

WTCGG



Washington
Township
Community
Garden

NEWSLETTER: The Garden's Progress

Can you remember what the WTCG looked like one year ago? We were not "officially open" until May 1st, 2013, but our beds were built. All neat and in beautiful rows our raised beds were waiting for our seeds and seedlings to be planted. We have come a long way in one year. With a shed to keep our tools safe from the elements, and compost bins on the way, we can now concentrate on the details and have some fun in the garden. This newsletter will post a list of Volunteer Jobs that we have identified. This is not an all inclusive list and we welcome your ideas for other projects. You can respond/sign-up for a job on our new FORUM (see website for details and learn how to use---very easy) or at the shed where they will also be posted on a clipboard. Happy Volunteering!!!! - Diane Muenzen

Garden Chores For May 2014

-from the website *LIVING THE COUNTRY LIFE*

Last Average Frost Date -- Once your region's last average frost date arrives, if it hasn't already, you can go ahead and plant warm-season annuals (tomatoes, peppers, basil, marigolds, petunias and the like).

Those warm-season annuals include plants for containers, pots, windowboxes, and planters. Remove any cool-season flowers, such as pansies, that you may already have there. Work in a slow-release fertilizer.

Plant the seeds of corn, green beans, squash, cucumbers, okra, sweet potatoes and other heat-lovers until the soil has warmed to 60 degrees F. That's warm enough for you to walk on it comfortably barefoot, usually about two weeks after the last average frost date.

After the frost date, plant tender summer bulbs outdoors, including glads, cannas, and tuberous begonias.

Dividing Perennials -- Divide most perennials as long as they're not spring bloomers and as long as the foliage isn't more than 5 or 6 inches high. Divide them if they are getting crowded (reduced blooms, a dead spot in the middle) or you simply want more plants.

Deadheading 101
Deadhead spent flowerheads on spring-blooming bulbs to direct their energy back to their roots so they can build vigor for next year. Also deadhead fading flowers on other plants.
(cont'd page 2)

One Year Ago...



(cont'd from page 1)

Mulch Matters -- By the end of the month or early next month, the soil will have warmed up enough that you can apply a layer of mulch on flower beds and around trees and shrubs. As a rule of thumb, apply this mulch once the tulips have faded. Mulch reduces weeds, conserves moisture, and prevents disease. Great stuff!

Keep new plantings well-watered.

Planting Trees and Shrubs

Continue to plant container-grown trees, shrubs, perennial herbs, and perennial flowers. You can give planting bare-root plants a try this month, but it's getting awfully late and they aren't as likely to thrive at this point as the more established container plants.

For mums, pinch off the last inch or so of the branches until July to assure bushy, well-flowering plants. While you're at it, cut back asters and other tall, floppy, late-summer bloomers by about one-third once they're a foot or so high. They'll be sturdier and flower better.

Continue to fertilize roses, either with chemicals or compost. Some rose fanciers also swear by fish emulsion, an organic fertilizer.

Annual Stakes and Supports

-- Stake tall plants that will need it now while they're just a foot or so high.



*I know that if odour were visible, as colour is,
I'd see the summer garden in rainbow clouds.*
~Robert Bridges, "Testament of Beauty"

Good things come to those who wait.....!!! At long last the water has come to the Garden! We have two spigots located in the central pathway, so one of them will be close to your plot. No more carrying pails of water from outside the fence AND no more waiting for pails to fill at a trickle....IN FACT, the water comes out at hydrant force so please be careful. Do not turn the top handle unless you have a firm grip on the hose AND a container to fill. The water cans are stored in the shed, and hoses can be used with care. I would advise parents not to let your child use the hydrant unless you see that they are capable by working it with them at first. Also, we must try to get as little water as possible in the pathway, so always have a container ready to fill. Besides thatENJOY this luxury and many many thanks to our DPW.

*A note about our water spigots:
They must be held down to run the water so if you want to use a hose a second pair of hands will be needed.*



Plant Sales of New Jersey

Don't miss another plant sale! The Star Ledger posted an article listing NJ plant sales and Lucy, one of our gardeners, kindly scanned it into PDF format to share with us. It's a few pages long so I uploaded it to our News & Events webpage for you to be able to download.

