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Editor: Sarah Chappelow



Green Thumb Gazette

Scenes from the Garden: June

Summer is officially here! Despite dry weather, plants are starting to grow at the garden. Do you recognize these scenes from the garden?



Cabbage is looking good!



Help yourself to herbs at the Herb Garden



Vegetables aren't the only things growing



Expert weed prevention



Jeff Abbe waters at his plot

Observations from the Garden: A Timeline– by Jeff Abbe

This is an attempt to recapture the steps it has taken to get where we are today at the Boscawen Community Garden. With much time volunteered, we are always looking for new blood to help spread the work load around. At any time you might like to step forward to assist in day to day chores or help organize for next year's planning to make "our" gardens even better, please speak to any of the Garden Committee members. We will not turn anyone away, your participation is crucial to having the best community garden possible. It is so refreshing to see the fruits of our labor finally producing results. I think all will agree that the dry sandy conditions have been a challenge to get our sprouts & seeds to emerge into what we call vegetables. That being said, here is a rundown of some of the events that have taken place to date:

- Meetings to streamline and simplify the registration process and reach new gardeners.
- The "Green Thumb Gazette" is published to spark new interest in the Community Garden. Please thank Sarah Chappelow for her expertise and please get added to our email list if you are not getting the newsletter. She does a wonderful job!! Also Dee, from the Newsvine helps us to get the word out for recruiting new gardeners. All gardeners are encouraged to write a piece for this publication. Show us your strengths & interests. Why do you like gardening?? KIDS section? Comics? Garden tips? Classifieds?
- Bee Hotel & Wildflower demonstration plot signage is supplied by Amy Papineau from the Merrimack County Extension office. The Extension's help and by- products (Master Gardeners) have been a wealth of knowledge and support for many facets of rural living.
- Last year's wildflower plot stalks were cut & thrashed to disperse seeds to enhance more growth this year. The drought so far has made this plot a bit sluggish. We will fertilize and hope for more rain soon.
- Roger Sanborn & Derek plowed the garden area with a team of horses and to observe the beauty & strength of these Percheron "work" horses was something to behold. The depth of the tilling was much too deep & straightness of the rows has been a limiting factor but this is something we can learn from and overcome with time.



Next year, we will do some remedial light tilling or harrowing to get the gardens back into shape and expand on the existing footprint.

- Next, in mid-April, the plots and irrigation lines were laid out & installed to provide a water spigot in each garden plot. Not all community gardens have the luxury of water this available. Please report **any** leaks no matter how small. CALL JEFF @ 856-3298 We must conserve this precious resource at all costs. **MULCH-MULCH-MULCH**, you are also making sweet soil.
- The composting bins have been an ongoing effort for Ann LaCroix and what a nice job she has done to provide the best compost available to each gardener. Starbucks Coffee in Concord has given Ann hundreds of pounds of recycled coffee grounds to "wake up" our gardens and the composting process. Ann and Louise Jacob also have designed and maintained the herb garden for all of us to harvest and enjoy. Please use the scissors provided when cutting herbs. Ann also rationed and bagged all the fertilizer we each received for our plots. A huge Thank You to Ann!!



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Observations from the Garden, cont.

- The garden expanded to 15 spigots this year from 9 last year. The new spigot & sign posts were donated to us from Colby Lumber a local saw mill here in Boscawen. Thank You Colby Lumber!!
- Registration and assignment process begins and Candace Haithwaite administered this process from the town offices. We couldn't have done this without her support & expertise. Ask her if she has a pain in the neck? It's probably me! :)))
- Late April, Gardeners begin arriving with excitement of a new growing season.
- Some gardeners planted early with little results of seedling starts, a lack of pre-watering sufficiently and super dry conditions prevailed. The patient ones waiting until Memorial Day (New England tradition) were more successful, with much watering and some rain helped the germination factor.
- Saturday June 4th Charlie Jaworski and his 1952 Farmall Super C tractor aided in the planting of our Buckwheat cover crop. 300 lbs. of soy meal were also spread. Thanks much to Charlie.
- Dry and sandy conditions continued, many of us planted and replanted with encouragement from the hose spigots. We need RAIN badly. "Natures fertilizer". Remember a \$100 dollar plant needs a \$200 hole. Proper deep watering of seed bed is crucial, many of us (myself included), failed in this department.
- Why does cabbage thrive in these conditions and carrots & eggplant haven't sprouted or died with 2



plantings?????

