

SEPTEMBER—OCTOBER 2010



COMMUNITY GARDENS



of Tucson



*Twentieth
Anniversary Issue*

20

FROM THE PRESIDENT

I hope that this newsletter finds you slightly cooler than you have been for the past couple of months. Is it just me or was it hotter than usual? I wish I could say that we took the summer off and stayed in the shade but you already know that we spent the summer starting the Mountain Vista UU Garden on the northwest side, the SARG Garden in the downtown area and the Sewell Garden on the east side. Construction should begin on Davidson Garden in midtown and Homer Davis on the northwest side in September. And we hope to begin work at the Tucson House Garden near downtown and the Goodwill GoodGuides Garden on the south side very soon too.

Have you wondered how a garden gets installed? I usually try to leave the house before 6 am and get to the site while it is still cool. The first step (actually, there is a lot of work that precedes the physical installation but that is another story) is to layout the garden. Sometimes I use stakes and sometime I use athletic field marking chalk. This takes longer than you might think because someone (whose initials are G.B.) is very particular about accurate measurements and straight lines. Once the layout is done, I get a break while I wait for BlueStake. After their blessing, I rent a trenching machine and cut the trenches for the water and electricity. The next step is to clean the trenches because there are usually a lot of cave-ins. At the same time, I dig the pits for the big irrigation boxes. After that, it is just a matter of running the irrigation pipes and gluing up all of the irrigation parts, putting in the conduit and wiring the electricity, testing things and then backfilling.

Does it sound interesting to you?

If you would like to join me, I only work on installations Monday through Friday and I quit as soon as I start hallucinating, usually around 11AM unless we have one of our rare cloudy days.

Call me. We will have tons of fun!

— Gene Zonge, President



A big pile of _____ at Sewell Garden.

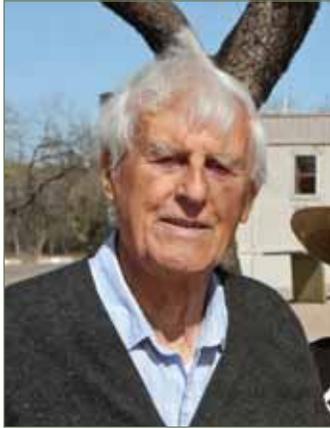
THANK YOU!

- ☀ **Debby** with *Tucson Lifestyle Home and Garden* for the tremendous article and for going out of her way to get copies for us.
- ☀ **Jonathon** with *St. Gregory School* for the magazines.
- ☀ **Kent** with *Kent's Tools* for the drills.
- ☀ **Pat** for the carpet.
- ☀ **Sam** for the gate closers.
- ☀ **Gatehouse Academy** for moving the greenhouse from Benson to Tucson.
- ☀ **Rob Stoxen** with Walmart for all of the soil amendments.
- ☀ *And of course, a thank you to all of the hard working volunteers who make CGT possible.*
- ☀ *As always, we extend our warm thanks and appreciation to our friends at AlphaGraphics, who not only make the publication of this newsletter possible, but make it beautiful as well.*

SEPTEMBER — NOVEMBER CALENDAR

All meetings are at 8 AM in September and October and 9 am in November unless otherwise noted.

