

THE MAPLE STREET RAG

Forest Grove Community Gardens News

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Forest Grove Community Gardens Co-Chair Walt Wentz demonstrates proper coupling of T-tape to a pressure regulator at a drip irrigation workshop July 17 at the Victory Garden. Drip irrigation equipment is available at cost to gardeners who want to install their own system. Call 503-357-4577 for more information. Demonstration drip systems have been installed in the sunflower bed at the front of the garden and in the pumpkin/potato patch across from the picnic table.

Lock Up When You Leave

Gardeners should remember to lock the tool shed at night when they leave near dark. Even if other people are still at the site, they might not be using tools from the shed and would have no reason to check before they go.

This season, the door to the tool shed has been left wide open several times after dusk when no one is around. There are no volunteers who regularly check the tool shed at night, so it is the responsibility of every gardener to ensure the tools are properly stored and secured. If tools are stolen, they likely will not be replaced until next season.

Share Your Gardening Expertise

Do you have a knack for growing bumper crops of tomatoes or a special organic brew that helps plants thrive?

You can share your knowledge with other gardeners by visiting www.fggardens.wordpress.com and leaving a comment or gardening tip. It will be passed on to other gardeners so they can enjoy the same success you have found.

Time to Consider Falls Crops

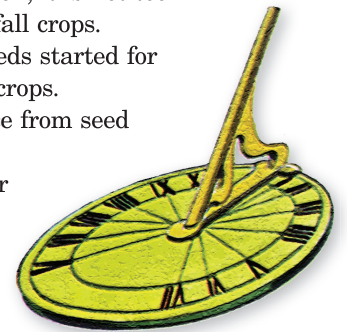
Even though summer is finally here and warm season crops are just starting to take off, it is not too early to begin thinking about fall crops.

August is the time to get seeds started for lettuce, kale, turnips and cole crops.

Some tips for starting lettuce from seed include:

- Seed leaf lettuce in flats or containers.
- Sprinkle a few seeds onto the surface and lightly press them into the soil before watering.
- Protect seedlings from summer sun with some shade.
- Transplant seedlings after temperatures cool a little to prevent bolting.
- Cover plants before autumn rains damage them.

Many gardeners found success last year growing cool-season crops at the Victory Garden during late summer and autumn. Some fall crops that do well directly seeded are spinach and mustard greens.



Don't Waste Good Food

Personal and professional responsibilities often can be overwhelming. If you reach a point where you need to stop gardening, don't abandon your plot. There are volunteers willing to manage your plot in your absence. Produce harvested during this time will be donated to the food bank.

Don't leave produce at the picnic table you wouldn't eat yourself. No one is likely to take someone else's discards. Use the debris pile at the north end of the main path for unwanted produce that is past its prime.

If you want to donate quality produce to the food bank, but don't want to deliver it yourself, make arrangements to have it collected at the Victory Garden by calling 503-357-4577.