Scuffle/Appalachian/Stirrup/Hula Hoe Use



Since I weed around many established perennials or tender flowers, to avoid damaging them I use a “stirrup hoe” or variation. You may see these also called “loop” or “circle” hoes, depending on their shape. The stirrup hoe looks just like the stirrup on a saddle. The lower, flat surface is the sharpened blade that cuts by pulling along or just under the soil. Since the sides are not sharp, you can get right next to desirable plants without damaging them. Often these hoes can also be found on short handles for fine, hand weeding.

- Dr. Leonard P. Perry, Extension Professor University of Vermont

We now have a scuffle hoe for our WTCG use as well as other tools stored in the shed (with peace symbol decorative tape) around the handle/stick. Please use, clean and put back in shed after use.

You Bet Your
garden®



Mike McGrath chats with callers and gives gardening advice on WHY?Y's public radio show You Bet Your Garden.

Diane Muenzen recommends it as it is chock full of useful gardening info and hey, aren't you tired of listening to politics, sports or contemporary music anyway?

Make use of your listening time by learning how to be a better gardener in our community garden and your own home.

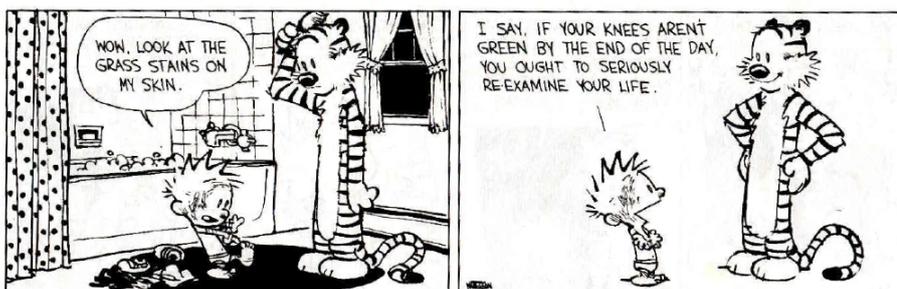
Have gardening questions? Call 1-888-346-9499, or send an email to garden@why.org. If emailing, please include your name and your location in the email, and the actual subject (not “help” or “question”) in the subject line.

Don't miss any organic gardening tips — subscribe to the You Bet Your Garden podcast.

ON THE
RADIO

GARDEN PARTY:

A small group of gardeners gathered for lunch on April 26th and enjoyed some veggies with their lunch. We met two of our new gardeners, and all who attended were entered in a contest for a T-shirt (Committee members not included).... AND THE WINNER OF THE T-SHIRT is Cristina Niciporciukas. Please come to the Green Market and pick out a White shirt in the size of your choice. Congrats!!!



OUR FORUM PAGE LOOKS LIKE THIS:

Washington Township Community Garden

Index Search Register Login

You are not logged in. Would you like to [login](#) or [register](#)?

Welcome WTCG gardeners! This forum is for your use to connect with other gardeners. It is a moderated forum so we can prevent spammers from posting ads or indecent things. Your registrations and posts will be slightly delayed in showing up as we (Melanie, Diane or Denise) will be reviewing them before releasing them to the forum. Please be patient as we are new to this. Thanks and enjoy!

How To Use Forum

Forum	Topics	Posts	Last post
<p>How To Start Using The Forum</p> <p>~ Register first as only members may post and reply. ~ Try to stay on subject in the specific folders. ~ If you post something and want to read replies as they come in, you can select to receive notice by email. ~ Your post will show up on the forum after a moderator has seen and released it. ~ Anyone coming to our website and looking in our forum may read the forum (guests/nonmembers) so perhaps be selective in any personal info, you share like telephone #s or addresses. Diane will be sending members an email w/everyone's email addresses so you can contact folks directly that way and share phone #'s etc. there.</p>	0	0	None

Searching For:

Forum	Topics	Posts	Last post
<p>New forum</p>	1	5	<p>Ideas for empty Plots? by Diane Muenzen</p> <p>Yesterday 11:26 am</p>

This Is Our Forum Button Link

Our forum is up and running and is accessible from our website or if you save the web address by bookmarking it when you are there, you can use it directly. Thank you Melanie for setting us up with another great way to communicate with each other. If you want to broadcast a message to other gardeners this is the place to do it. Share, give, swap, sell & buy gardening supplies or talk and ask questions from your fellow gardeners!

