

Children's Vegetable Garden Program - Fall 2015 Session September 19, 2015

Agenda 5: Gardening Session #5 for Fall 2015

Instructors: *Please review with **all** children together in each section.*

Friendly Reminders for Children, Parents and Volunteers:

- ❖ Please read the agenda *before* each session and come prepared for that day's activities!
- ❖ **All** volunteers, children and parents please sign-in and out every week and check with **Ms. Mary** before you leave.
- ❖ Take care not to walk in or on any of the beds. It's very hard to replace irrigation lines and broken boards, plus we do not want to compact the soil. This includes the perimeter and center research beds. If there are any concerns, please notify your Section Leader(s).
- ❖ Pick up debris in-and-around your section and walkways. This includes any **weeds, palm saplings, rocks or trash**. Throw material away in assigned trashcans. **Do not put anything in the compost bins unless instructed. Please make every effort to stay on top of weeding during the entire session. Pay close attention to the plots *and* the walkways.**
- ❖ **Coffee Campaign:** Everyone is encouraged to bring coffee grounds, disposable coffee filters and tea bags from their homes or from their local coffee shop. This compostable material will be added to the backside of our compost pile until further notice. **The compost pile is located behind the brown-fenced area marked with a red pylon.** This is where the approved material should be dumped. Has anyone set up a pickup of coffee grounds from your local coffee shop like Starbucks? 20 pounds a week added to our compost pile would be a huge help! Remember, this is compost that we all use throughout the garden.
- ❖ Visit and like us on Facebook and follow the Bexar Youth gardens blog for updates on the Children's Vegetable Garden Program (CVGP) and more.
<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Bexar-County-Youth-Gardens-Program/1447247425548890>
AND <https://bexaryouthgardens.wordpress.com/>
- ❖ **Please: don't return any dirty tools to the tool shed. It is everyone's responsibility to keep that area clean.**

Pre-plant Chores this Morning

□ In areas of your plot where nothing has been planted scratch up the soil with a three-prong cultivator, gardening rake and/or grubbing hoe to a depth of about two inches. **Take caution to avoid plants that are already planted – stay at least 4 inches away.** Remember, **we are not tilling or digging deep into the soil.** Discard any rocks or large debris and break up any large soil clods. **Plots should look nice and leveled with no craters, but don't pack the soil down hard.** All the irrigation lines, including the lines coming off the on/off valve should be clear of any soil. If your plot has low places or lacks soil, then top it off with some our compost material in the back of the brown fenced area.

How Are Our Plants Growing?

‘Tycoon’ and BHN 968 Cherry Tomatoes:

□ Are your plants straight and contained inside their cages? If the stems are too large to tuck back into the cage, then we need to start tying the stems to the cage. **Trim any leaves off the plant that are touching the soil.** Be careful not to remove the entire stem or pull hard on the plant.

‘Cheers’ Cabbage, ‘Green Magic’ Broccoli, ‘Snow Crown’ Cauliflower:

□ All your plants should be nice and straight. Examine the backside of your plants’ leaves very carefully for any caterpillars and their eggs. Gently smash them by rubbing your thumb across them.

Bunching Onions:

□ All 8 clumps should be sneaking out of the ground by today. If they are not, carefully dig out no more than two nice healthy clumps per plot to reset. Gently divide them and replant them as substitutes. Take care to replant them at the same soil level as they were originally planted. Firm the new plants in real well and water them in sufficiently. If your plot doesn’t have enough to do this, then share some within each Section.

‘Sweet Slice’ Cucumber:

□ How is your plant looking? Make sure that nothing is eating the plant like cucumber beetles or caterpillars. If they are, properly dispose of them.

‘Provider’ Bush Beans:

□ All of the beans should be up today. If not, this is the last chance to replant them. Instructors, please turn in all extra seeds to Miss Mary today.

Fall Marigolds and Zinnias:

□ How do your plants look? Make sure that they get hand watered in real well today before you leave and after they get fertilized.

Today’s Plantings

Follow the Planting Guide and the Example Plot located in Section 3, Plot 14

Today we will be planting two rows with 4 each for the first row(everyone) and 3(Section’s 1-6) to 4(Section’s 8 and 9) for the second row of ‘Kolibri’ Purple Kohlrabi transplants, three rows with 20 seeds each of ‘Babybeat’ Beets and one row with about 15 to 20 seeds of ‘Santo’ Cilantro.

