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Editor: Sarah Chappelow

# Green Thumb Gazette

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## Welcome from the Chair

Welcome to the updated Boscawen Agricultural Commission community garden newsletter. The Agricultural Commission has decided to pass the baton to new leadership for the Garden newsletter. Sarah Chappelow, our new editor, reviewed the list of names suggested when the Commission began this endeavor, four years ago, and came up with the Garden Green Thumb Gazette. After some discussion at the last Garden Committee meeting decided on

### Green Garden Gazette.

Sarah brings the perspective of a community gardener to the newsletter and that of someone relatively new to vegetable gardening. She is also a Cooperative Extension Master Gardener intern. We are excited to have her leading the newsletter. The plan is to feature articles in each edition with gardening tips from Ann LaCroix, a Master Gardener, updates on the First Monday educational series from Elaine Clow, and information about herb gardening

and cooking with herbs, a new facet of the community garden. See the following article for more information. We are also looking for gardeners to submit articles.

Applications for the 2015 gardening season will be available shortly at the town offices, the library and on the town website.

John Keegan, Chair  
Boscawen Agricultural Commission

## Contact Us

General Community Garden Inquiries: [agriculture03303@gmail.com](mailto:agriculture03303@gmail.com)

Newsletter Inquiries: [Sarah.Chappelow@gmail.com](mailto:Sarah.Chappelow@gmail.com)

## Recipe Corner

Each newsletter will feature a recipe that uses commonly grown vegetables, as well as the herbs that will be available for picking in the Community Garden's

new herb garden. (See page 3 for details on the herb garden.) Do you have a favorite recipe you'd like to share? Send it to Sarah at

[Sarah.Chappelow@gmail.com](mailto:Sarah.Chappelow@gmail.com).



## *Starting Seedlings Indoors by Ann Lacroix*

Starting seeds indoors is an excellent way to get a jump start on planting for Spring. Generally, seeds are started 8-10 weeks out for planting dates, depending on whether they are cold hardy crops or warm weather crops. To germinate seed you will need to maintain a very warm and moist-high humidity place around 80 degrees. Use enclosed domes or covered containers along with a warming mat for consistent high temperature and humidity. These methods will guarantee good seed germination. Light is not needed until the seeds sprout and begin to produce true leaves. Do not transplant seedlings until the plant has established at least 2 sets of true veined leaves indicating a good root system has developed.

The cold-hardy crops that can be started inside in early-mid March are: broccoli, brussel sprouts, cabbage, cauliflower, kale, spinach, swiss chard and butterhead lettuce. These cold

crops love to grow in cool weather and can be transplanted between April 15 -May 15<sup>th</sup> out in the garden, weather permitting. If you want a second crop of cold crops, make sure you have reseeded by the end of July for a Fall crop. Some people set up plasticized or agri-fabric hoop houses to extend the growing season. You can buy agri-fabric at your local garden centers.

Warm weather crops are started indoors in mid-April for planting around Memorial Day. Starting them too early can result in bigger but leggy plants. If you choose to start them early, make sure you transplant them into larger containers with an organic soil mix such as the Dr. Earth forest bark soils which have important endo and exo beneficial fungi and beneficial bacteria added in the mix.

Warm weather crops started inside 8 weeks prior are: tomatoes, cucumbers, eggplant, pep-

per, leaf and iceberg lettuce, melon, summer and winter squash, and pumpkin. The crops that should be planted directly in the soil are: beans, beets, carrots, corn, lettuce, onions, garlic, peas, parsnips, potatoes, radish, rutabaga, spinach and turnip. When garden soil temperature reaches 60 degrees, you can direct sow most crops. Use a soil or compost thermometer 6"-8" down to get the correct soil temp.

Make sure you "harden off" your indoor crops outside out for 3-4 days for the warmest part of the day before setting them out in the garden so the plants can build thicker stems and can adapt to outdoor weather conditions.

When choosing seed types, you have a choice of **hybrid crosses** which are manipulated plants that add traits for disease resistance or heirloom/open pollinated seed. Hybrid crosses are manipulated plants that add traits for disease resistance or heirloom/



open pollinated seed. Hybridized seeds are first generation crosses developed under controlled conditions for disease resistance such as a seedless cucumber or a cantaloupe with resistance to wilt. Because they are manipulated crosses, your hybridized seed will not be true to the parent plant. If you are saving the seed and want organic seed heirloom or open pollinated seeds have been passed down from generation to generation and will have the same traits as the mother plant. Heirlooms usually have excellent flavor and/or hardiness over the hybridized seed. Dried preserved seeds usually have a shelf life in a paper bag or glass container, under cool conditions or left in your refrigerator of 2-5 years, sometimes longer.

Happy planting!

## *New This Year: Herb Garden*

A new kitchen herb garden is planned for construction by volunteers this Spring. The raised bed will be 8ft x 8ft x 12" high edged with hemlock 4x4's stacked 3 high with a mulched walkway down the middle of the garden. Additional spreading herbs such as mint, thyme, and chives will be planted in large pots and

placed around the garden corners.

Lumber will be sourced from Colby Lumber. Peat, sand, lime, and Coast of Maine compost as well as landscape weed fabric will be sourced from Blue Seal Feeds in Bow. Wood chips and sand will come from Public Works. Well-rotted manure will be

sourced from Roger Sandborn. Louise Jacob will supply clay labels indicating various herbs. 4x4 pallets from Crete Pallet Company will be attached to create 4x4 divisions for extra sand, wood chips, and manure/compost for maintaining a healthy soil in the herb garden each year. An attractive sign will be



posted next to the herb garden with herb information and recipes for the public to use and share with others who have great recipes using fresh herbs.

## *Speaker Series*



Twilight talks and First Monday workshops will be hosted by Ann La-Croix and other knowledgeable community members at the Community Garden and Boscawen Municipal Complex.

**We have TWO Native Pollinator Workshops coming up in April in Boscawen.** New Hampshire is home to several hundred species of native bees. These bees have a big job – they're responsible for pollination and reproduction of thousands of plant species in our fields, forests, wet-

lands, gardens and farms.

**Give Bees A Home – Part I: Native Pollinators and their Nesting Habitats**  
**Monday, April 6, 2015, 6:30 PM**  
**Boscawen Municipal Complex, 116 North Main St, 4<sup>th</sup> floor, Boscawen**

To register for this free workshop, contact Boscawen Ag at 753-9188 x 301

or [agriculture03303@gmail.com](mailto:agriculture03303@gmail.com)

Amy Papineau, UNH

Cooperative Extension Field Specialist, will discuss the roles and importance of native bees in NH's natural ecosystems and agriculture. Amy will discuss what you can do to support native bees by providing habitat and nesting sites on your property. Join us for a follow-up workshop on April 25 where we will build bee nesting boxes and a bee hotel at the Boscawen Community Gardens.

**Give Bees A Home – Part II: Creating Nesting sites for Native Pollinators**

**Saturday, April 25, 2015, 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM (Rain date May 2)**  
**Boscawen Community Gardens, first right off of Corn Hill Road, Boscawen**

To register for this free workshop, contact Mary West at 796-2151 or [mary.west@unh.edu](mailto:mary.west@unh.edu) (pre-registration required so we can have enough supplies available).

Stay tuned for information about other upcoming workshops.