

WTCG

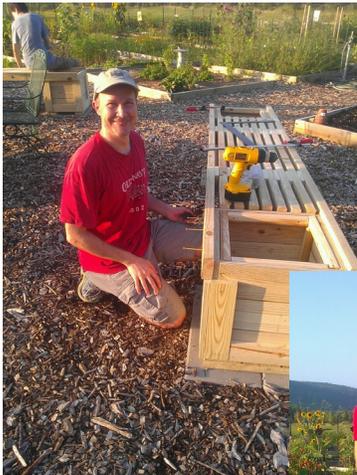


Washington Township Community Garden

NEWSLETTER: Garden Volunteer Action

Connor Onweller to be Awarded Eagle Scout
 On Sunday, June 7th, 2015, the dedicated Boy Scout who built our center court benches (along with his Dad and Troop 436) will receive his Eagle Scout award at a ceremony at St Mark's Church in Long Valley. The project was conceived and designed under the direction of Denise Tedeschi. It took several months of planning and approvals from the Troop leaders and the Washington Township DPW, but construction was completed in August 2014.

We are very grateful to Connor and his fellow scouts as we will enjoy the benches for many years. One of our gardeners, Joanne Mulvihill, has taken on the task of seeding the planters with selections from the WTPL Seed Library. Thanks, Joanne! Which brings me to the topic of volunteerism.....at the garden.....you will soon get an email from Deanne Kietrys helping you to pick your job and get started. Please give this email careful attention. The garden needs ALL members to do their part. Please find a task that suits you and get started! - Diane Muenzen



MAY GARDENING CHORES:

From the website:

www.agardenforthehouse.com

TAKE A TIP from the nesting robins — May isn't the month to snooze! Indeed, garden-work we accomplish now will determine the success we'll have for the rest of the growing season. Need a little guidance? I follow this routine:

PERENNIALS: Weed, Feed, and Mulch. Get out every weed from the flower beds, apply an organic, balanced plant food, and then spread a 2-to-3-inch layer of mulch. Remember that mulch is our greatest ally for conserving moisture, inhibiting weeds and improving soil quality.

HARDY BULBS: Feed hyacinths, tulips, narcissus, and etc. while they are still in growth and making embryo flowers for next year. You can cut off the faded flowers, but don't remove foliage until it dies down naturally.

ANNUALS: Seeds To Sow. When soil has warmed up (and don't be in too big a hurry if you live in the Northeast — frosts often occur here as late as May 17), sow the tender annuals — marigold, nasturtium, salvia, zinnia, and etc.

TOMATOES and Other Indoor-Started Seedlings. Begin the hardening-off process this month. On warm days, set seedlings in a shaded, sheltered position for one hour. Then gradually increase outdoor time and exposure to sun over a matter of weeks. Follow these tomato tips for an extra extravagant harvest.

Salad Greens. Continue to sow lettuce and spinach at 2-week intervals. (cont'd on page 2)

(contd. from page one)

FROST-HARDY VEGETABLES: Sow these now. Frost-hardy veggies include broccoli, kale, cauliflower, carrots, beets, and onions. If you buy onion and beet seedlings from the garden center, be sure to separate them first.

FROST-TENDER VEGETABLES: In zone 5-b, wait until Memorial Day weekend to direct-sow beans, cucumbers, summer- and winter-squash. These rarely benefit from an early start.

(please note we are 6-a in Long Valley)

Radishes. It pays to edge beds of direct-sown veggies with radishes. Radishes emerge very quickly, and as a consequence, insects attack the radish foliage, and ignore the other seedlings in the bed.

Classified Ads:

PLOT AVAILABLE!!! FIRST COME FIRST SERVE.

Contact Diane Muenzen at dianemuenzen@comcast.net

NEED BAMBOO POLES? Contact Kathy Smith at ksmith104@comcast.net

NEED A GARDEN MENTOR? Contact Deanne at deannekietrys@yahoo.com

LAWN MOWER NEEDED. Have a mower you could donate to the garden or know someone who does? Contact David at dprekel@gmail.com



Flowers provide the nectar and pollen resources that pollinators feed on. Growing the right flowers, shrubs, and trees with overlapping bloom times will support pollinators from spring through fall.



A home for growing pollinators is essential. You can leave patches of bare ground and brush piles or install nesting blocks, and plant caterpillar host plants.



Pesticides are harmful to pollinators, especially insecticides. Herbicides reduce food sources by removing flowers from the landscape.



Let your friends and neighbors know you're providing habitat with a pollinator habitat sign. You can also sign the Pollinator Protection Pledge!

NEWS & EVENTS

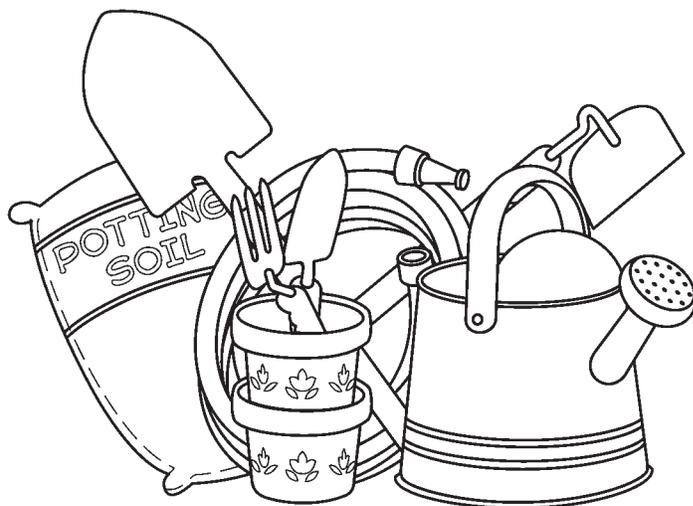
GIANT PLANT SALE MAY 9TH!

