

THE MAPLE STREET RAG

Forest Grove Community Gardens News

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Winter Gardening Workshop

If you ever have considered growing cabbage, kale, broccoli and other cool-weather crops, here is an opportunity to learn how.

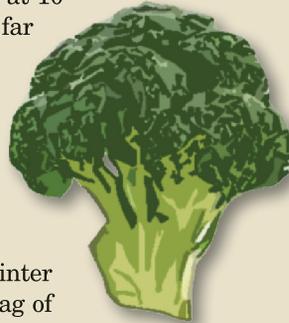
A winter gardening workshop will be held at Forest Grove Community Gardens, 2301 Maple St., on July 11 at 10 a.m. It will take place at plots B1 and B2 on the far west end of the garden near the west gate.

The free workshop will be taught by Mike Edera, a community gardener from Scappoose. He will discuss which plants do best through the winter and sowing dates through early September. He also will discuss simple growing structures and floating row cover.

Those who want to participate in planting a winter garden the day of the workshop should bring a bag of planting mix and an assortment of seeds, such as kale, collards, radicchio, broccoli, cauliflower, Swiss chard and mustard.

Summer plot rental agreements will be extended for winter gardening. People who do not have a plot can rent one for \$30 for a winter garden. A plot rented for this purpose will be considered a year-long agreement, so rental cost will include use of the plot next spring and summer.

If you plan to attend the workshop, please RSVP by July 10. Send e-mail to shawnwaldow@hotmail.com or call (503) 357-4577.



Planning Committee Meets

It takes a village to raise a community garden.

The Community Gardens Planning Committee meets Thursdays at 7 p.m. During the summer, meetings will be held at the picnic table at the garden, 2301 Maple St. in Forest Grove

Committee members discuss garden activities, such as plot rentals, site maintenance, growing produce for the Oregon Food Bank and community events at the garden.

If you are renting a plot or just want to learn more about the garden, you are welcome to attend.

Volunteer Your Time

Roll up your sleeves and come work with us. Community Gardens needs volunteers for site maintenance, construction projects, grant writing, equipment repair and work parties.

If you have a talent that could benefit the garden or want to participate in a planned work party, call (503) 357-4577.

The garden also accepts donations of plants, seed and gardening equipment. You will receive a receipt for your tax records if you request one.

Information Kiosk is in Place

A new kiosk at Community Gardens will be updated regularly with announcements related to the garden.

Information about upcoming garden events, plot rentals or changes in garden policy will be posted.

Gardeners are welcome to share information at the kiosk. Seed exchange; sales or giveaways of plants or garden equipment; or gardening tips can be posted.

Postings not related to gardening or deemed inappropriate will be removed immediately without notice.

The kiosk also will have a map of the garden to help people find their way around the site.

Dump Weeds at North-End Compost Pile

No matter how your crops are growing, the weeds are doing very well this time of year.

Weeding is a never-ending job, but you can make it a lot easier by remembering a few things.

Our two most common weeds at the garden are goosefoot and pigweed. Both are shallow-rooted plants that can be pulled or hoed up easily. But if you leave their roots lying in contact with the ground, the first watering will bring them back to life.

Here is a need for volunteers. So far, only a few gardeners have put weeds from garden plots onto the compost pile at the north end of the main path

through the middle of the garden site. Weeds placed here will be composted through the winter.

We need more volunteers to keep weeds out of walkways. In the meantime, it would be helpful for those who are capable to move their own weeds to the pile.

Please do not put weeds in the trash can. The trash can is for garbage, not recyclable green waste.

If you would like to round up weeds along your row of plots, that would help.

Rocks aren't going to sprout. They can wait in the path by the edge of your plot, where they can be picked up and used to expand the parking lot area.

We'll see you around the garden.