- September 4 — New Spirit Garden
- September 5 — Highland Vista Garden
- September 9 — Steering Committee/Board of Directors 9 AM
- September 11 — Presidio Garden
- September 12 — St. Gregory Garden
- September 12 — Sabino Vista Garden Meeting 5 PM
- September 18 — Sunrise Garden
- September 19 — Chaverim Garden
- September 25 — Benedictine Monastery Garden Meeting 7:30 AM
- September 26 — Keeling Garden
- October 2 — New Spirit Garden
- October 2 — Sabino Vista Garden Meeting 10 AM
- October 3 — Highland Vista Garden
- October 9 — Presidio Garden
- October 10 — St. Gregory Garden
- October 14 — Steering Committee/Board of Directors Meeting 9 AM
- October 15 — Deadline for newsletter submissions
- October 16 — Sunrise Garden
- October 17 — Chaverim Garden
- October 23 — Benedictine Monastery Garden
- October 23 — CGT 20th Anniversary Party St. Gregory 2—5 PM
- October 24 — Keeling Garden
- November 6 — New Spirit Garden Meeting 8 AM
- November 6 — Sabino Vista Garden Meeting 10 AM
- November 7 — Highland Vista Garden
- November 11 — Steering Committee/Board of Directors 9 AM
- November 13 — Presidio Garden
- November 14 — St. Gregory Garden
- November 20 — Sunrise Garden
- November 21 — Chaverim Garden
- November 27 — Benedictine Monastery Garden
- November 28 — Keeling Garden



GEORGE SAYS...

The fall planting season is just around the corner while at the same time our resting summer stuff is ready to burst into activity. Peppers, tomatoes and eggplant will resurge as soon as the nights cool down a bit. Don't pullout any poorly performing plants because of this. Obviously, really poor plants could be removed. Certainly remove squash plants weakened by the vine borer. (Sabino Vista garden is badly affected by this pest, and perhaps your garden is too). There's enough remaining warm weather to sow more seed of Zucchini and get a harvest—if you still like zucchini!! There's not enough time for melons and winter squash, so don't

sow their seed. And there's not enough warm weather for a sowing of Chinese Pole Beans to give a harvest before frost comes in November/December. If you have these heat-loving plants try to harvest them (daily, because they are prolific) before they show their seeds inside as "beads". Eat them fresh. Jerusalem Artichokes (that look like sunflowers) produce their harvest underground and it's better to wait until the leaves and even the stalks have dried. You can leave the tubers in the ground until you are ready to eat them, if you are not short of space for cool-season sowings or plantings.

On the other hand, it's a good time to sow seeds of bush beans (Contender, Greencrop and any 55 day variety) and Sweet corn (Serendipity) to get your home-grown Thanksgiving feast. The trick is chose varieties that mature in less than sixty days. Seed packets usually give out this information.

Before you sow seed or set out plants, add steer manure (about two inches) and some ammonium phosphate (a scattering where no granules touch one another). Then dig as deeply as you can. You will have noticed that organic matter "evaporates" because it is used by plants and (which you don't see) soil organisms. We like to add these nutrients at the turns of the seasons.

Here's a gardening technique you might like to try, and many of our gardeners have quite successfully done this. Start at the beginning of September by preparing your soil with the steer manure and ammonium phosphate in a square plot. Make sure it is level because you will need to hand water to start with and you don't want high spots that dry out or low spots that stay too wet. If your cultivated soil was light and puffy it will pay to lightly stomp it down and then level it again. Scratch the soil and then scatter seed of either cabbage, broccoli, cauliflower (but not lettuce because it will be bitter tasting due to the heat). Your plot will look like a lawn and you harvest young seedlings after about thirty days by snipping with scissors. The snippings go well in sandwiches and soups. You can do this every thirty days or so thereafter because the sprouts will grow again (rather like a lawn that you mow). Leave a few plants to grow to full size. Because birds love tender green sprouts you'll lose some unless you protect your little squares. Don't use plastic mesh for fear that you might catch a bird or a snake or a lizard. Later in October you can sow lettuce, but if you start too early in the remaining heat the leaves will be bitter. Do the same with Oriental Greens.

Study the planting guide that comes with this Newsletter. Our cool season is the best time for gardening. Few pests, vigorous varieties, and perfect weather.

Back at the ranch, your tomatoes may be being eaten by Tomato Hornworm. Even though these may be three inches long their color pattern camouflages them perfectly. The signs to look for are loss of leaves coupled with black droppings all around an infested plant. If you listen on a quiet morning and you have a few of them, you can hear their chomping!! Pick them off and take them home for the hens.