- June 15th, the buckwheat cover crop has sprouted without water. Yeah buckwheat!! It must love parched soil.
- It appears the garden bug pests have not emerged much at all yet. Which is good, but keep on the lookout for potato & squash bugs and many others. Some are even beneficial. They will visit eventually and must be kept in check with proper methods. SQUISH!! Learn more at our IPM workshops that Ann will teach us how to identify and eradicate.
- If anyone has artistic abilities we need a sign for the kiosk saying who we are. The wheel chair sign has to GO! Simple & Creative.
- Last but not least Thank You Dean Hollins and the Public Works crew for the

mowing of the fields and surrounding areas this will help keep ticks and other pests at bay. The place looks great! Dean has allowed us to store all of our "stuff" in one of his sheds at PW, we are working on getting our own storage shed.

In closing, I would like to pose the question as to why we Community Garden? There are many reasons but here are a few that come to mind. The comradery and lasting friendships of like-minded people has been a large draw. But for some the obsession to grow & play in the dirt is essential for healthy well-being. Providing food to table is gratifying. Some enjoy the contemplative or meditative like sense of weeding and other garden chores. Most enjoyable for me is to see the children and family time spent on the fruits of our labor. This makes it so rewarding for all involved. Remember we all get an A+, you just have to show up! See you at the GARDEN!

"I may be an old man, but I am still a young gardener"

Thomas Jefferson

Ask-a-Master-Gardener

Question: I've noticed on the leaves of a couple of my broccoli & cauliflower plants some holes. Not rampant yet, and when I looked at the plants I didn't notice any bugs; what's nibbling on the leaves and how do I stop it?



Ann Says...

Answer: Any holes on leaves indicate some passing leaf insects that are in the small stage which are easy to miss. Captain Jack's organic sprayed on leaves in the evening or a light coat of neem oil or garden horticultural oil sprayed lightly on the leaves on both sides will coat them, kill any emerging eggs, and create a waterproof coat for daytime. Always apply oils and sprays in the evening after sun is down and air is cool to not burn leaves with the oil. Hope this helps.
Ann

Do you have a question about gardening or pest management? Master Gardeners Ann LaCroix and Sarah Chappelow can help. Email questions to Sarah.Chappelow@gmail.com.

Wondering Where to Put Your Weeds?

Pulling lots of weeds and wondering what to do with them? Pile them up here next to the trash barrel near the compost bins. A garden committee member will bring the weeds to the town dump. Please do not dump weeds in the compost bins, as any seeds may germinate in the compost pile.



Update: Herb Garden

In early June Ann LaCroix and Louise Jacob planted annual herbs in the herb garden followed by hosting a twilight herb talk on Monday, June 27th to learn about planting, drying, and harvesting herbs. A friendly reminder to use the scissors provided to pick leaf and stem stalks of herbs, not just the leaves. Always leave ½ the plant (in case of annuals such as cilantro, basil, and dill) for new growth. If you have extra grocery bags, please add them in the bag under the scissors for other folks to use. Thank you!

Try out this new herb recipe as a change that can go with grilled beef or chicken and a nice salad or roasted vegetables:

Parmesan-Herb Bread using fresh rosemary and thyme

Line a loaf pan with parchment paper and spray with cooking spray. Preheat oven to 350 degrees

Caramelize 2 slices onion in olive oil over medium heat for 15 minutes

Whisk in: ¾ c sour cream, ½ c vegetable oil, and 2 eggs

In a separate bowl, whisk 1 ¾ c flour, ½ c. graded parmesan, 1 TBSP sugar, 2 tsp chopped rosemary, 2 tsp chopped thyme, 1 ½ tsp baking powder, 1 tsp lemon zest, ½ tsp salt, ½ tsp pepper, and ¼ tsp baking soda.

