

Community Garden

at Community of Christ

990 Meridian Ave., San Jose

Founded 2017

June, 2021 – Newsletter #16



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



SUMMER VEGETABLES

There's still time to put in your warm season vegetables from transplant. If you start now from seed, you simply will have a shorter harvest season.

With the unusually cool temperatures we've had this spring, you won't be too far behind vegetables planted earlier.

Warm temperatures and sunshine are part of what make your summer vegetables grow. Particularly sun-loving vegetables include tomatoes, peppers, cucumbers, melons, and squash. And that includes "winter squash" which is so named because it is thick skinned and stores well over the winter.

ORGANIC GARDENING

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



TABLE OF CONTENTS

PAGE 1

- Still time to plant – Summer Vegetables
- Organic Gardening with OMRI approved products
- Special Projects

PAGE 2

- Message from our Garden Manager, Colette
- Water Conservation
- Garden Boxes for Rent

PAGE 3

- Bee Swarms
- Word from the Chickens
- June Planting Guide
- Gardening Tips
- Organic Gardening with OMRI approved products

PROJECTS

Do you have time to help with some garden projects?

- Plants & tend herbs
- Put solar lights in labyrinth
- Varnish signs
- Varnish benches
- Weed campfire circle
- Peace par course
- Compost pile

Call (408) 658-9776 for a chance to help!

A Message from our Garden Manager

As the church property prepares to reopen, Adel Eldahman's massive weed-clearing effort is in its third week, repairs are being completed, projects resuming, and plans formed to install more garden boxes this year.

I'm grateful for the help with weeding from Bellarmine H.S. students from January to April; weed whacking marathon by Ben Carlson in April; by Downtown Streets Team and especially Adel in the last month; and every gardener who weeded around their own boxes and pulled extra besides. We are indeed on fertile ground.

I'm grateful for the help of those managing parts of the common areas: Nasrat Khalid, who's growing watermelons and other fun things in the planters next to his box; Angie Holden, who grew lettuces in the planting table #30 to test it out; Choe Hickman and Youngla Kwon, who are planting the next crop in #30; Sreenivasarao Bhogineni, Nicole Bergelin and Anne Kohlberg for volunteering to plant in the tea garden and around the chicken run; and Jennifer Bales for helping me tend chickens while Adel was away.

I'm grateful for the Leads of our Special Projects (note two open positions):

- Marcia Plumb & Lori Barnett, Newsletter
- Karen Hahn, Art Installations
- Adel Eldahman, Chickens
- Ron McDowell, Bees
- [Your Name Here], Tea Garden
- [Your Name Here], Compost

I look forward to our first social events once the Community of Christ Church reopens. I hope you have a bumper crop!

Please let me know how I can help you.

At your service,
Collette Lynner, Volunteer Garden
Manager
Garden Manager's Hotline: (408) 658-9776,
gratefulgardenssj@gmail.com



WATER CONSERVATION

As you know, we are in DROUGHT!

Consider these tips when watering your plants:

1. Individual plants should have a circle trench around them.
2. Row plants or seeds should have trenches on both sides.

Water can be applied to the trenches to encourage root growth and contain water to the plantings.

GARDEN BOXES FOR RENT
\$50 per box annually plus a
refundable
\$100 security deposit.
Call (408) 658-9776 for info.

BEE SWARMS



This Photo by Unknown Author is licensed under [CC BY-SA](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/4.0/)

Bees are very active in warm weather, especially May, June, and July. There is simply so much pollen and nectar to collect! Sometimes, a bee colony may swarm. If you see a swarm, don't panic. As in any other time when working around bees, remain calm, move gently, and give them 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. We've noted bees swarming quite a few times without the need to call Swarm Rescue – they've always moved on within two days.

Feel free to contact Colette:
(408)658-9776 or email
gratefulgardenssj@gmail.com
if you have any concerns.



CHICKENS

If you feed the chickens, please give them organic produce only. Never give them avocado seeds or skins. Seeds, like sunflower seeds, must be shelled and organic only – they love a handful of these scattered over their fence.

JUNE PLANTING GUIDE

	Transplant	Seed		Transplant	Seed
Basil	✓		Peppers	✓	
Beans	✓	✓	Radishes		✓
Cucumber	✓	✓	Squash	✓	✓
Dill		✓	Sweet Potatoes	slips	
Eggplant	✓		Tomatoes	✓	
Melons	✓	✓			

GARDENING TIPS

Reminder: stake your tomatoes while they are small and easily fit within the type of cage you choose.

PREVENTING TOMATO BLOSSOM END ROT



This relatively common garden problem is not a disease, but rather a disorder caused by a calcium imbalance within the plant.

- ❖ Prevent problems by keeping soil evenly moist
- ❖ Adding high levels of calcium — bone meal, oyster shell or gypsum — to the soil at planting time usually prevents this problem from developing.
- ❖ A layer of mulch (straw, compost, grass) will help conserve soil moisture and provide a more uniform water supply.
- ❖ Avoid using high nitrogen fertilizers which accelerate vegetative growth and reduce the uptake of calcium by plants.

The fruit is perfectly good to eat with the damaged part cut out. Some large heirloom tomatoes are more susceptible to this condition.

CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE

www.gratefulgardenssj.com