— George Brookbank



S.A.R.G. Community Garden



S.A.R.G. Community Garden



S.A.R.G. Community Garden

20th
Anniversary Party!

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 23 – 2 TO 5 PM

ST GREGORY'S COLLEGE PREPARATORY SCHOOL

This event is free and open to the public, so bring your friends who are interested in vegetable gardening!



Yes, it's been 20 years since George Brookbank and Darlene Schacht, with a few other dedicated gardeners, formed Community Gardens of Tucson. That was in August of 1990 but we're going to celebrate in October (when it's cooler and we're not busy in the gardens). ❁ Please join us! Saturday, October 23, 2010, from 2 to 5 pm at St. Gregory's, right next to the garden. There will be food, music (The Out of Kilters), gardening information, and a tour of the garden. ❁ On Craycroft Road, turn west at the stoplight for St Gregory's which is between Grant Road and River Road. Continue straight back on the entrance road and follow the CGT signs to the parking areas. ❁ And feel free to volunteer with preparations before and cleanup after. ❁ Please contact: Shirley McReynolds, at shirleymcroo@aol.com.



Darlene's Onion Drying Method.

LETTERS

George and Fellow Gardeners,

The Community Garden Tiller brings to mind some endearing thoughts of my dear Uncle Dave, who will turn 95 in September and is the last remaining sibling on my mother's side of the family. After selling his beloved 600 acre farm in South Dakota and moving "into town" (population 600) he's maintained a large garden ever since, and continues to do so to this day. Last Spring my sister called him to chat and stay in touch and asked if he'd put in his garden yet. He replied, with frustration, that he was a bit behind schedule. His children, feeling that his garden chores were much too laborious for a man of his age, had insisted that he have someone come and roto-till the spot. Up until then, he'd always turned the soil by hand. So, against his own wishes, he did schedule for the roto-tilling and the man came to give him an estimate. When Uncle Dave heard "I can do it for \$30, Sir." he adamantly objected and told the gentleman, "No thanks, son, I'll turn it myself!" He told my sister, "Why, that's highway robbery!! Why on earth would I pay anyone good money like that, for something I'm perfectly capable of doing myself!— it's good exercise and gets me out in the fresh air and sunshine! and there's just something about handling my own dirt that keeps me feeling more in tune with my Maker..." From photos I've seen, his "garden spot" is nearly as big as our entire Highland Vista gardens. Uncle Dave stands about 5'3" and now weighs about 130 lbs. Not only does he still turn his own soil and plant and harvest, he cans and freezes his bounty! and keeps the nursing home and Senior Center well-supplied, both in and out of the gardening season.

Personally, I would've paid someone \$300 to turn a garden of that size!! And I hate to admit it but, I found myself complaining and sniveling at the initial chore of preparing and "working" my 3x20 ft. space—and I even had help doing it!! My 60-something lady-friends continue to invite me to rise early each day and join them at the gym for a daily work-out to get the blood pumping and keep the body-muscle from turning to fat—all the while encased within a concrete building, under fluorescent lighting, to the tune of heaving and sighing from perspiring fellow gymnasts for which one pays a monthly fee to participate. But, I've found that...no miracles are witnessed at the gym...no song from birds, who flit and hop and play amid the trees and sometimes seem to sing for me alone...no breaths of pure, unaltered air as breezes sweep my way and cool my brow... and not a single thing that's sprung to life by way of God's own hand and mine, and needs my touch, my care, and in the end rewards me with the feeding of my body, mind, and soul. Perhaps my Uncle Dave's "No thanks, I'll turn the soil myself" was not at all about the cash. Perhaps instead, the life-long task of turning soil is much a part of what this man is all about; and just perhaps, I too could learn what he's already come to know...of pleasures in a simple form, that lie within my reach and help me grasp, in some small part...the miracles...each one, as life bursts forth from deep within the earth.

Thanks for your notes, George, and happy gardening, Everyone,
Adella



"Carol and David Lehrman and a freshly picked Jumbo Pink Banana Squash — measuring over 2 feet and weighing almost 25 lbs!"