USING MILK TO PREVENT POWDERY MILDEW!

by Barbara Pleasant

You don't have to garden long to become acquainted with the disease called powdery mildew, which creates whitish patches on the leaves of pumpkin, winter squash, and other members of the cucumber family. A fast-growing fungus, powdery mildew is also among the worst enemies of rosemary, and is a well-known disease of monarda, grape, and zinnia. Each of these unrelated plants hosts a different strain of powdery mildew, but I have found that they all can be controlled with regular sprays of milk and water.

What is Powdery Mildew?

To understand how milk sprays prevent powdery mildew and thus use them most effectively, you must first understand your enemy. Powdery mildew fungi are present in many environments, so that even in the cleanest gardens, outbreaks can begin from spores spread by windblown rain, or on the feet of insects and birds. But when the right strain of powdery mildew finds a suitable host plant, it quickly sinks root-like structures into the cells on the leaf's surface. There it stays, taking nutrition from the leaf while developing a matrix of thread-like structures over the surface. This is when we gardeners notice unusual patches of white or light gray with a powdery or furry texture, usually on the top sides of leaves.

For the infected plants, powdery mildew cripples its ability to conduct photosynthesis by blocking out light, and stops up the leaf's gas exchange system, too. Powdery mildew can quickly spread to nearby leaves, so it's always a good idea to clip out leaves that show early spotting. Also make use of resistant varieties of cucumbers, squash and melon, which can be of tremendous help in preventing powdery mildew. Resistant varieties have special characteristics that make it extremely difficult for powdery mildew fungi to enter leaves, which they do with cell-melting enzymes



Using Milk for Plant Mildews

More than 50 years ago, researchers in Canada discovered that milk sprays could help prevent powdery mildew on tomato and barley. Then the age of fungicides began, with no further published research on the milk cure until 1999. Since then, numerous small studies from around the world have validated the use of milk sprays on powdery mildew on a wide range of plants. Most recently, a spray made of 40% milk and 60% water was as effective as chemical fungicides in managing powdery mildew of pumpkins and cucumbers grown in mildew-prone Connecticut. In Australia, milk sprays have proven to be as effective as sulfur and synthetic chemicals in preventing powdery mildew on grapes. In New Zealand, milk did a top-rate job of suppressing powdery mildew in apples.

Spray milk on squash leaves to prevent powdery mildew

Scientists are not exactly sure how milk sprays work, but most think proteins in the milk interact with sun to create a brief antiseptic effect. Any fungi present are "burned" into oblivion, but there is no residual effect after that. *In order to*

be effective, milk sprays must be used preventively, must be applied in bright light, and should be repeated every 10 days or so.

On the downside, some writers have suggested that milk sprays give off a bad odor after they have been applied, but this has not been my experience. I use a hand-held pump-spray bottle to wet both sides of the leaf until it's dripping, and usually spray in mid to late afternoon on a sunny day. In the days that follow, I never smell a thing. Healthy pumpkins showing no sign of powdery mildew on their leaves

There is no consensus on which dilution of milk to water is best, with the most concentrated recommended mixture 40% milk and 60% water, and the most dilute 10% milk and 90% water. I fall in between using 30% milk to 70% water, with good results. It does not matter if the milk you use is skim or whole because it is the protein rather than the milkfat that is working on your behalf.

With experience, you will learn which types of powdery mildew are likely to develop in your garden, and this knowledge will take you far in managing this disease. Like other fungicides, milk sprays work best when used preventatively, before the disease can gain a foothold. If you often see powdery mildew on your squash, grapes or zinnias, start milk sprays before the plants show signs of infection. You have nothing to lose beyond a cup of milk..



Things, we're Working On

VOLUNTEER JOBS:

Please reply via the forum.

