



COMMUNITY GARDENS *of Tucson*



FROM THE PRESIDENT

Our last newsletter was devoted to newcomers. It was packed with information for gardeners just starting with us. In this issue, we try to give you an idea about how we got started and the background behind some of our gardens. In many ways, our gardens are similar but they each have their unique characteristics. They all take a lot of work to get installed and established. The week before Christmas was spent getting the new garden at Doolen Middle School started. This is one of only two raised bed gardens in our family of gardens. Slightly sunken beds are the best way to garden in our arid southwestern desert but there are locations where sunken beds just won't work. The Doolen location is one of those (Homer Davis Garden is the other). It took 100,000 pounds of blocks to make the 24 raised beds at the Doolen Garden. That is a lot for one person to try to move but when people work together, they can move mountains, or create a garden. The Drachman Institute and ProNeighborhoods organized all of the work parties. On Friday, the 8th grade students came out during their PE classes and moved blocks and got half of the garden beds assembled. Then on Saturday, the neighbors showed up and assembled the other half of the garden beds. The weather was cool but it was perfect for the strenuous work. The soil was delivered and the fence was installed during the following work week. In a couple more weeks the irrigation will be installed and another garden will have joined our CGT family. If you would like to follow our progress on this garden or any other garden, please follow us on Facebook or visit our web site and click on the "Garden News" button.



RECONNECTING TO THEIR ROOTS

There is definitely something global about power tools amongst men regardless of the language they speak. In early 2011, I led a support group of 10 Bhutanese-Nepali men on a project to start 4 garden plots at a local community garden. As soon as the rototiller was fired up, big grins appeared on all their faces. Each eagerly took a turn tilling the ground. I didn't need to understand Nepali to know what their chatter and excitement was about. Work especially with a power tool is like a boost of testosterone for me as well. For these 10 survivors of torture the community garden has helped them get back to their roots, literally.

For most of the Bhutanese-Nepali men, growing their food and tending to their cattle was the center of their lives up until 20 years ago when they were tortured and expelled from Bhutan for not being the "right" ethnicity. Languishing in refugee camps in Nepal, there were nearly no opportunities to continue their way of life. Since resettling in urban Tucson, Arizona there have been no opportunities to "get their hands dirty". After participating in a 9 month therapy group to process their past torture and trauma, it became clear that I needed to find another avenue for these men to continue their recovery. The one thing that each man commonly talked about was missing their cows and their plants. Community gardening seemed to be the perfect fit.



Two to three times a month we meet and go to the garden together. As a team, the men choose their seeds, plan the gardens, prepare the soil, plant the seeds, tend to the garden plots, harvest the fruit and evenly divide up the harvest. Each visit to the garden, the men reminisce about their farms in Bhutan. It seems that this reconnection to happier times in their life has been more therapeutic than any talk therapy.

Being in Tucson, they are able to garden year round. The men are now working on their winter Garden and are already harvesting peas, lettuce and radishes. They are now talking about how they can expand. Some men have moved away and others have joined. It never fails to amaze me to see the boyish excitement of the new comers as they get their hands dirty and reconnect with their roots. [Editor's note – The men and Aaron garden at our Presidio Garden.]

By Aaron Griggs, International Rescue Committee Tucson

POTATO HARVEST IN DECEMBER



I tried a fall planting of potatoes for the first time and it worked. The picture shows a portion of my harvest. I have had great success with potatoes planted in January. They reliably grow through the cool weather then the plants die when it gets hot but they leave behind a bunch of buried gems. This year, I read that potatoes could be planted in the fall too. So, I sprouted some spuds from the grocery store and planted them in September. They grew modestly then died with the first frost. I wasn't sure that there would be a harvest but when I dug around, there they were. I suspect that there are some tricks to a fall planting of potatoes because soon after I planted them I noticed that some of the sprouted potatoes had completely dissolved and were gone (except for some goo). I think that the warm summer soils made them decompose instead of grow. Fortunately, I planted plenty. I will be planting again, both in the spring and the fall, and I will see if I can experiment a little and improve my fall harvests.

SPONSOR A VETERAN OR A REFUGEE

We have opened new gardens all over town. Many of these gardens are located where there are large refugee and/or large veteran populations. Gardening is a healthy healing activity that many of these people need in their lives but they are not able to afford the plot fees or seeds. Would you consider helping them? CGT has an account specifically established to help. Your donations are used only for the purpose you designate. Use the Donate button on our web site to contribute by credit card, debit card or PayPal account. Or send a check to Community Gardens of Tucson, PO Box 65900, Tucson, AZ 85728. Be sure to put a note indicating veteran or refugee or seeds or fees or whatever your preference. Thank you.

TWO YEARS IN REVIEW

The front page of CGT's November-December newsletter posed a question: "Have you wondered how it is that the community gardens spring up?" Several years ago, I would have answered "no." My first experience with community gardening was at a well-established mid-City garden -- I signed up, paid the dues, was given a plot number, and started planting. Other than adding soil amendments from time to time, there wasn't much manual labor involved.