GARDEN LEEK SOUP

—Bobbi Rothbaum (from *Gardeners' Community Cookbook*)

INGREDIENTS:

- 2 Tbs. olive oil
- 3 medium leeks, white part only, thinly sliced, well washed, and drained (about 9 ounces)
- ½ small onion, finely chopped
- 4 medium cloves garlic, minced
- 6 cups chicken broth or water
- 2 pounds russet potatoes, peeled and coarsely chopped
- ¼ tsp. fresh thyme leaves or 1/8 tsp. dried thyme
- 1 small bay leaf
- 1 Tbs. chopped fresh parsley leaves
- 1 tsp. salt
- 1 tsp. black pepper
- 1 cup milk (optional)
- 1/8 tsp. mace (optional).

Heat oil in heavy pot. Stir in the leeks, onion, and garlic and sauté over medium heat until the leeks are tender, about 10 minutes.

Add the broth, potatoes, thyme, bay leaf, parsley, salt, and pepper and bring to a boil. Reduce the heat, cover the pot, and simmer until the potatoes are tender, 25 minutes. Cool enough to handle, remove the bay leaf, then puree in a food processor or through a food mill.

Return the soup to a clean pot and stir in the milk, if using. Gently reheat, sprinkle with mace, if using, and serve.

NOTE: The soup may also be served chunky style, in which case, don't bother pureeing it; just mash with a wire whisk or potato masher and continue with the recipe, adding the milk or mace as you like. Remember to remove the bay leaf before ladling out.

Vegetables

Herbs⁴

	Germ. Soil Temp. °F	September		October		November		December	
		1-15	15-30	1-15	15-31	1-15	15-30	1-15	15-31
Artichoke/Cardoon	70-80					T	T	T	T
Arugula	40-95			S	S	ST	ST	ST	ST
Asian Greens	45-85			S	S	ST	ST	ST	ST
Beans (Bush)	65-85								
Beans (Fava)	65-85			S	S	S	S		
Beets	50-85		S	S	S	S	S	S	S
Black-eyed Peas	65-95								
Broccoli	45-95	S	S	S	S	ST	ST	ST	ST
Broccoli Raab	45-95	S	S	S	S	ST	ST	ST	ST
Brussels Sprouts	45-95	S	S	ST	ST	T	T	T	T
Cabbage	45-95	S	S	S	S	ST	ST	ST	ST
Cauliflower	45-95	S	S	S	S	ST	ST	ST	ST
Carrots	45-85	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
Chinese Pole Beans	65-100								
Collards	45-95	S	S	S	S	ST	ST	ST	ST
Corn	60-95	S							
Cucumber (Armenian)	70-95								
Cucumber	65-95								
Eggplant	75-90								
Endive	65-80			S	S	ST	ST	ST	ST
Garlic/Shallots	45-85			S	S	S	ST	T	T
Irish Potato ²	45-75								
Jerusalem Artichoke ²	70-80								
Kale	45-95	S	S	S	S	ST	ST	ST	ST
Kohlrabi	65-80	S	S	S	S	ST	ST	ST	ST
Leaf Lettuce	40-80			S	S	ST	ST	ST	ST
Melons	75-95								
Mustard Greens	45-95			S	S	ST	ST	ST	ST
Okra	70-95								
Onion/Leeks	50-95/70-75			S	S	S	ST	T	T
Parsnip	50-70		S	S					
Peas	45-75			S		S	S	S	S
Peppers	65-95								
Pumpkin ³	70-95								
Radish	45-90	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
Rutabaga	60-75		S	S	S	S	S	S	S
Spinach (Winter)	45-75			S	S	ST	ST	T	T
Spinach (NZ & Malabar)	70-80								
Squash (Summer)	70-95								
Squash (Winter)	70-95								
Sweet Potato	75-85								
Swiss Chard	50-85		ST	ST	ST	ST	ST	ST	ST
Tomato	60-85								
Turnip	60-105		S	S	S	S	S	S	S
Basil	55-75								
Chives	55-75			S	S	S	ST	T	T
Cilantro	55-75				ST	ST	ST	ST	ST
Dill	60-80				ST	ST	ST	ST	ST
Mint ³	65-75	T	T	T	T	T	T	T	T
Oregano	45-80	T	T	T	T	T	T	T	T
Parsley	40-90			T	T	T	T	T	T
Rosemary	50-80	T	T	T	T	T	T	T	T
Sage	60-80	T	T	T	T	T	T	T	T
Tarragon (French)	60-80	T	T	T	T	T	T		
Thyme	60-80	T	T	T	T	T	T	T	T