1. **REPAIR PICNIC TABLE & BENCHES** - Maybe replace the piece of warped wood & sand?
2. **FIRST-AID-KIT** - Small emergency kit for shed. (Cristina)
3. **REPAIR BACK GATE** - Our back gate is really out of line. Could someone handy take it off & fix?
4. **COMPOST BIN** - (Tom Kietrys, Chip Autry, Fred Kugelman & Pete Cooper?)
5. **LAWN MOWER** - Are you good w/engines? Diane has a mower to donate that just needs a little help getting started.
6. **GREEN MARKET** - We need people to work our garden table looking for members and selling tee shirts on Thursdays. There are two shifts: 3-5pm and 5-7pm. It would be good to have 2 people each shift or an extra helper to overlap the shifts a bit. So far we have:
May 1: 3-5 Laurie Fagan /5-7 Deanne Kietrys
May 8: 3-5 Laurie Fagan /5-7 Cristina
May 15: 3-5 Diane Muenzen /5-7 Denise Tedeschi
May 22: 3-5 Pete Cooper /5-7 Diane Muenzen
May 29: 3-5 Pete Cooper /5-7 Diane Muenzen
7. **SHED TWEAKS** - Install hanging devices. (Denise & hubby doing)
8. **CHILDREN'S EVENT** - Maybe a craft or educational event or just something fun for our garden kids. You pick the date.
9. **POT PERSON** - Help Diane build a clay pot person (or animal) for plot#18. Diane has some pots but would like help. (Joanne M.)
10. **PERENNIAL BEDS** - Our master plan calls for flower beds along our front fences. Work with Denise on construction, design & implementation. (Deanne?)
11. **NEWSLETTER REPORTER** - Have ideas for articles for our newsletter? Would you like to submit photos of events in the garden? (so far Cristina)
12. **FENCE REPAIR** - See a problem with the fence? Zip ties are in the shed to fix it.
13. **PAINT OUR TOOLS** - This job involves marking our common tools with paint for easy identification. (orange paint in shed)
14. **PLAN AN EVENT AT THE GARDEN:** - So far Cristina will be planning a Solstice Party on June 21st, so save the date!

FUNDRAISING:

T-SHIRTS for SALE @ Long Valley Green Market
Our garden T-shirts have been quite a hit! They are available at the Green Market which opens this Thursday, May 1st from 3-7 PM. Priced at \$12 they are available in several colors and sizes from small to XXL. How about we all buy one and take a group photo later in the summer?



Feel Free To Share

print this page and post

Come grow with us!

THE WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP COMMUNITY GARDEN



8' x 8' and 8' x 16' sunny garden plots available for rent in the Washington Township Community Garden at Palmer Park. For more info. visit our website at wtcommunitygarden.jimdo.com or come to our table at the Green Market.



Our Sponsorship Program

Because we have a few needs that are pressing we've started a sponsorship program so those who want to help, can. We need to: help fund scout projects that are costly, buy some tools & supplies and build a couple sturdy long lasting compost bins. There are many people in our community who would like to help give the garden support. Please reach out to your family, friends & local businesses and share our website page where a sponsorship application may be downloaded. <http://wtcommunitygarden.jimdo.com/sponsorship/>

Business & Personal Sponsorships

With your help we will be able to have the basics every garden needs.

For your sponsorship we will plant bulbs, place pavers & stepping stones or plant a fruit tree in your name.

 <p>Fruit Tree</p> <p>Large logo featured on website. A Fruit Tree planted in WTCG with dedication plaque.</p> <p>\$500 +</p>	<p>Sponsored by Luigi's Pizza Joe & Maria</p> <p>Stepping Stone</p> <p>Medium logo featured on website. Engraved Bluestone Stepping Stone placed in WTCG.</p> <p>\$250 - \$499</p>	<p>Joe & Maria Santos</p> <p>Brick Paver</p> <p>Small logo featured on website. Engraved Paver placed in WTCG.</p> <p>\$100 - \$249</p>	 <p>1 Doz. Bulbs</p> <p>Name featured on website. One dozen bulbs planted in WTCG.</p> <p>\$50</p>
--	---	--	---