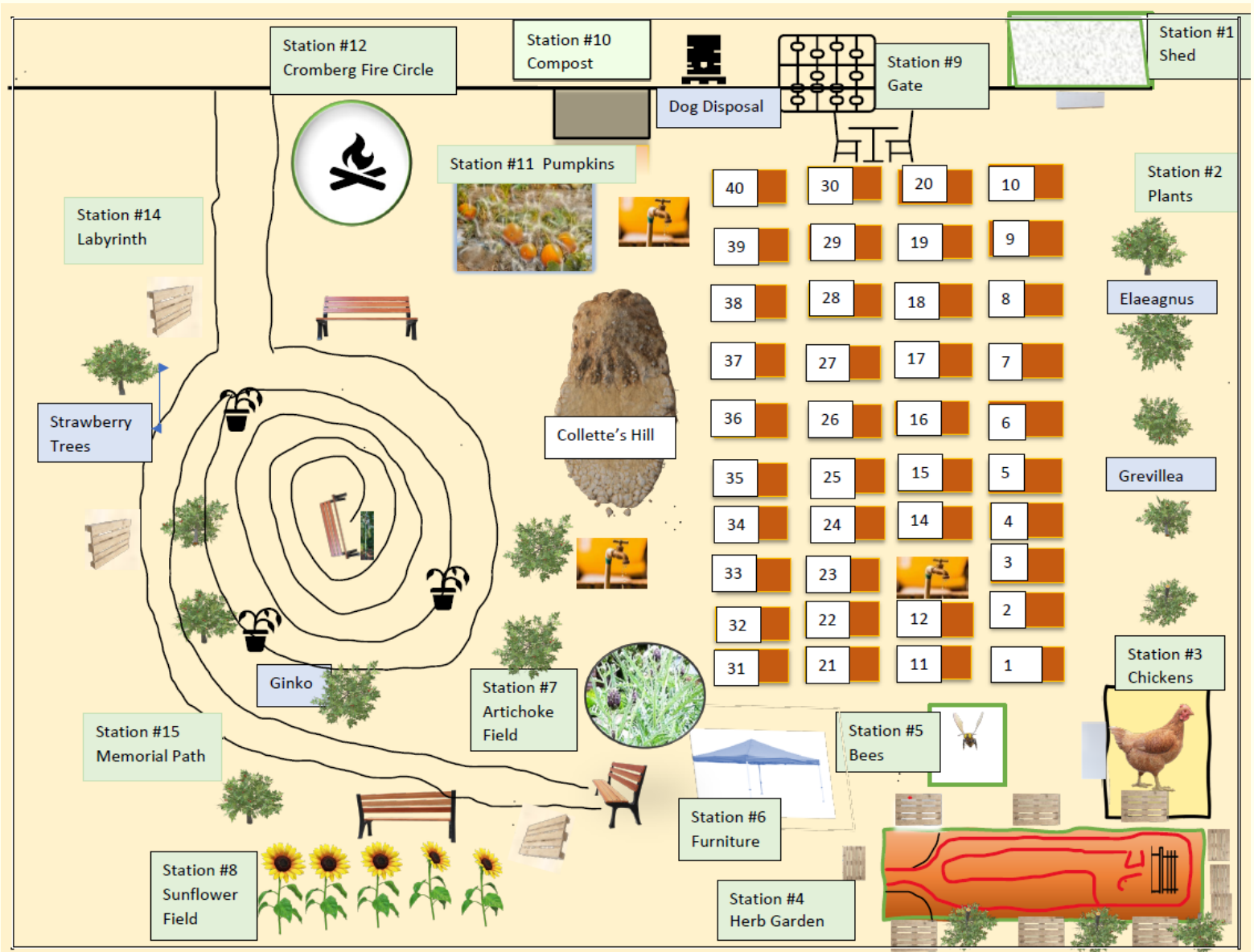


VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

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