NOTES

1. If planting seeds indoors, plant 8 weeks before planting times above. The average dates for first and last frosts are November 15 and March 15.
2. Potatoes and Jerusalem Artichokes are planted from seed potatoes.
3. There may be restrictions when planting pumpkins and mint at CGT gardens. Mints may need to be planted in containers. See your Site Coordinator.
4. Quality herb production is best achieved with filtered sun/open shade during hot months.
5. Please contact your site coordinator for any plants you can't find in the planting guide, such as Amaranth, Asparagus, Chervil, Cress, Dandelion, Epazote, Fennel, Horseradish, Lemon Balm, Lemon Verbena, Lemon Grass, Lima Beans, Mache, Marjoram, Purslane, Rhubarb, Shiso, Stevia.

WILSON TEST GARDEN

The late Dr. J.C. Raulston's said, "If you're not killing plants, you're not growing as a gardener." Well, I really grew a lot as a gardener this year. I planted about 60 tomato plants, probably about 30 different varieties and I managed to kill them all. We had some irrigation problems at the Wilson Test Garden but we got those fixed so I don't think that is what killed the plants but it did stress them. We plan to do some experimenting next summer but it looks like there are two possibilities: floating row cover or poor soil.

The tomato plants were pretty stressed from the irrigation problems, so I thought a little shade might help, so I covered all of them with a product called Agribon AG-19 and I anchored the edges with rocks. There are rumors that floating row cover should not be used in Tucson during the summer because our heat is just too intense and while the fabric does provide shade it also actually helps hold the heat in and it cooks the plants. AG-19 is the second lightest weight fabric (AG-15 is the lightest at 90% light transmission and weighs 0.45 oz per square yard, AG-19 has 85% light transmission and weighs 0.55 oz per square yard). The next time I checked the garden all of the tomato plants were dead. The fruit on the plants all had that look that they get when they get sunburned, sort of a light tan color and mushy. I think that I might have cooked them by trying to protect them.

The other possibility is soil problems. I did a great job preparing the soil in the fall and we had a good harvest of cabbage, kale, broccoli, etc. over the winter. I thought that I did such a good job preparing the soil that I could skip the spring preparation. When I ripped out the winter crops, I plopped in the summer crops. That might have been a mistake. We have noticed that the soil at this garden has a hard time holding on to the water. It seems like no matter how much we water, the ground is always dry.

So, our plans in the next few weeks are to do a bunch of soil preparation and hopefully have a bountiful winter garden and then when it is time for our next summer garden we will again do a bunch of soil preparation but we might leave a little section alone and see what happens. We will also do some floating row cover experiments. We are going to learn from our mistakes and report back on our results. Wish us luck!

From a Sewell Gardener: "You are the best and we will have the best garden in TUSD. Thanks for doing this and making Sewell a better school."

