

# Community of Christ Community Garden Founded 2017

May, 2019 – Newsletter #11



## ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND DREAMS

From Karen Marshall Hahn  
Executive Director

Happy spring! This is such a wonderful time of year. We are very excited about the future of Grateful Gardens as we enter into the third year of operation. We have accomplished so much in turning this plot of ground where the weeds were king into a lovely garden full of life. We are growing vegetables to be donated to Second Harvest Food Bank. Our five chickens are happy and laying a plentiful amount of eggs. The bees have awakened and are beginning their summer production. Folks are starting to discover the labyrinth. We planted ten trees in preparation for our memorial path. We are designing and hosting workshops on various subjects which will continue throughout the summer season.

Projects in development are: 28 more garden boxes, a peace par course, a water catchment system, and an amphitheater.

We need volunteers, people who are passionate about developing the garden. Visit our website to see a list of volunteer possibilities. [gratefulgardenssj.com](http://gratefulgardenssj.com). If you have ideas and time to help, please contact Barbara at 928-273-4544.

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## MAY 4 – FREE FAMILY GARDENING WORKSHOP

Parents and your children, join us on Saturday, May 4 from 10-11am behind Community of Christ Church. We'll be planting a raised bed garden box and potted seeds to take home. Light snacks will be served with free raffle prizes. Time permitting we'll read a short children's story "Growing Vegetable Soup" and talk about kitchen & garden composting. *Bring one seedling or packet of seeds that you'd like to plant, grow, harvest, and eat later in the summer.* We also have raised bed garden boxes for rent, egg laying chickens, honey bees, and a walkable labyrinth.

## MAY PLANTING GUIDE

	Transplant	Seed		Transplant	Seed
Arugula	✓	✓	Eggplant	✓	
Basil	✓		Melons	✓	✓
Beans	✓	✓	Parsley	✓	
Beets	✓	✓	Peppers	✓	
Chard	✓	✓	Radishes		✓
Cilantro	✓	✓	Squash	✓	✓
Cucumber	✓	✓	Sweet Potatoes	slips	
Dill		✓	Tomatoes	✓	

Click [HERE](#) to see what can be planted from seed or transplants each month throughout the year.

## BEE SWARMS

Bees are very active in warm weather, especially May, June, and July. 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 because their hive has become crowded or there isn't enough food or water. Swarming bees are loaded with food and are not interested in stinging people

## SOIL MANAGEMENT: COMPOST & MULCH

Many home gardeners are confused about the terms "compost" and "mulch;" frequently these terms are used interchangeably, but they are not really the same thing.

Amend soil with compost to create soil that will retain water but still drain well enough for roots to have the air and water they need.

### Benefits of compost

- Forms aggregate particles with clay
- Creates larger pore spaces for water & air
- Helps release nutrients from clay so that plant roots can absorb them
  - Supports the soil by providing nutrients for the organisms
  - Lowers pH somewhat.

### Benefits of mulch

Mulch does not get worked into the soil. It sits on top of your irrigation system and helps:

- Control weeds
- Prevent erosion
- Preserve soil moisture
- Keep roots cool and moist

**Please send gardening questions or newsletter suggestions to [gratefulgardenssj@gmail.com](mailto:gratefulgardenssj@gmail.com)**

## MANAGING PESTS

Last month I mentioned finding slugs and earwigs, and now sowbugs and pillbugs, in some of the garden boxes. They can be very destructive to leafy plants like lettuces, celery, and seedlings (they ate my pea sprouts and JR's basil then began working through our celery). Others have mentioned finding flying insects on their leafy vegetables.

Beer was catching a lot of slugs, but not the other pests.

Sluggo Plus and Neem Oil (see photos below) are OMRI Listed products for organic gardening. I found them at Home Depot for killing whiteflies, aphids, earwigs, cutworms, sowbugs, pillbugs, slugs, and snails. Read the packages for complete application directions.



