

Spring 2015
Children's Vegetable Garden Program
May 9, 2015

Agenda 12: Gardening Session #12 for spring 2015

Instructors: *Please review with **all** children together.*

Happy Mother's Day to all those special Ladies in our lives!

Friendly Reminders for Children, Parents and Volunteers:

- ❖ Next Saturday, May 16 is the spring Vegetable Contest and Picnic. Sections, please get together to decide what each family is bringing. Also, attached in your weekly email are the Vegetable Contest Guidelines (Agenda 13) and the Contest Judging Criteria. Look at both of these to help plan for potential entries.
- ❖ Don't forget to attend today's JMG (Junior Master Gardener) activity today. How is your gardening journal coming along?
- ❖ Is everyone liking us on Facebook and following 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>
<https://bexaryouthgardens.wordpress.com/>
- ❖ We are starting to compost **behind the brown-fenced area**. Dump any green material to the side of the compost pile facing the gate as designated by the pylon marker. Everyone can and should start bringing coffee grounds, tea leaves and approved 'Green Materials' at this time to dump in the allocated location. It's better than the landfill, unless you are composting at home! Everyone should be bringing a 5 gallon bucket full of compostable material each week until further notice.
- ❖ Have you noticed how many beneficial/good insects have been visiting the flowering cilantro plants? Can you recognize what they are?
- ❖ ***Please: don't return any dirty tools to the tool shed. It is everyone's responsibility to keep that area clean and organized!***

Pre-plant Chores this Morning

- ❖ Pick up debris (weeds, rocks or trash) in-and-around your section and walkways. Throw material away in assigned trashcans. **After all these rains, some of the Sections are starting to get a lot of weeds in and around their plots and section walkways. Please stay on top of weeds as soon as they appear.**
- ❖ Be very observant on recognizing and properly disposing of all roly-polys/sow bugs, cabbage looper caterpillars, cucumber beetles and tomato hornworm caterpillars. Dispose of these pests by crushing them. If not, they will eat leaves and flowers off your plants. Use the pictures to help you recognize these pests.



Roly Poly Bug or Sow Bug



Cabbage Looper Caterpillar



Cucumber Beetle (spotted or striped)



Tomato Hornworm Caterpillar

- ❖ Notify your Instructor if you see any fire ant mounds so he/she can flag them immediately.

Let's check on our plantings

□ 'Tycoon' and 'BHN 968' Tomatoes:

- How do your plants look? Are they producing fruit? Check them carefully for stinkbugs and tomato hornworms.
- Without breaking any branches, carefully tuck all the tomato branches back into their cage. If this isn't possible, then you might need to tie the plant stem to its cage.

□ Irish potatoes 'Red La Soda' and 'White Kennebec':

- Remove any weeds, debris, rocks and **any yellow leaves** on your plants (particularly on the inside of the plant). Also destroy any roly-polies in this planting area.

- Make sure that your plants are not impeding the growth of the cucumber plant. Carefully push the Irish potato plants away from the cucumber by mounding some compost, tying the plants or using some bamboo stakes.
- **White and yellow Onion plantlets:**
 - Remove any yellow leaves by carefully cutting them.
 - Harvest any onions if their tops are leaning over or the plants are initiating a flower stalk.
 - Drench the plants at the end of the day with Liquid Spinosad to help minimize damage from Thrips insects.
 - **‘Cheers’ Head Cabbage, ‘Green Magic’ Broccoli and ‘Toscano’ Kale:**
 - *Check the backside of the leaves ON ALL these plants for any cabbage looper caterpillars, harlequin bugs as well as their eggs and manually crush them.*
 - A few cabbage and broccoli heads are ready to be harvested today.
 - Section 8 and 9, make sure to remove any large cabbage leaves that are impeding the growth of your ‘Little Ruby’ plants.
 - **Anise Hyssop/Licorice Mint:**
 - How does your plant look? Is it blooming yet? If so, don’t pinch the plant back anymore unless you are harvesting a few of the leaves to mix into your salad tonight.
 - **‘Provider’ Bush Green Beans:**
 - How do your plants look? Flowers and beans?
 - Check very carefully inside ALL your plants and harvest beans that are ready. We don’t want the beans to get overgrown by next Saturday. Young, small and immature is the ideal size bean for harvesting.
 - **‘White Stream’ Lobularia:**
 - How do your plants look? Thoroughly hand-water this part of the plot today.
 - **‘Little Ruby’ Alternanthera:**
 - Plants look pretty nice, right? Thoroughly hand-water this part of the plot today.
 - **Violet carpet petunias:**
 - Don’t the blooms look pretty? Gently remove any yellow leaves and spent flowers.
 - **Yellow squash:**
 - How do your plants look? Is the area free of weeds?
 - Notice, there are three pheromone indicator traps for the squash vine borer moth, strategically placed throughout the garden.
Please, DO NOT touch or mess with these traps.
 - **‘Diva’ cucumber:**
 - How does your plant look? Is it nice and straight? Make sure that the plant is trained on the trellis and not running on the ground.
 - Look for and destroy and cucumber beetles eating the leaves or blooms of your plants. Drench your plants at the end of the day with liquid Spinosad.

Fertilize

At the end of the day fertilize the following plants with liquid fertilizer. Take care not to get the fertilizer on the foliage of the plants.

- *“Provider Bush Green Beans: 1 gallon*
- *‘White Stream’ Lobularia: ½ gallon*
- *Yellow Squash: 1 gallon*
- *‘Diva’ cucumber: ½ gallon*

Water Management

Spot watering with water cans is needed in any areas your irrigation isn’t completely reaching and deep watering.

- Be very observant of how your plot and section drain.
- Become familiar with the irrigation system. There are many irrigation lines that are clogged up. Your Instructor will show you how to unclog them with a paperclip. Without getting anyone wet, water your planting area with low pressure for about 10-15 minutes.
- Take care to not flood plots or walk-ways. If the plots start flooding, let them drain a little, then proceed with watering.

Special Projects for Garden

Everyone needs to participate.

This is everyone’s garden.

- Before leaving today, please check with Miss Mary and Miss Anne Marie for your Section assignments.
- Are you completely finished? Make sure your Instructor or Garden Mentor 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.
- Homework Assignment:** Do you know who Dr. Norman Borlaug was and his major contributions in feeding the world?
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Norman_Borlaug
<http://borlaug.tamu.edu/>
- Remember, your ending time at the Children’s Vegetable Garden is 12 noon. Even though you have attended the Junior Master Gardener Activity, you are still expected to complete your *Daily Agenda* assignments prior to your departure.

Thanks Everyone! It is a great spring.

David Rodríguez

Texas A&M Agrilife Extension Service

Have you read and reviewed this agenda for this Saturday?

If yes, send me an email that you and your family have.

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<http://agrilife.org/about/>