LOCATIONS

Benedictine Monastery Garden
(Midtown—closest to U of A)
Near Speedway & Country Club
Site Coordinator:
Kristen DiBone
(t) 520.884.0557
(e) kdibone@wsMarch.com

Chaverim Garden (Eastside)
Near Speedway & Craycroft
Site Coordinator:
Stephanie Bourn-MacDonald
(t) 520-318-3015
(e) Zachnsteph@cox.net

Highland Vista Garden
(Eastside)
Near 5th St. & Craycroft
Site Coordinators:
Eric & Natalie Shepp
(t) 520.747.1006
(e) Treat4sage@hotmail.com
(e) Shmat@hotmail.com

Keeling Garden (Midtown)
Near Fort Lowell & First Ave.
Site Coordinators:
Stéphane Herbert-Fort &
Stephanie Cortes
(t) 520.576.0700
(e) s.herbertfort@gmail.com
(e) stephanie.cortes@gmail.com

Mountain Vista UU Garden
(Northwest)
Near Ina & Thornydale
Site Coordinator: Gene Zonge
(t) 520.326.0458
(e) Zonge@aol.com

New Spirit Garden (Southeast)
Near Camino Seco & Old Spanish Trail
Site Coordinator: Gene Zonge
(t) 520.326.0458
(e) Zonge@aol.com

Presidio Garden (Midtown)
Near Fort Lowell & Country Club
Site Coordinator: Gene Zonge
(t) 520.326.0458
(e) Zonge@aol.com

Sabino Vista Garden
(Northeast)
Near Sabino Canyon & Cloud
Site Coordinators:
Teddy Carney & Jo Schmidt
520.722.0334
Teddycarney@msn.com
(t) 520.303.3616
(e) lucky227@comcast.net

St. Gregory Garden
(Northeast)
Near Craycroft & River
Site Coordinators:
Patti Hartmann & Bruce Plenk
(t) 520.795.8611
(e) hartmann@cox.net
(e) bplenk@igc.org

S.A.R.G. Garden (Downtown)
Near Stone & Speedway
Site Coordinator: Gene Zonge
(t) 520.326.0458
(e) Zonge@aol.com

Sunrise Garden (Northeast)
Near Sunrise Drive & Craycroft
Site Coordinator: Gene Zonge
(t) 520.326.0458
(e) Zonge@aol.com

Sewell Garden (Eastside)
Near 5th St. & Craycroft
Site Coordinator: Gene Zonge
(t) 520.326.0458
(e) Zonge@aol.com

Wilson Test Garden
(Experimental Plantings only)
Near Fort Lowell & Campbell
Site Coordinator: Gene Zonge
(t) 520.326.0458
(e) Zonge@aol.com

Strawbale Gardening Experiment—*Kristin Wisneski*

We all know that gardening can take over your life if you let it. But when something provides you with so much happiness, fulfillment and new knowledge all the benefits tend to outweigh the responsibilities. There is no crime in being addicted to delicious vegetables and a sense of community that often is hard to find in daily life. Since I started gardening with Community Gardens of Tucson in March '09, I have fully experienced and surmounted the steep learning curve of gardening. Knowing what to plant, when to plant it, how to take care of it, when to harvest, and of course, how to prepare it all comes with time and experience.

Having reached the point where I feel confident enough to impart some advice to another gardener is very satisfying. I started something and stuck with it! In the meantime, I have formed a very healthy addiction to vegetable experimentation. I started solely with transplanting then moved onto starting seeds both at home and in my plot. Then with the new partnership with Native Seeds Search, I moved onto some local varieties. As I began to understand how incredibly fertile the desert environment really is, I became hungry for more plants and more space to grow them.

As a renter of a house with a large backyard my imagination started to go wild with dreams of corn and sunflowers outside my kitchen window. But as a renter, my living situation is not completely stable. My lease is up in a few months and then who knows where I'll be, so my imagination turned to the ideas of a portable garden. I came across information online about straw bale gardening after researching portable garden structures. The straw bales seemed to be an easier and less expensive alternative to either buying or building a structure. With the limited Internet search that I performed, not much about straw bale gardening in the desert came up. I decided to take a gamble and try it out. I gathered information from a variety of different Internet sources and devised a plan of my own that I thought might be conducive to our hot and arid climate.

