

CCG Fall Newsletter



September 2015

Welcome Back to the Garden

If you've been reading seed catalogs all summer and planning your fall garden, you are more than ready to get back into the garden. We are, too. It's time to prepare the soil, buy seedlings and sign up for a garden job. It's good to be back!

It All Starts with the Soil

In preparing your garden plot for the fall seedlings, CCG will make two deliveries of top soil available this month. All **low lying plots that flooded** this summer will have access to as much soil as they need. They are plots **74, 63, 61, 59, 58, 53, 52, 50, 48, 37, 34, 32, 30, 24, 22, 21, 12 and 9**. Those of us with plots that did not flood, please wait for the second delivery and take no more than six wheelbarrows full. It's still a bit soggy at the garden. As soon as the ground is dry enough for the truck to drive on, the topsoil will be delivered. We'll keep you posted! We also would like to encourage you to amend your plot with cow manure and compost, too. Your plants will thank you.

Straw Depots

Before you amend the soil, please remove the straw you put down as a weed barrier for the summer. Two sites are being designated for the straw. It will be held there until you need some of it back for your inner plot path or for mulching your plants. *Please do not put soggy*

cardboard or wadded newspaper you might have under the straw in these depots. Take that home for curbside pick-up. The two locations have signs in place and are located at the **West Fence Line** [parking lot is West] between the pine tree/white plastic chair and the three-palm group of the northwest corner. The second site is along the **East Fence Line** [the cement compost bins are East] on either side of the two wire framed composting bins we call Half Herbs.

Managed Compost Plots

We have set up a managed compost plot in each of the four quadrants of the garden. They are plots **10, 28, 53 and 62**. These compost piles are for weeds and vegetable harvest debris. As always, please put woody stalks along the East Fence Line in the shredding pile. Any whole plants should be cut into smaller pieces before adding them to the compost pile. Marcy and her common area gardeners will turn the piles and maintain the plots and will provide compost for gardeners within each quadrant.

Common Area Use

The Orchard and the East Fence Line for private compost heaps are two examples of gardeners using common grounds for personal projects. Gardeners who use these areas are required to maintain them: turn the compost piles, and keep these areas weeded and mulched.

New Gardeners

Welcome! We are so glad you are here. To help you get started, we would like anyone who joined the garden since March to attend an orientation. Please plan to attend either the Saturday, September 19th or the Sunday, September 20th meeting. Both begin at 9 AM.

Common Area Job

When joining the Culverhouse Community Garden, everyone signs up for a Common Area Job. Some of us like to take care of the orchard or the lily beds, while others like to mow the grass or make compost. It's how we keep CCG looking good. If you haven't got a job, or you want a different job, please talk to Marcy. There's lots to choose from.

Power Tools Job

If you would like to mow the grass or help shred stalks for the Compost Project, please let us know. We need you!

The county has a requirement that those gardeners who want to use power tools at CCG need to take their free **Power Tools Training**

for Community Garden Members and Master Gardeners class. It is offered on Nov. 17 from 3:30-4:30 pm at Bee Ridge Park. Go to <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/power-tools-training-for-community-garden-members-master-gardeners-registration-18311045831> to sign up.



Lacewings, Bees and Ladybugs

Here at CCG, we like beneficial insects. They go after destructive bugs and pollenate our veggies.



In an effort to bring more of these helpful insects to the garden, please think about including flowers in your garden plan. You can designate up to

25% of your plot to flowers. The bees especially like Allysum, Coreopsis, Cosmos, Coneflower, Mexican Sunflower and Lavender. If you'd like to read more about beneficial insects, visit the Xerces Society.

To keep the beneficial insects healthy, we allow gardeners to use organic sprays on their plants. Sometimes, the insects need a little help, or they aren't interested in the bug that's munching your cabbage. Insecticidal Soap, Neem Oil and Captain Jack's Dead Bug Brew can injure lacewings, bees and ladybugs if they are sprayed directly. Please spray in the early part of the morning before these insects become active for the day.

Summer & Fall

During the three months of the fall garden, we have temperatures that range from an average high of 85 degrees in September to 75 degrees in November. This is the last time to plant beans, corn, cucumber, eggplant and tomatoes until the spring season. It's also time to start your broccoli, cabbage, kale, lettuce, radish onions and garlic. Look for varieties that do well in the Southeast, Asia, Italy and Mexico. Do try your hand at successive planting. Sow seeds or plant seedlings every two weeks. You'll be rewarded with garden fresh veggies on your dinner table every night!