

WTCGG



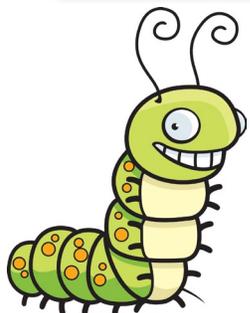
Washington  
Township  
Community  
Garden

## NEWSLETTER: The Garden & Children

As I looked out across our garden, I saw a peaceful landscape full of possibility. There were birds happily searching for their next meal and beautiful butterflies fluttering about. People were walking their dogs on the path saying hello as they passed. The sky was blue and there was a gentle breeze. It was a perfect day for starting my garden.

I began to turn the soil and I immediately fell into daydreaming as I worked. My thoughts wandered to my children, and what the garden could be for them. The experience of planting a seed and watching it sprout could be so exciting. Then, teaching them to nurture young plants and care for them as they get older would be equally rewarding. They would have the opportunity to see that from an empty pile of dirt, with hard work and care, would bring the reward of fresh and healthy vegetables.

I was asked what I would hope to do this year at the garden. Normally I would have focused on the plants themselves. This year my goal, while still wanting a beautiful harvest, will be to teach my children a lesson that will stick with them for life. - Melanie Bitecola



### JUNE GARDENING CHORES:

*From the website:*

[www.awaytogarden.com](http://www.awaytogarden.com)

**MAKE A PASS** through each garden bed each week, since weeds are not just unsightly but steal moisture, nutrients and light from desired plants. Apply mulch to all beds to help in the plight.

**GARDENS NEED** an inch of water a week from you or the heavens. Check your rain gauge to make sure they get it, and remember: Soak deeply in the root zone. Don't spritz things with a sprayer now and again like you're washing the car. That's a garden no-no. Pots need extra attention, especially smallish ones in sun, and they also need regular feeding. Be alert!

**CONTINUE SOWING** carrots, beets, radishes, lettuce, dill. With salad greens, select heat-resistant varieties now for best results, and sow small amounts every 10 days. The shadier side of a tomato row or your pole beans, for instance, is nice for lettuce right now...not baking sun.

**DIRECT-SOW A SHORT ROW OF BUSH BEANS** every two weeks, and also sow pole beans for an even later crop if you didn't yet. Did summer and winter squash, cucumbers, melons go in? It's time.

**YOU HAVEN'T MISSED** tomato time. These ambitious creatures will catch up and bear even if they go in July 4th in my area (but Memorial Day or early June is best). The entire tomato-growing tip collection is right here. Plant deep, and use heavy cages. Eggplants and peppers should be in the ground early this month, too, and too-small tomato cages can be recycled to hold these guys up. (cont'd page2)

(cont'd from page 1)

**DEADHEAD ANY** messy-looking bulbs as blooms fade, but continue to leave bulb foliage intact to wither and ripen the bulbs naturally. I mow my daffodil drifts around July 4th, for example. Deadhead spring-flowering perennials unless they have showy seedheads (same with bulbs), or you want to collect seed later (non-hybrids only).

**SOME PERENNIALS MAY** be so tired they need a full cutback later this month or early next. You sometimes have to make things worse for the garden to look better in the long run.

**TENDER BULBS** like dahlias, cannas, caladiums, gladiolus and such should be in the ground, but with the glads, you can stagger flower harvest by planting a row every two weeks until the start of July.

**ARE ANNUAL VINES** getting the support they need, whether twine, wire, lattice? What about perennial ones like clematis?

**PEPPERS AND TOMATOES ARE TYPICALLY MAGNESIUM DEFICIENT. EPSOM SALT IS A CHEAP AND EFFICIENT FIX.**

**BENEFITS:**

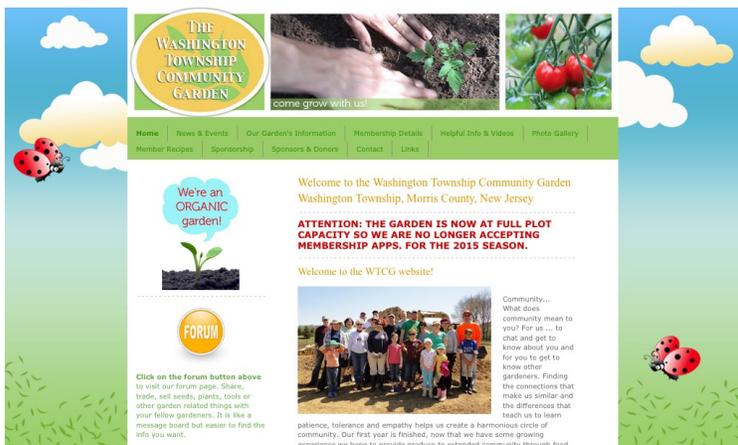
- HELPS GROWTH
- AIDS IN GERMINATION
- PRODUCES GREATER YIELDS
- IMPROVES BEAUTY, STRENGTH, AND SWEETNESS
- PREVENTS BLOSSOM END ROT IN TOMATOES