On June 14th I picked up 12 bales of straw from the OK Feed & Supply Store on Ft. Lowell near Dodge. Many of my sources had recommended watering each bale to saturation for no less than 7 days before planting. I instead watered the bales for about three weeks before getting them ready. Watering the bales will start the process of decomposition and get all the little microorganisms breaking down the straw as it eats away at the bacteria within it. The extended watering period was mostly due to scattered vacation time that happened to coincide with my straw bale experiment. I think that two weeks of watering would most likely suffice. There are some websites and blogs that include fertilizers in their bale preparation. I plan on using organic fertilizers (bone/blood meal) for the late summer and fall plantings. I will also periodically apply organic plant food to the bales once the plants are established.

On July 7th I planted okra, sunflower, and amaranth seeds. As part of the experiment I placed three bales in full-sun and the remainder under a mesquite tree in partial shade. The shaded bales were arranged in two squares, one larger than the other, to construct a makeshift soil garden area. One square currently holds chiltepine and Hungarian peppers. The smaller square is currently empty. The full-sun bales were planted as follows: 10 "basins" of about 6 seeds of amaranth each spaced a few inches apart in bale #1; 3 okra seeds spaced 4" apart in bale #2, and 8 sunflower seeds spaced a couple inches apart in bale #3. I also planted 3 okra seeds in a partial shade bale. As of July 24th, the 4 amaranth basins have germinated and sprouted; 2 okra seeds have appeared; and 5 sunflower seedlings are showing in full-sun. On the partial shade bale only 1 okra seeds has been successful so far. I plan on reseeded any unsuccessful spaces on the bales in the next couple of weeks.

On July 12th I planted 3 varieties of cucumbers in partial shade bales under the mesquite tree. Unfortunately I forgot to mark which plants were which variety, but I am confident that their identities will be revealed soon since all plants as of July 24th have been successful. All appeared on or around July 17th, less than a week after planting the seeds.



Shade strawbale



Full sun strawbale

While planting styles vary with straw bale gardening, I simply fashioned a small hole large enough for a seed in the bales and then shook some potting soil into the hole before pressing the seed(s) in with my finger. I then topped the seed(s) off with a little more potting soil and watered the entire bale for about 30 seconds. Every day I water each bale for about 30 seconds twice a day around 9am and 4pm. I plan on putting together a drip-irrigation system on a timer like we have at our community garden. Until I get the materials and free time, I have really enjoyed watching this successful experiment every morning and early evening.

While there are many unknowns with straw bale gardening in the desert, I think that this can tentatively be an excellent option for people living in rental homes or apartments with balconies. The only potential hazard to creating a straw bale garden near your home is the amount of insects that it attracts. While these insects have yet to be identified, they are not pests or biters. They are tiny little fly-like bugs that are mostly visible when the sun shines through the mesquite branches. To me, they are a wonderful addition to the formerly lifeless backyard of mine which is now teeming with the prospects of more tasty veggies and grains in the coming months.

REFERENCES:

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Green, Doug. "doug green's beginner-gardening.com". July 24, 2010 <<http://www.beginner-gardening.com/straw-bale-gardening.html>>.

Rogers, Kent. "How to Grow a Straw Bale Garden". Carolina Country Magazine. July 24, 2010 <<http://www.carolinacountry.com/cgardens/thismonth/march06guide/straw.html>>.



Amaranth seedlings

New / Used Greenhouse

August 9TH, at about 7 AM, we gathered up the tools and the biggest U-Haul truck that we could rent and we drove to Benson. It took the men from the Gatehouse Academy all day to take the greenhouse down but at 7 PM the truck was almost completely unloaded in Pat's garage. It was a long day. We plan to re-erect in October or November when it is a little cooler.



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OUR MISSION STATEMENT:

“The all-volunteer nonprofit Community Gardens of Tucson establishes and maintains community gardens and provides ongoing education that enables Tucson residents to grow food successfully and sustainably in garden communities within their neighborhoods.”



At the New Spirit Garden. — GZ

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