The Garden Club of Long Valley will be holding its annual Mother's Day Sale on Saturday, May 9th. The sale will run from 9am to 3pm at the Washington Township Municipal Utilities Authority building, 46 East Mill Road, Long Valley.

The sale will feature hundreds of plants from the gardens of GCLV members, as well as a special section of native plants for sale. Native plants are important to attract pollinators and help the honeybee population.

There will also be many beautiful annuals and colorful hanging baskets for the perfect Mother's Day gift. Gently used garden books will be available for sale, and garden-related items and services will be raffled. Garden Club members will be on-site to help select plants suitable for your garden or the perfect gift for mom.

For information about the sale, or membership in the Garden Club of Long Valley, please visit:
www.thegardencluboflongvalley.shutterfly.com



A VIEW FROM PLOT 14

It seems this snow and cold just won't let up this year. During some of the frigid days I just needed a taste of Spring, so decided to read up on websites, check a lot of catalogs and think of how nice it would be to get back and tend the gardens.

As they say, you learn something new every day. I thought I would share a few tips I discovered, some you may know, some might be new.

Planting catnip is a deterrent for flea beetles. Where was this info while I battled them on my eggplants! Adding basil to your garden provides a tasty herb, but also is a great plant to deter many harmful insects. And is said to improve the flavor and growth of garden crops, especially tomatoes and lettuce, and it repels mosquitoes. Grown with radishes, it's said to make them a bit sweeter.

I think I will be planting a lot of basil this year!

If you grow beans and peas, keep them away from fennel, garlic, leeks, onions and shallots, they may be a foe to your beans.

Since the decline of monarch butterflies due to the lack of milk weed their only food source (reason being the use of herbicides and genetically engineered crops has eliminated their food source along their migration route). Diane got some seeds for me, so I am currently trying to grow them and then decide where to plant. These will be the pink variety, they also have other colors that I never knew about, so I just ordered some seeds in orange and reds and will see how they do. If I am successful I will collect seeds and will be willing to share next year

Looking forward to seeing you down at the garden, Joanne

MULCHING the garden...

GET THE MOST FROM VEGETABLE GARDEN MULCHES

Article excerpts by Barbara Pleasant for Mother Earth News Magazine

One of the hallmarks of any healthy organic garden is the effective use of mulches. Defined as materials used to cover the soil's surface, mulches help control weeds, prevent disease, conserve moisture, maintain consistent soil temperatures, enrich the soil with organic matter and just make the garden look good. According to Texas A&M University, a well-mulched garden can yield 50 percent more vegetables than an unmulched garden space, thanks in part to mulches' ability to reduce foliage and fruit diseases.

Most gardeners prefer biodegradable mulches, such as compost, grass clippings, leaves or straw, because they decompose into soil-building organic matter. In vegetable garden pathways or in orchards, sawdust and wood chips are hard to beat as perpetual mulches

To enhance weed control provided by organic mulches, many gardeners place newspaper beneath other organic mulches. Overlapped sheets of newspaper — about six sheets thick — will block light that could pass through thin layers of grass clippings or weathered leaves, resulting in far fewer weeds.

The best vegetable garden mulches are those that your property produces itself, such as grass clippings, leaves and compost made by combining kitchen and garden wastes. Grass clippings are particularly useful because they contain abundant nitrogen and other nutrients, which feed both soil life and plants. If used as mulch over fertile, organically enriched soil, a 2-inch blanket of fresh grass clippings can provide all the nutrients most crops need for the season.

Leaves gathered in the fall make fine mulch, too, although black walnut leaves should be avoided because they leach chemicals that inhibit the growth of tomatoes and many other plants. All leaves are easier to handle and more likely to enhance plant growth if you run over them with a mower once or twice before gathering them up. If you don't have a bagger but do have a mower that will spew cuttings off to one side, you can quickly make piles of chopped leaves by mowing in concentric circles and directing the shredded leaves toward the center of the circle.

In some situations, the use of black or colored plastic mulch may be worth the trouble and cost. Colored plastic film mulches are only as thick as lightweight garbage bags, so they usually can't be reused.

Black. Controls weeds and warms the soil beneath by up to 7 degrees Fahrenheit. Black film mulches work best where summers are mild. While more expensive, black plastic landscape fabric allows water to pass through it, and can be reused for several seasons.

Brown. Works like black mulch, but looks better in the garden and may also be available as reusable fabric.

Red. Reflects far-red rays from sunlight back onto plants, which can improve production of tomatoes by 10 to 30 percent.



Illustration: Elayne Sears for Mother Earth News

Help Support Our COMMUNITY GARDEN

Please share this page with people in the community that you feel would like to help support our wonderful town garden so it will be here for generations to come. Details and donation forms may be found on our website: www.wtcommunitygarden.jimdo.com

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>
--	--	---	---