□ **Please don’t remove the transplants from their 6-packs until they have been thoroughly soaked. All 6-pack transplants (tray and all) should be carefully pre-soaked in a bucket of water just above the soil line of the plants/cell pack, until the air bubbles stop coming out from the soil**

line. With this heat, it's best to re-implement this old technique. Handle plants with care to avoid damage or bruised leaves. Take much caution in separating the 6-pack plants from their flats and in returning them to their flats.

‘Kolibri’ Purple Kohlrabi:

□ Locate your BHN 968 ‘Dwarf Cherry Surprise’ tomato in your plot. Go 15 inches from the middle outside of the tomato cage towards the middle of your plot, to plant the first row of 4 Kohlrabi transplants (everyone).

□ **Section’s 1-6:** The second row of 3 Kohlrabi transplants should be spaced 8 inches from the center of the first row of plants and spaced out and planted in the middle of the first four rows plants. **Section’s 8-9:** Will plant 4 plants in their second row as the same as the first.

We are limited on the amount of plants that are available today.

□ Each row should have four plants evenly spaced out in the row and between rows. Leave a minimum of 6 inches from the very top and bottom of the plot for your plants.

□ Handle the plants with much care and plant them up to the first set of seed leaves. Gently firm plants in and then finish this process by hand watering the plants in a couple of times. **None of the peat pot should be visible after planting and watering. Finish by labeling your plants with ONE plant tag.**

‘Babybeat’ Beet Seeds:

□ Go a foot away from the center of the second row of Kohlrabi plants towards the middle of the plot. The bed should be divided in two. The front of the plot will be planted this week with 3 rows of beet seeds and the back of this area will probably be planted next week with radishes. Leave a space of 6 inches between the two planting areas.

□ Water in the well-prepared and leveled planting area, then each row of beet seeds should contain 20 seeds evenly spaced in each row and between rows. Spacing of each beet seed within each row should be about 1 inch. Spacing between each row should be 8 inches. Leave a space of about 2 inches between the third row and the front of the plot.

□ After properly spacing out all the seed, just push the seed barely into the soil (not too deep). Then lightly water in the seeds and check that none of the seeds are visible after watering.

□ **Finish by labeling your plants with ONE plant tag.**

‘Santo’ Cilantro:

□ Locate the backside of your cucumber trellis. No insects on your cucumber plants, right?

□ Water in the well-prepared, leveled area. You are going to plant 15 to 20 seeds in one straight line, from left to right running the same distance of the length of the trellis mid-way from the back of the trellis to the back of the plot. Space your seeds out about an inch apart and

then push them barely into the soil (not too deep). Then lightly water in the seeds and check that none of the seeds are visible after watering.

- **Finish by labeling your plants with ONE plant tag.**

Water Management

- Without getting anyone wet, water the planting area with the irrigation system using low pressure for 10 to 15 minutes. **Make sure that every orifice in the irrigation line is unclogged with a paper clip.** Due to the water pressure in the garden, no more than two sections should be watering during any given time frame.

- **Be observant not to flood plots or walk-ways. If the plots start flooding, let them drain a little, then proceed in watering again. DO NOT RELY ON THE SYSTEM TO WATER NEWLY PLANTED TRANSPLANTS.** If your irrigation system cannot be fixed (Instructors, try first), flag it and then provide **Miss Mary** with the section number and problem.

A volunteer or two may need to supplement today's watering at the end of the day by hand watering with the hose.

Fertilize

- Fertilize your cauliflower, kohlrabi, marigold and zinnia plants with a gallon of *Hasta-Gro* starter mix after they all have been watered. Instructors will mix two oz. of *Hasta-Gro* with half a water can (about one gallon). Do not get any of this fertilizer on the leaves, just on the soil around the plants.

Special Projects for Garden

Everyone needs to participate to maintain the beauty of the garden.

- Before leaving today, *please check with Miss Mary* for your *Section assignments*.
- Are you completely finished? Make sure your Instructor walked your plot and section, everything looks neat and clean (no weeds, trash, rocks, etc.), all plants are watered and all your tools are cleaned and placed neatly in the tool shed.
- Remember: your ending time at the Children's Vegetable Garden is around 12 noon.

Thanks Everyone!

It's going to be a great fall.

David Rodriguez

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