

Community of Christ Community Garden Founded 2017

March, 2019 – Newsletter #9



CHECK IT OUT

Thank you Marcia for putting together the new garden board photos and current information

LOTS OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND DREAMS

Our district councilperson, Dev Davis, and her Chief of Staff, Mary Anne Groen, visited the garden February 22. They are enthused about what has been accomplished and our plans for the future. They shared some exciting ways for us to engage with the community and pursue additional funding. We look forward to a continuing relationship with the City.

We're in the planning stages of a workshop for elementary students and parents working through the schools and another organization that develops programs and provides volunteers in the local elementary school gardens.

See page 2 for information on our new website – BE SURE TO CHECK IT OUT – especially the volunteer page: help is needed for an hour or two each month.

The Garden Committee is moving forward with the memorial path, trees, and a water catchment system.

We've set up partnership with Second Harvest Food Bank to provide fresh foods in the summer for their pantry – potatoes, green beans, beets, and tomatoes are planned. Two boxes have been set aside for them.

Large compost bins will be completed soon to hold all the cuttings our gardens produce and to utilize the chicken manure being manufactured on site

One box will be planted with bee friendly flowers.

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SPRING PLANTING

Seeds that can be planted in March include arugula, beets, bok choy, napa cabbage, carrots, chard, cilantro, collards, dill, kale, lettuce, mustard greens, peas, radishes, spinach, and turnips.

Tomatoes are best planted as transplants; you can start your seeds indoors in March and transplant in May.

March transplants include same plants as seeds plus asparagus crowns, broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower, parsley, potato pieces.

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

ATTRACTING BEES

Bees are pollination workhorses, increasing garden production. Many plants will not produce fruit unless flowers are pollinated. Colorful annuals, such as Cosmos, edible African Blue Basil, and Salvias attract bees. You can also allow herbs and other plants to flower to create bee-friendly landscapes.

The University of California at Davis has a garden dedicated to bees. The [Honey Bee Haven](#) website has more resources, including a list of plants they grow.

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. Click here for a [Here](#) for a comparison of compost and mulch.

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 use only OMRI labeled soil amendments in our garden beds



Note: You may have noticed the cover crop in box #2. This is one way to add compost. It was planted in October and will be cut down and left on top of the ground in early March. In early April it will be tilled in to the soil before planting seeds or transplants. Another method is to dig trenches at the end of summer, add leaves from the yard, cover, and let compost over winter.

Thank you Lori Barnett for the fantastic website redesign!

Check out all the pages and photos (are you in them?):

www.gratefulgardenssj.com



UPDATES

Compost: We found the barrel bins are too small to hold all the cuttings we generate. Jim will be constructing two large bins shortly. Please cut clippings in to smaller pieces so they will compost quicker.

Chickens: The chickens have been donated to the garden. Thank you to Joe Searle for volunteering to take care of the chickens and Jim Marshall for the new enclosure.

EVENTS

March 2 1-2:30pm

Spring Gardening Tips-Santa Clara

[click here for details](#)

Grateful Garden Workshops under development:

- ❖ Gardening with children
- ❖ Creating and maintaining a compost system

Join members of the community and church for 9am Sunday breakfast or 7pm Wednesday dinner. Other church events can be viewed by clicking on [Community of Christ Church website](#)



Dev Davis & Karen - Garden Concept



Mary Anne Groen and Garden Committee Members



Jim, Marcia, and our new chicken enclosure



Soil level too low for planting-time to amend the soil



Proper soil level for planting - after adding organic raised bed planting mix



Thanks to Sean Curry of Curry Brothers Tree Care for donating wood chips to help control the weeds



Cutting down the winter cover crop