

Culverhouse Garden Spring Newsletter



February/March 2018

The Second Season

Most of us learned to garden in another part of the country, where we could grow vegetables just a few months a year. At CCG, Spring arrives with the Lunar New Year in February. Begin by pulling your fall plants and loosening your soil. Sow your seeds and plant seedlings by early March, and you'll have a second season of delicious veggies. Life is good at the garden!

Say Hello to Spring



When pulling your fall plants, you may see that sand has drifted to the surface of the soil. The nutrients you put into your plot last fall have been

depleted. Before planting your seedlings and sowing seeds, loosen the compacted soil and amend with compost and an organic fertilizer for tomatoes and vegetables.

Spent Plants, Whiteflies & Aphids

You may have noticed that some of your plants aren't looking their best. After three to four months in the ground, plants become the perfect host for bugs. Whiteflies carry diseases from plant to plant, and plot to plot. Whiteflies especially adore spent bean plants. Planting a row every few weeks will give you lots of beans without the headache of treating your plants for whiteflies. Check seedlings for aphids, too. Spring is their favorite season.

Good Garden Hygiene

One of the most effective methods of pest control isn't a spray or pellet, but good garden hygiene. Start by removing weeds, debris and plants past their prime. During the growing season, remove diseased sections of plants to keep the disease from spreading.

When your best efforts are thwarted, a few commercial organic products have been approved for use at the garden. Bonide's Bug & Slug Killer is an effective pellet against cutworms and other crawling bugs in the soil. For powdery mildew, wilt, and blight treat your plants with copper sulphate. For flying insects and beetles use Neem Oil and Thuricide/BT. Mix up a solution of all three of these and spray weekly as a preventative.

We're in a Global Growing Zone . . .

. . . and that translates to our being able to grow a wide range of vegetables from all over the world. Our climate is similar to Asia, the Middle East and Southern Europe. Have fun trying a new variety of an old favorite that likes our heat and humidity.

Heat Tolerant Spring Varieties



Basil: Bolloso Napoletano, Holy Basil (Kapoor Tulsi), Sweet Thai

Beans: Butterbean, Contender, Gold Rush, Jade, Yard Long/Asparagus

Shell Beans: Calypso, Southern Peas

Carrots: Kuroda, Scarlet Nantes

Chard: Celebration, Five Color/Rainbow

Cherry Tomato: Black, Sun Gold, Sun Sugar, Yellow Pear

Cucumber: Armenian, Poona Kheera, Suyo Long

Eggplant: Black Beauty, Early Black Egg, Ichiban, Italian Long Purple, Japanese Long, Ping Tung Long, Rosita, Thai Green, White Beauty

Hot Peppers: Aji Chinchi Amarillo, Czech Black, Fish, Hungarian Yellow (Banana), Jalapeno, Padron, Shishito

Lettuce: Anuenue, Buttercrunch, Capitan, Jericho, Salad Bowl, Sierra, Slo-Bolt, Speckled Bibb, Sweet Valentine, Thai Oakleaf

Melon: Canary Tweet, Delicious 51, Green Machine (Ice Cream), Minnesota Midget, Noir De Carmes

Okra: Alabama Red, Bowling Red, Burmese, Choppee, Clemson Spineless, Evertender, Gold Coast

Radish: Cherry Belle, Easter Egg, French Breakfast, Sparkler White Tip

Spinach: Perpetual (Beet Leaf Chard)

Sweet Bell Pepper: Early Hungarian, Corona, Doe Hill Golden, Gamba, Golden Cal Wonder, Lipstick, Melrose, Super Shepherd, Sweet Cherry Blend

Tomato: Anahu, Arkansas Traveler, Atkinson, Costoluto Fiorentino, Eva Purple Ball, Ozark Pink, Tropic

Watermelon: Blacktail Mountain, Early Moonbeam, Golden Midget, Sugar Baby

Zucchini/Summer Squash: Baby Round, Benning's Green Tint, Cocozelle, Costata Romanesco, Cube of Butter, Early Prolific, Early White, Lemon, Tender Grey

Sources: Botanical Interests Seed Company, Southern Exposure Seed Exchange

Heavy Feeders

Leafy greens and beans are easily nourished with nitrogen. The rest of the vegetable family, however, has a different diet which is much higher in phosphorus, potassium and minerals. If your plant produces a flower or is a root vegetable, consider giving your plants bone meal or an organic fertilizer where the phosphorus is higher than the nitrogen. Your tomatoes and eggplant with thank you. We've had good results with the tomato and vegetable formulations made by Dr. Earth and Happy Frog.

Happy Gardening!