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Editor: Sarah Chappelow



Green Thumb Gazette

Welcome to the 2016 Growing Season!

April 29th marks the official opening of the Boscawen Community Garden for the 2016 season. The Garden Committee has been hard at work laying out the plots and installing the irrigation system. As of press time, everything is on track for gardeners to have access to their plots on the 29th. Plot assignments and ID cards will be mailed out this week to everyone who has submitted an application so far.

Please remember to read over the garden rules and be respectful of your neighbors. If you notice a leak in the irrigation system, please turn off the water source in the box by the water pump, and alert Jeff Abbe immediately at 603-856-3298. Emergency contact information will also be available at the kiosk. Most importantly— have fun!



Elaine Clow and Ann LaCroix



Jeff Abbe and Angela Fellers



Charlie Jaworski and Jeff Abbe

A Freshly Plowed Garden Area!

The Boscawen Community Garden has been freshly plowed, thanks to Roger Sanborn, driver Derek Mills, and horses Huey and Leon. Give a high five (or a carrot) to Roger, Derek, Huey and Leon when you see them.



Huey and Leon Close-Up Shot!



Thanks for Driving, Derek!

Fertilizer and Compost at the Garden– by Ann LaCroix

In the past, garden plots have been prepared for new gardeners by broadcasting all the garden plots with a balanced fertilizer. Unfortunately, weeds became the problem for gardeners to contend with using this method. Isolating fertilizer and nutrients in the row or specific area where plants will be grown allows all the nutrients to be used by the crop and not contribute to "feeding the weeds". Therefore, each garden member will be left their own share of fertilizer at their plot to use when first planting and then should have enough to side dress in mid-summer. The fertilizer is a 20-0-20, which is high in nitrogen and potassium, low levels needed to amend soil from last year's soil test results through UNH. The garden's pH is a 6.3-6.5 which is balanced for plant growth this year. However, if any gardener wishes to add their own fertilizer purchased, bear in mind the garden's phosphorus levels are high, so no phosphorus will be necessary. Potassium levels are low in the garden, so adding any extra potash may be useful for your crops.

Last year, compost bins were constructed to begin producing compost for this year's gardeners. Bin #1 compost has been finished for use and will be shared with all garden members. Bin #2 is unfinished compost. Coffee grounds, fully aged manure from bin #3, straw, and leaves are the products that are being added for finished compost this Fall.

When planting your plots, the process should be to dig an area to plant, add compost mixed with aged manure from bins #1 and #3, add a sprinkle of fertilizer, mix well, seed, cover, and water. Mulch around plants to conserve water. Try to cover any remaining unused areas or walkways with black plastic, landscape fabric, shredded leaves, cardboard and 3" straw or hay to reduce the light and suppress weeds. That way you will only have to take care of your crops, not weed!

Ann LaCroix is in charge of managing the compost program. We still need lots of leaves for composting. Please contribute any raked leaves to Bin #4 as we use them in the herb garden and for making that beautiful compost you are using. As to the herb garden developed last year, scissors will be left on a hook attached to the back of the compost bin to clip the upper parts of herbs for your kitchen use. Just keep some extra grocery bags or a small bucket in your car. Notification of twilight herb talks for early summer will be posted on the kiosk and in the Green Thumb Gazette.

A **big** thank you to the local Starbucks Corporation for contributing their coffee grounds on a weekly basis that have helped promote the compost project.

Thank You



*Visit the local Starbucks at 240 Loudon Road, Concord, NH! *

Help Wanted at the Bee Hotel

Many of NH's native bee species are cavity-nesters. These solitary bees lay their eggs in holes. Some species look for existing holes for their nest sites, while others bore holes into wood or into the soft centers of twigs.

A "Bee Hotel" provides nesting sites for a diversity of bees and other beneficial insects.

Last year, UNH Cooperative Extension's Amy Papineau and Master Gardener Derrick LaBranche led a workshop at the Community Garden, constructing a Bee Hotel to house pollinators. The Bee Hotel is in need of someone to perform maintenance. Can you help? If so, please contact Amy Papineau at Amy.Papineau@unh.edu.



Bee Hotel

(Info provided by UNH Cooperative Extension)

Quote of the Month— submitted by Jeff Abbe

To own a bit of ground, to scratch it
with a hoe, to plant seeds and watch their
renewal of life -- this is the commonest delight
of the race, the most satisfactory thing a man can do.
-Charles Dudley Warner

Upcoming Workshops

Integrated Pest Management (IPM) in the Garden

Boscawen Municipal Complex, 116 North Main Street, 4th floor, Boscawen, NH

Monday, May 2, 2016, 6:30 PM

As the weather warms up and the plants begin to grow, it's time to watch for insects, weeds, and plant diseases that may cause trouble in your vegetable garden. UNH Cooperative Extension Master Gardener Ann Lacroix will talk about common pests to watch for and will discuss the steps you can take to prevent problems or minimize damage using chemical-free methods. Register on-line by visiting our events page: http://extension.unh.edu/events/index.cfm?e=app.event&event_id=40387 Or contact Mary West at UNH Cooperative Extension at 796-2151 or mary.west@unh.edu. Co-sponsored by UNH Cooperative Extension and the Boscawen Agricultural Commission. (As a reminder, all Community Garden members are required to attend at least one IPM workshop. Another IPM workshop will be scheduled for later in the season.)

Explore the current threats to Concord's tree canopy

Wed, May 4, 2016 (6:00 – 8:00 PM)

Up on the Concord Heights at the new Parks and Recreation office (formerly Dame School), 14 Canterbury Road, Concord (road between Walgreens and Pizza Hut).