Then add to onion mixture

Fold wet onion mixture into dry

Bake 40-50 minutes.

Source: Food Network Magazine, October, 2014

Managing Squash Vine Borer Problems— by Ann LaCroix

Squash vine borer is a day-flying orange and black moth. Moths that look like black-and-red wasps with metallic forewings. The destructive stage is the larva (caterpillar), and it attacks most types of squash and pumpkin. Damage can be severe. Some growers confuse this insect with the squash bug. Squash bug nymphs are slightly flattened, grey to light brown, and have no orange or red markings. Squash bug adults are medium brown color, with no orange or red markings.



Yellow-orange frass on main stem



Larvae inside area of frass

Squash borers overwinter in the soil as a larva or pupa, usually about two inches down. In **late June** the adult moth emerges as a bright red-orange plump body with narrow black wings. Body length is about ½ inch long. The shape is very wasp-like. Males and females mate, and soon after the females lay eggs. The females locate squash and pumpkin plants by smell, and lay their eggs singly on the **vines, leaf stems, and undersides of leaves**. Eggs are reddish-brown and oval, about 1mm long. Each female can lay 150-200 eggs, and the moths are fairly strong fliers. Eggs hatch into caterpillars in 10 days. The larvae take four weeks to mature to moths. As caterpillars these cream colored insects with dark brown heads bore through the vines, but occasionally they bore into the hard fruit. Fruit damage occurs when there is a late flush of moths. **Attacked plants show yellowish-orange frass being pushed out of the vines, where the larvae have bored in, causing considerable injury.** Smaller plantings of zucchini, blue hubbard, and summer squash often suffer more injury and damage than extensive plantings, because eggs are concentrated on fewer plants. The moths do not like to lay eggs on butternut squash, melons, or cucumbers. Bush type squash seem to suffer more than vine types of squash within the same plant group.

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Managing Squash Vine Borer Problems, cont.

Management Options

- Rotate crops to reduce problems with this pest. In a backyard situation, if the space is small, moving the crop a few feet doesn't help prevent damage. Option: Skip a year or grow less susceptible types.
- Deep tilling after harvest or before planting in the spring may kill a number of larvae/pupae in the soil. However, if there was a heavy infestation, it won't make much of a difference in crop damage.
- For small backyard growers, physically remove borers from vines. Look for yellow-orange frass being pushed out of the vines. Carefully make a small lengthwise cut in the vine at the point of the frass and remove the borers. There may be several larvae in one spot. Then gently wrap the cut together and/or cover the vine at that spot with soil, which can encourage rooting.
- Remove and destroy dying vines which prevent larvae inside from completing their development and emerging as moths next year.
- Cover the plants with white spun-bonded row covers over metal wickets or hoops to exclude the moths from laying eggs. The main period of borer flight runs from the second week of June to the first week of August. The row cover also excludes pollinating insects resulting in no fruit setting during that period. This method means some loss of early fruit, but it also avoids most borer infestation and injury come early August.
- Placing shallow pans painted yellow and filled with water can attract and capture moths.
- Spraying the leaf vines with pesticides, even organic pesticides, are especially hazardous to bees. Honey bees, squash bees, and various bumblebees pollinate squash. Spraying very late in the evening may kill bees who often rest inside the blossoms at night. Squash bees are the same size as honeybees, but with very long antenna and dark body color. Target only **the main base of the plant, rather than the foliage**. ***Baccillus thuringiensis* (BT)** also called **thuricide produced by Bonide** may be among the most effective organic insecticide options.

Source for Lures and Traps: Great Lakes IPM

www.greatlakesipm.com

1-800-382-8473

This supplier as the net traps and Squash vine borer lures.

Source for this fact sheet: <http://extension.unh.edu/resource/category/Agriculture>

Authors: Alan Eaton-Entomology specialist

George Hamilton: Ag Field Specialist, Hillsborough County



Editor's Tip

Have hard-to-remove eggs on plant leaves? Roll some duct tape around your hand, sticky side out, and use the tape to lift the eggs away from the leaves!



