

Garden Happenings

December 2021



Flowers in the Vegetable Garden

The many benefits of flowers in the vegetable garden include: Attracting pollinators, Pest and disease management, Aesthetics, Managing weeds, and Nutritious edibles.

Flowers attract the major pollinators in the garden. They also attract the insects that prey on unwanted bugs. The lady bug's preferred diet is aphids, mealy bugs, and leafhoppers.

Marigolds planted among tomatoes repel nematodes, slugs, and hornworms. Lavendar fights off fleas, moths, and other insects. Pyrethrum, found in chrysanthemums, staves off ants, mites, and roaches. Nasturtiums release an airborne chemical that repels aphids and whiteflies. Using sticky hairs on the leaves and stems, petunias can trap insects such as aphids and Japanese beetles.

Sweet peas are an example of a colorful and fragrant blossom that adds to the beauty of a garden. Being a legume, they also fix nitrogen in the soil.

Nasturtiums dense, low-growing habit serves as a weed-block, and it also feeds the soil as it dies off. Sweet alyssum is another low growing plant that fills open spaces and thus deters weeds.

Borage's cucumber taste goes well with chilled soups. Lavendar flowers are great with chocolate cake. Sage flowers can be used in salads and as a garnish. Nasturtium blossoms are sweet and spicy like watercress.

Save the Date

January 29th is National Seed Swap Day. A seed swap/share has been scheduled at Provident Community Gardens at 10:00 on that date. Several members have indicated that they will have seeds to swap/share. Information on seed saving will also be available.

If you have seeds to swap/share that day, let us know (PCGardenLV1@gmail.com) so that we can save a space for you and have your materials ready for you when you arrive. If you don't have seeds to share, no problem. Seeds will be available to you too. Further details will be provided in the January newsletter.

Vegetable seeds, herb seeds, and flower seeds will be available. Open-pollinated and heirloom seeds that you have saved, as well as leftover hybrid seeds from seed packets, are welcome.

Extra seeds will be donated to an elementary school that has a school garden. They are very excited about the prospect of getting seeds for

President's Message

Winter in the Garden. It is a sad time to see the hard work that we have put into our plants, so suddenly, come to an end, but really it is a time of renewal. At this time of year, it is good to step away from the garden and take a small break. Enjoy the frost. Dream about spring. It is at this moment, we plant the seeds of excitement for our spring gardens. Stay warm, dream about that prize tomato and know that the Garden has big plans for 2022. We will have an all-members meeting in January, wait for an invite from Judy.

Welcome New Members

Jeremiah Boucher Plot 18
Susan Clark Plot 48
Sam and Lyndsey Smith Plots 46 and 47
Craig Moen Plot 17
Carlotta Dickerson/Tam Anderson Plot 70
Erin Romo and Kevin Daniels Plot 23
Melissa Hagewood Plots 16 and 26