Come learn about the invasive insects and aging trees that are compromising the health of the city's tree canopy. Concord is ground zero for the discovery of the Emerald Ash Borer and the insect is now throughout the city's landscape. Learn what your options are, how to hire an arborist, tree replacement, and where you can or cannot move the ash wood to.

To register call Mary West at 796-2151 or email: mary.west@unh.edu (Mary will need name, town you are from, a contact phone or email.)

Educational Opportunities

Learn Permaculture Design for Free

“Intro to Permaculture” offered through Oregon State University

Course runs May 2, 2016 – May 30, 2016



Permaculture design is a method of landscape planning that can be applied to anything, from a home garden or farm to a city block or entire village. This free permaculture course uses design principles from nature itself and takes into account such things as how indigenous people used the land; how water, fire and wind flow through the land; and how soil, water, vegetation, buildings and habitats can be managed in a stable and enduring way.

A multidisciplinary approach

Permaculture design is an ethically based, whole-systems design approach to create sustainable human settlements and institutions. Although rooted in horticulture and agriculture, permaculture design also touches on regional planning, ecology, animal husbandry, technology, architecture and international development.

Learning outcomes

In this free permaculture course, you will learn about the process, ethics and principles of permaculture design while diving into climate-specific design elements through interactive technology, videos, graphics, and readings. The course is designed to benefit everyone regardless of your learning style, time commitments or available technology.

Students who complete all course activities should expect to spend between two to four hours each week on course work.

For more information and to register, visit <http://bit.ly/22X9HwK>.

Educational Opportunities, cont.

UNH Cooperative Extension Master Garden Program Accepting Applications for Fall 2016

The University of New Hampshire Extension Master Gardener Program extends to the public UNH Extension research-based information about home horticulture, pest management and more. The Extension Master Gardener Volunteer Program is designed to allow trained volunteer gardeners to extend the horticultural information of University of New Hampshire Cooperative Extension through educational programs, community activities, or individual contacts. In exchange for the training and materials received from the University of New Hampshire Extension, master gardeners perform volunteer services in a myriad of venues.

Below are examples on how Master Gardeners share UNH Extension research-based information with the public:

Master Gardener's answer questions:

- at the Cooperative Extension Education Center in Goffstown.
- at horticultural events
- as part of the Master Gardener Speakers Bureau
- at county fairs and farmers markets

They help create, manage, and write about:

- school gardens
- community gardens
- demonstration gardens

They provide gardening information

- through news and social media
- by hosting workshops, tours, classes and clinics in their communities

Fall 2016 classes are on **Thursdays, 9-4:00, September 8 – December 1, 2016** Excluding Thanksgiving, Inclement weather date is Dec 8. Unitarian Church, 274 Pleasant Street, Concord, NH

Cost: \$250 plus \$25 for the optional Master Gardener Handbook

Applications must be received no later than July 22, 2016.

To learn more about the Master Gardener program and to download an application, visit <http://extension.unh.edu/Volunteer/Who-are-Master-Gardeners>.



Photo Credit: UNH Cooperative Extension

Spring Planting— by Ann LaCroix

What vegetables can be direct sowed in the garden or in containers from mid- April to early May?

Many “cold crop” seeds prefer growing in cool soil temperatures below 55 degrees. From April 15-May 5th, three to four weeks before the last frost, these vegetable seeds can be sowed: beets, cabbage, carrots, chard, endive, kale, kohlrabi, leeks, head and leaf type lettuces, onions, peas, rutabaga, spinach, and turnip. Testing the soil temperature with an inexpensive soil thermometer can determine when to plant in your area.



Seedlings Waiting for Transplant

Cold crop transplants started indoors 10-12 weeks before last frost can be planted outdoors May 1-May 15th, after having been “hardened off” for a few days. These hardy cold crops are asparagus (seed or crowns), broccoli, Brussel sprouts, cabbage, cauliflower, celery, parsnips, potatoes, radish (seed), and rhubarb (seed or crowns). Nighttime temperatures may range around 32 degrees.

To “harden off” transplants, set the transplants outside in a sheltered location out of direct sun for a few hours each day to get acclimated to the outdoor temperatures. Be careful to locate transplants out of the direct sun in order to protect those tender leaves from getting sun scorched.

What vegetables can be planted from seed the first two weeks of May?

May 5-10th is an ideal time for planting seed for all types of beans, potatoes, and sweet corn.

What vegetables are considered “hot” crops?

Vegetables such as cucumbers, eggplant, melons, peppers, pumpkins, squash, and tomatoes are considered “hot” crops that like soil temperatures between 60 -70 degrees and nighttime temperatures in the 50’s. These crops can be seeded directly or set out as transplants, weather permitting, May 20-25th. Okra, a southern vegetable, can be seeded or set out as transplants in early June.

Preparing the soil for the new season of growing must be taken under consideration before seeding.

Check the pH of the soil each year to monitor the pH levels, which should range between 6.0-6.8 pH. Gardens are limed in New Hampshire every other year, preferably in the Fall. Plants use up organic material each year so adding 2 inches of aged manure or compost will amend the soil for planting a new crop. If winter rye cover crop was sowed last October, turn the rye upside down and let rot for three weeks before planting a new crop in order to boost the organic matter in the soil. Also, using a balanced, organic fertilizer every 4 weeks will help to add back trace nutrients necessary for growing your favorite crops. For more information on fertilizer used at the Boscawen Community Garden, see page 2.

Upcoming Newsletters

Stay tuned for more information about the soon-to-be-planted wildflower garden that will serve to attract pollinators.

Do you have ideas for articles or items you’d like to see in future newsletters? Feel free to send ideas to editor Sarah Chappelow at Sarah.Chappelow@gmail.com.



*Pollinators Love
Wildflowers*