**WHEN PLANTING SEEDLINGS ADD 1 TABLESPOON OF EPSOM SALT TO THE BOTTOM OF THE HOLE AND COVER WITH A THIN LAYER OF DIRT, THEN PLANT THE SEEDLING IN THE HOLE.**

**EVERY TWO WEEKS MIX 1 TABLESPOON IN A GALLON OF WATER AND WATER THE PLANTS WITH THE SOLUTION.**

**GROW FOOD, NOT LAWNS**

*Weather means more when you have a garden. There's nothing like listening to a shower and thinking how it is soaking in around your green beans. ~Marcelene Cox*



## OUR WTCG FORUM



**<<< This is our FORUM button.**

It can be found on our webpage at [www.wtcommunitygarden.jimdo.com](http://www.wtcommunitygarden.jimdo.com)

Here you may share, trade, sell seeds, plants, tools or other garden related things with your fellow gardeners. It's a great way to contact other gardeners you may not have met yet but have a need to reach. For example if you would like to share a ride to

a gardening event with others, or want to get feedback on some gardening ideas, etc. It's a handy-dandy tool for communication!

# Preventative Pruning For EARLY BLIGHT

## What's Early Blight?

The most common leaf-spot disease of tomato, early blight (*Alternaria solani*) fungi cause leaf spots to form on tomato leaves. Inside irregularly-shaped dry patches (which often have yellow margins), look for small dark rings. These are the fruiting colonies. The grayish powder inside the dark rings are the spores, which splash or blow onto new leaves to form new spots. When spots become numerous, entire leaves wither to brown.



Commercially-grown tomatoes are often sprayed weekly with fungicides to suppress early blight. Organic growers sometimes use copper fungicides, which are often effective, but frequent use may harm earthworms. A few resistant varieties have been developed, but some failed to perform well in field trials, and others fall short in terms of flavor and texture.

## Preventive Pruning

With big indeterminate varieties, prune or nip out all leaves that hang within 1 foot of the ground. If you see numerous lesions on the pruned leaves, you can go higher, to 18 inches. See the before and after photos below.



**Before:** Vigorous indeterminate tomatoes usually begin to show early blight symptoms just as they load up with green fruits.



**After:** Pruning off low leaves eliminates the damp environment early blight needs to spread, which reduces the number of leaves lost later in the season.

With stocky indetermi-

nate varieties, trim out most of the leaves that touch the ground, but don't get carried away. If the plants have already set a heavy load of fruit, I also trim off some of the newest blossom clusters to keep the fruit:leaf ratio high. See the before and after photos below.

In addition to pruning, drip irrigation discourages early blight because the plants can be watered without wetting the leaves. Mulch after the plants are pruned to retain soil moisture.



**Before:** Stocky determinate varieties that grow close to the ground are often hit hard by early blight just as the fruits begin to ripen.



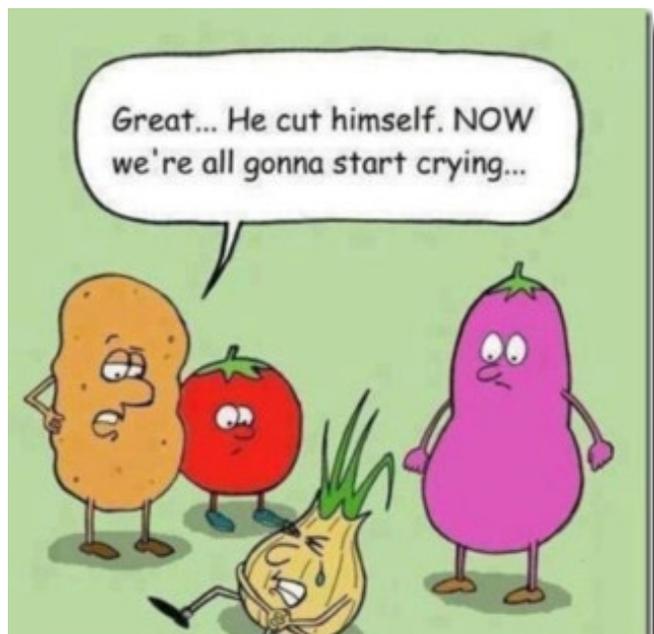
**After:** When pruning determinates, take only the leaves that touch the ground. You can also prune off a few blossom clusters to help keep the leaf:fruit ratio high, which insures good flavor.

# HUMOR in the garden...



## GARDENING TIPS

ALLOW WORMS TO DRAG UNWANTED ORGANIC MATTER DEEP INTO THE SOIL



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