

The Garden Connection

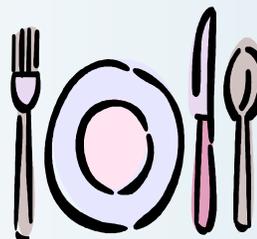
A newsletter for the gardeners at the Waukesha County Community Gardens

Garden Harvest Celebration— Saturday, August 17th

Hope to see you Saturday, August 17th at 9 am at our 21st Annual Harvest Breakfast Celebration. Come and meet some of the other gardeners and enjoy a delicious pot luck style breakfast.

Here's a reminder regarding some of the details:

- ◆ We gather from approximately 9 to 10:30 am. Come for as long as you can.
- ◆ We gather at the garden entrance near the picnic tables. You can't miss us.
- ◆ No cost to participate but we do ask you to bring a food item to share with everyone. Items brought to past gatherings include: bakery, hot breakfast casseroles, fresh fruit, fresh veggies, etc.
- ◆ Paper plates, napkins, plastic ware, and coffee are provided.
- ◆ We hold a short garden meeting around 10:00am. Let's talk about what is working and what can be improved. We welcome your suggestions.



Fresh Produce Donation Collection Site at the Gardens



Did you plant more vegetables than you need? Do you like the idea of growing fresh vegetables for the hungry? We will **collect donations of fresh produce at the garden Monday, August 15th through Wednesday, August 31st.** Look for the crate that is sitting on a chair in front of the brown shed.

Produce will be delivered to the Food Pantry of Waukesha County. **Produce pick up times at the garden will be Mondays and Wednesdays at 4:30 pm.** If these days and times are not convenient for you, we have

attached a list of food pantries in Waukesha County. Please verify that they accept fresh product donations and their hours before going.

FYI: Produce collection corresponds with the youth garden program that is held at the garden. The youth garden has been slow to produce this year and what it has produced has been eaten by the Woodchuck family.

Plant Waste Piles

There are several plant waste piles located at the garden. Please place plant waste in the established plant waste pile areas rather than starting new piles. Some piles are still small. Look for these piles before you dump your weeds at the garden.

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Questions/ Contact Information

Questions? Concerns? Call (262)548-7775. Our office hours are from 8:00 am to 4:30 pm, Monday through Friday. Please leave a message on voicemail if you call after business hours. Your message will be relayed to Ann Wied. You can also e-mail Ann directly at ann.wied@wisc.edu.

Tomato Tips

- Keep leaves dry. Water directly to the roots. This helps with leaf disease and also conserves water because very little is wasted through evaporation.
- Remove and destroy disease infected (brown or dying) leaves as soon as they appear. Bag and place in dumpster. Do not add to plant waste piles.
- Mulch the root zone. This keeps the soil moist longer so you can water less often. It keeps the roots more evenly moist which will reduce blossom end rot (black bottom). Long watering vs frequent short watering, will also reduce blossom end rot.
- Hybrid tomato varieties have a higher yield and are more disease-resistant. Expect lower yields from heirloom tomatoes. Either seeds can be saved and replanted.
- Never refrigerate tomatoes and store above 55 degrees to maintain flavor.



Watch for Late Blight on Your Tomatoes and Potatoes

Late blight is a destructive disease of tomatoes and potatoes that can kill mature plants, and make tomato fruits and potato tubers inedible. On leaves of tomato or potato plants, late blight begins as pale-green or olive-green areas that quickly enlarges to become brown-black, water-soaked, and oily-looking. Stems can also exhibit dark-brown to black areas. If weather conditions are cool and wet, entire plants can collapse and die from late blight in seven to 10 days. Tomato fruits with late blight develop large, often sunken, golden to chocolate brown, firm spots with distinct rings. **Late blight has already been found on potato plants in Wisconsin this summer.**

Plants showing symptoms of late blight cannot be saved and should be disposed of immediately to limit the spread to other tomato or potato plants. The preferred method of disposal is to pull affected plants, roots and all, and place them in plastic bags. The bags should be left in the sun for a few days. Bagged plants can then be put into trash bins. **Late blight diseased plants or plant parts (e.g., tomato fruits or potato tubers) should NOT be composted or left in the garden. For more information, see <https://hort.extension.wisc.edu/articles/late-blight/>.**



Inside and Outside of Your Garden Plots

Just a reminder... all hoses and any other gardening supplies must be stored within your garden plot. You cannot leave your hose near the water tanks or along pathways. In addition, you can place mulch around your garden plot or weed whack the grass around your plot. Putting down plastic around your garden plot is not allowed unless you are in the permanent garden area.

Please Tighten Water Connections at Water Tanks

When driving through the garden I have noticed several water leaks. The problem has been resolved with tightening the hoses to the connection. Please check for leaks before leaving the garden especially if you have connected your garden hose to the water tanks. Thank you for your help. We get charged for every drop of water we use.



Ann Wied

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