***If using commercial pesticides, they MUST have the OMRI seal to be used in our organic garden beds.***



## WEED MANAGEMENT

While some weeds are edible and delicious (purslane, nettles, dandelions), many are a nuisance and compete with your chosen plants for water and nutrients.

Whichever variation of "One year's seeds makes seven years' weeds" you prefer, the truth remains: a key part of weed control is not letting them go to seed. For best results, work on removing weeds before they are able to propagate. Hand pulling and hoeing are effective methods for killing many common weeds.

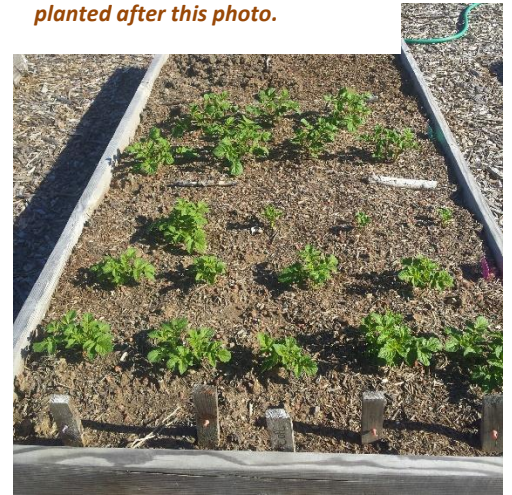
It's less important to know the names of the weeds than to know how they spread. If they propagate by seed, pull or hoe them before they flower and go to seed. If they re-grow from roots, pull up as much of the root as possible. Only non-propagating parts are advisable to throw in the compost bin.





Thanks to Joe for gathering eggs.

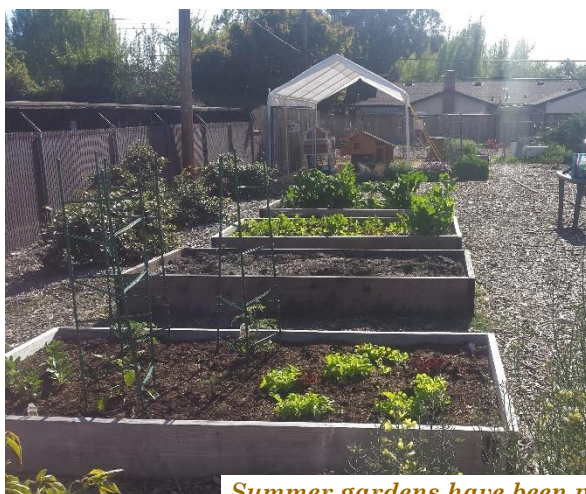
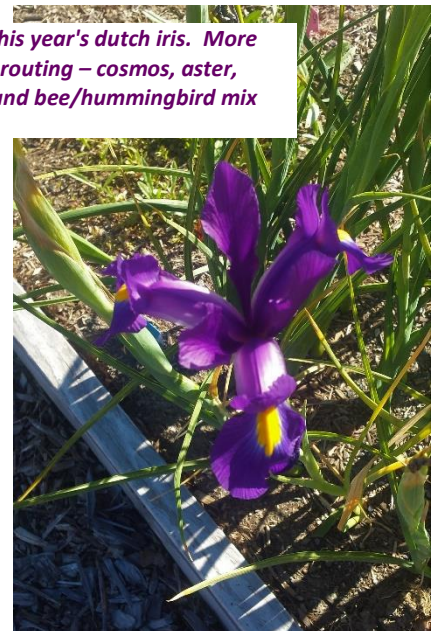
Second Harvest Food Bank - yellow and red potatoes sprouting. Green bean seeds were planted after this photo.



Hope Services leafy greens with the labyrinth in the background.



The last of this year's dutch iris. More seeds are sprouting – cosmos, aster, zinnia, lily, and bee/hummingbird mix



Summer gardens have been planted. JR and I are trying celery this year.