These days, I garden at St. Gregory's Preparatory School, which just celebrated its 2nd birthday. As a founding member, I learned firsthand what it takes to transform a swath of undeveloped desert into a lush garden.

1. *"How it came to pass" is a part of every community garden's lore.* In our case, things happened quickly. Teacher Ellie Rabinowitz made a successful proposal to St. Gregory's principal that having a garden on the school grounds would be educational for the kids. He agreed, Ellie contacted CGT, and word went out to the St. Gregory's community and to the Old Ft. Lowell neighborhood. In almost no time at all, we had enough people for a garden.
2. *Behind every beautiful garden are a grand design and a host of volunteers.* Someone studies the land to determine the ideal location, size, and layout of the garden and the plots it will contain. Next, someone creates a blueprint of the water supply, irrigation lines, and fencing. At St. Gregory's, Gene Zonge was the mastermind. After Gene drew up the plans, Jason Tankersly donated his time and equipment, cleared the land of scrub brush, and dug the plots. I understand that many gardens find the unexpected when they begin digging. At St. Gregory's, Jason uncovered some concrete slabs that the school had long ago demolished, buried, and forgotten. All of the gardeners pitched in to move those chunks of concrete off the property to a nearby dumpster. (Note: No gym memberships are needed during the formative weeks of a new garden!)
3. *As every gardener knows: the secret is healthy soil.* By December, the dust had settled and we had three rows of 11 precise rectangular holes, each 2-3' deep. It was time for the long, tiring process of filling them back up with a concoction of manure (some was donated by the stables across the street), compost (donated by Jason) and soil amendments. I headed off to Iceland after Linda, Anita and I filled our two plots, having shoveled so much *##@% that I dreamed our garden spontaneously combusted!
4. *To stand in front of a brand new garden, is to inhabit a magical space.* It is a time of repose, after weeks of hard preparation and before you turn to the business of planting. It is where your "memory of what was" encounters your "expectations of what can be." It only happens once with a new garden; in retrospect, I wish I had savored the moment a bit more.
5. *You'll soon settle into your garden, make changes, discover its foibles, and love it all the same.* St. Gregory's is what CGT calls an intermediate garden, which means that we are making progress, but still "tweaking" the facilities.
 - a. Ours isn't a city garden and we wage a constant battle with the critters, the weeds, and (hate to say it) rattlesnakes. We attached a slippery material to our fencing, to discourage interlopers. It worked for a while, but lately there have been reported sightings of furry cuties nibbling on our plants. If they turn out to be true, we're back to the drawing board.
 - b. We have a park bench now. It's the perfect spot to sit, watch your fellow gardeners, nibble on the latest harvested delicacy, and have a good chat with George Brookbank, if you're lucky enough to find him sitting there.
 - c. Gene Zonge built a couple of picnic tables for us; we gather there for meetings and it's a convenient place for a gardener to leave extra harvest for others to enjoy. Speaking of meetings, as we gain in experience and get to know each other, our monthly meetings get consistently better. Site Coordinator, Patti Hartman, is getting certified as a master gardener; as she learns, so do we.
 - d. Because there are a lot of visitors to the school property, the principal has asked us to "keep up appearances." That means no ratty sheets flapping in the wind or precariously balanced structures. The students have helped, by making some lovely sculptures and art to hang on our fence.
 - e. Our membership is fairly stable and we have developed a real sense of community. We look forward to seeing each other and swing into an easy rhythm during periods of "work duty" before and after our monthly meetings. We are involved in composting, experimenting with different kinds of seeds, and generally having a good time sharing ideas, seeds, and recipes.

In 2009, our hard work gave birth to a garden at St. Gregory's. For the past two years, we have been building on the initial promise of what it could become. Community Gardens of Tucson is making magic happen in the desert – if you ever have the opportunity to get in on the ground floor of a new garden, we urge you to do so. It is a tremendous experience.

By Paula Nailon

HOW TO PAY YOUR PLOT FEES

As a convenience to our gardeners, CGT recently emailed an invoice using PayPal for the January - June 2012 plot fees. The email contains a secure link to the PayPal web site that allows you to simply click on the link and pay the plot fee by credit card, debit card or PayPal account. Before you click SAVE, click "Add special instructions to merchant" link to type in your Garden Name and Plot #.

While we prefer you use the PayPal link, you have the option of mailing a check to our mailing address (Community Gardens of Tucson, P. O. Box 65900, Tucson, AZ 85728). *Include your Garden Name and plot number.* If you share a garden plot, please coordinate and send one payment from one gardener. The cost remains \$90 per plot for 6 months.

If you have any questions about the new method for collecting the plot fees, please email Ginnie (vgriffis@mac.com) or call 795-8823 for assistance.

