

Community of Christ
Community Garden
Founded 2017

July, 2019 – Newsletter #13



A WORD FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Karen Marshall

Summertime, my favorite time of year! I love the sun, working in the garden, and yes I am one of those odd folk that likes warm to hot weather.

I came across an informational booklet written by the Union of Concerned Scientists. This is a non-profit organization of scientists formed fifty years ago at MIT. They are dedicated to using science to build a healthier planet and a safer world. The booklet is [The Climate-Friendly Gardener: A Guide to Combating Global Warming from the Ground Up](#). The booklet discusses climate change and how small garden plots can combat global warming. Carbon builds up in the atmosphere which acts like a blanket which traps heat and alters weather patterns. Carbon being released into the atmosphere is a normal part of our ecosystem and is known as the carbon cycle. What we are experiencing now is an imbalance in the carbon cycle.

One aspect of solving the imbalance is small urban gardens. You and I can help to correct the carbon imbalance by cultivating gardens and being mindful of those practices that can help solve the problem. One practice is to minimize carbon emitting inputs. Did you know that a gasoline powered lawn mower emits 20 pounds of CO2 for every gallon of gas used? A lawn mower emits as much smog as a car traveling 200 miles.

There is a lot of good, science based, practical ideas in this booklet. Click the link above for more information.

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A WORD FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
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We continue to work on other infrastructure projects in the garden. We are in the process of putting in a memorial path which will meander through the trees to the back of the labyrinth. We are looking at designs for memorial bricks which can commemorate individuals, families, and other special events.

We have a “peace par course” under development. This design is based on the exercise par courses one finds in parks. Instead of exercise, the exhibits are designed to teach concepts of peace and empower individuals, families, and communities to incorporate peacemaking skills into everyday life.

Our garden has come a long way. We have many ideas to develop and pursue. We need your help! Visit our website for volunteer opportunities.

**MANY OF THE GARDEN TIPS AND REMINDERS
ARE COURTESY OF THE UC MASTER GARDENERS,
SANTA CLARA COUNTY, CA**

<http://mgsantaclara.ucanr.edu/>

REMINDERS

- ❖ Please remember to turn off the hose bibb when you are done watering to prevent the hoses from bursting under pressure.
- ❖ The chickens are getting organic feed so they lay organic eggs. If you feed them greens or other acceptable foods, please be organic. They love shelled sunflower seeds, bananas, and apples. They enjoy a bit of greens now and then - kale, broccoli, and any vegetables that have gone to seed and flower. I've read that we shouldn't feed them avocado pits or peels, onions, candy, green potatoes or tomatoes, citrus fruits, moldy or spoiled foods, uncooked rice, or dried or raw lentils or beans.
- ❖ When adding to the compost bins please don't add weeds or plants with bugs - anything you don't want showing up in your garden next year. I pulled dandelions and last year's kale that had lots of white flies - I put them all in the dumpster.
- ❖ Bee Swarms - From the Master Gardener website: Bees are very active in warm weather. There is simply so much pollen and nectar to collect! Sometimes, a bee colony may swarm. If you see a swarm, don't panic. As in any other time when working around bees, remain calm, move gently, and give them their space. Bees generally swarm when they are looking for a new home. Swarming bees are loaded with food and are not interested in stinging people.

GARDEN HOURS

Grateful Gardens is best enjoyed during the daylight hours, and you will see a few signs expressing our ground rules. Please refrain from visiting the garden after dusk. To preserve the beauty of the garden and surrounding area, remember that if you happen to leave any materials they will be discarded.

If you have garden questions or newsletter ideas, please send an email to gratefulgardenssj@gmail.com

GARDEN TIPS

Watering Tomatoes

If you haven't already, it's time to cut back on watering tomatoes. Tomatoes have far more flavor when the ripening fruit is deprived of water. Don't forget to remove competing weeds from around the garden.

Water the Roots, Not the Plants

It's tempting to get the hose out and spray your dry, thirsty plants, but you don't want to waste water. Keep their feet nice and cool, but resist the urge to squirt the leaves unless they need a cleaning (for dust or white fly for instance).

It's a common belief that daytime water on the leaves will burn them. While it's possible, according to scientists—for hairy leafed plants where water droplets are held above the leaf surface—but not very likely. It's more the water will simply evaporate and not do your plants much good and could encourage fungal pathogens if wet overnight.

Garden Sanitation -

Remove spent blossoms, fruit, and other plant parts as your plants finish producing. Dead and decaying plant parts can attract pests and give them safe places to breed. If pests are given a nice place to spend the winter, their populations are likely to be much higher next year.

WHAT TO PLANT IN JULY?

Summer planting season is winding down, now it's time to start harvesting. JR has had some tasty yellow cherry tomatoes and my green beans and snap peas are producing. We're waiting for the celery to get bigger stalks. Almost time to dig up all the potatoes I planted for Second Harvest Food Bank. The beets have been slow growing this year. A couple more months and winter crops can be planted. See the photo of the two covered boxes filled with winter greens – they seem to be doing very well without direct sunlight.

	Transplant	Seed
Brussels Sprouts	✓	
Beans		✓
Summer Squash	✓	✓