Local Farmer's Market Directory

Monday

Salisbury Farmers' Market

Salisbury Town Hall, Route 4

3pm-6pm

Fresh farm eggs, jams, jellies, maple syrup honey, mustard, cupcakes, bead jewelry, woven items, knitted items, antiques, soap and lotions. Coming soon: raw milk and yogurt. Rain or Shine.



Penacook Village Farmers' Market

Rolfe Homestead, 11 Penacook Street.

Runs through August.

4:00 pm - 6:30 pm.

Thursday

Henniker Community Market

57 Main Street, Henniker Community Center Park.

4:00 pm - 7:00 pm. June-October

Vegetables, fruits, flowers/plants, dairy, maple, baked goods, meats, crafts. Live music weekly. Rain or shine.

Saturday

Concord Farmers' Market

Capitol Street, Downtown Concord.

Runs through October.

8:30 am - Noon.

Vegetables, fruits, flowers/plants, dairy, baked goods, maple, meat, fish, honey, jams/jellies, condiments, mushrooms, pickles, teas, dog treats, pasta/sauces, nuts, popcorn, soap, lotions, wood products. SNAP/EBT accepted. Rain or shine.

Contoocook Farmers' Market

Contoocook Train Depot, 896 Main Street.

Runs through October.

9:00 am - Noon.

Vegetables, fruits, flowers/plants, maple, baked goods, meats, jams, salsas, soaps, Alpaca products, wood crafts, crafts. Craft fair the first Saturday of each month featuring local juried crafts. Winter market planned. SNAP/EBT accepted.

Warner Area Farmers' Market

5 East Main Street, Warner.

Runs through October.

9:00 am - 1:00 pm.

Vegetables, fruits, flowers/plants, plant starts, maple, baked goods, meat, mushrooms, honey, medicinal products, jams, soap, jewelry, crafts. Weekly music, cooking demos. Rain or shine.

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Local Farmer's Market Directory, cont.

Wilmot Farmers Market

Town Green, Route 11 / Kearsarge Rd, Wilmot.

Runs through September.

9:00 am - Noon.

Vegetables, fruits, flowers/plants, dairy, maple, baked goods, meat, kettle corn, fudge, crafts.



New London Farmers' Market

Town Common, Main St, New London.

Runs through September.

3:00 pm - 6:00 pm.

Veggies, fruits, flowers/plants, baked goods, maple, meat, honey, fudge, kettle corn, crafts. Live music, children's face painting each week, and kids crafts. Winter market planned. SNAP/EBT accepted. Rain or shine.

Upcoming Workshops

Herb Garden Talk– June 27th 6:30pm

Join Ann LaCroix and Louise Jacob at the Herb Garden Monday evening, June 27th from 6:30-7:30PM to gain knowledge about herb planting, picking, drying, and cooking with herbs. Bring a bag to collect some herbs you could use at home.

LOCATION:

Boscawen Community Gardens, Corn Hill Road and Knowlton Road, Boscawen

DIRECTIONS:

Corn Hill Road is approximately one mile north on Route 4 from the Routes 3 and 4 split in front of the white church. Turn left on to Corn Hill Road, and take the first immediate right to the community gardens.

COST: Free and open to the public.

TO REGISTER: To register, contact the Boscawen Agricultural Commission at 753-9188 x 301 or agriculture03303@gmail.com

Attracting Bees and Butterflies to Your Garden– July 11th 6:30pm

Making your garden appealing to bees and butterflies is good for your plants and will delight the gardeners! We'll discuss what's harming the pollinators and what we can do to help them. You'll learn what plants attract bees and receive a list of host plants for a variety of butterflies in our region. We'll also cover what you can do to protect their habitat once they arrive. UNH Cooperative Extension Master Gardener Donna Miller will be the speaker who is enthusiastic and knowledgeable Co-sponsored by UNH Cooperative Extension and the Boscawen Commission.

LOCATION:

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

COST: Free and open to the public.

TO REGISTER: To register, contact the Boscawen Agricultural Commission at 753-9188 x 301 or agriculture03303@gmail.com