VENTANA VISTA GARDEN

After one year of planning and building, the Ventana Vista Community Garden was finally completed on November 20th 2011. This amazing project was spearheaded by Matthew Woodhall, the Program Coordinator for Catalina Foothills District 16 Community Schools, with the help of Janna Alexander, a Ventana Vista parent. The main idea behind this undertaking was to involve children in the exciting world of gardening, help them learn about sustainable living, and get hands-on experience growing their own food.

Originally, a small plot on the school grounds was considered as a potential garden. However, after meeting with Gene Zonge, it became clear that we had to enlarge our vision for the garden! From that time on, we began to collaborate very closely with Gene to create a nearly 6,000 sq.ft. garden that would offer an incredible opportunity for neighbors and Ventana Vista families to have their own plot in the garden as well as providing plots for all grade classes at Ventana Vista.

On August 13th volunteers Brian McNitt and Gene Harris from Catalina Foothills District 16 Facility Management, and Matthew

Woodhall with Catalina Foothills Community Schools broke ground of the future garden. Saguaro Environmental Services helped the school by generously donating the roll-off dumpster to haul away cleared debris. Using the tax credit dollars donated to Ventana Vista and funds offered by Community Gardens of Tucson the work on the garden continued. With support of our Principal, Kim Boling, Director of CFSD Community Schools, Travis Colter, and District Administration the garden was slowly growing and so was the interest of the neighbors and Ventana Vista families. By the time the fencing was in place a number of future gardeners signed up with Community Gardens to reserve a plot.

On the November 20th after a Sunday Garden meeting a big group of volunteers led by Gene and Matthew finished the last of the protection "fortifications"! And today some of the gardeners are already enjoying their first fruits and vegetables of their labor in radishes, salads, and herbs!

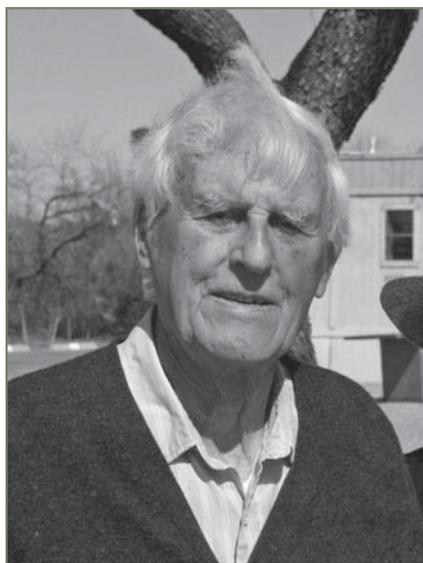
By Janna Alexander

BOARD OF DIRECTORS POSITIONS

The Community Gardens of Tucson has expanded its garden system significantly in the last 24 months. We increased the number of director positions accordingly and currently have some open positions. If you are interested in serving in this capacity please review our mission statement and send a short bio. to: admin@communitygardensoftucson.org (Mission statement and bio examples can be viewed on our website.) We are searching for individuals from a wide range of backgrounds to oversee our organization's direction and to expand our horizons. Your enthusiasm and commitment can make a difference.



GEORGE SAYS



AN EARLY HISTORY OF COMMUNITY GARDENS OF TUCSON

It all started with two high school teenagers making eyes at one another during class. My daughter, Katherine, went to work after school at Gerlach's Native Plant nursery at the urging of Mike Hand who was already working there. Mike's mother lived on five acres just off First Avenue and Limberlost where one acre needed frequent mowing. Ellen Hand leased horse buildings and the property was a friendly community. That one acre was in wild weeds and grass and it cost money to keep it tidy. Mike spoke with his mother after Katherine told him about her father's interest in home gardening (we had a family garden plot at home on First Avenue).

Ellen asked whether the Master Gardeners would be interested in using her weedy acre and the question went back to Katherine, to dad, to the Master Gardeners who said they would like to garden as a group, particularly as there would be no charge for occupying the land or using water from Ellen's well. As soon as the acre got its final mowing, an irrigation system was laid out to fifteen plots, each measuring three feet by fifty feet. Master Gardeners cheerfully dug their plot by hand, bought their own manure and fertilizers and planted and sowed. Before long a Master Gardener, Paul Knost, who owned a rototiller, joined the group and saved the effort of hand digging. And then we charged them five dollars per month for irrigation costs. Obviously we made money.

We found that a long plot such as that, gave more than enough food and with only fifteen gardeners there was not enough manpower to keep the surroundings clean and tidy. We doubled the number of gardeners by turning each plot into two and thus overcame our difficulty with maintenance—and we made even more money. We also made money by raising and selling seedlings to the public and charged for classes that we held. And we went the usual route of a bake sale and a yard sale to raise more money.

Other people, who wanted to garden with us, heard about the success we were enjoying and offers of backyards came to us, so we started spending the money on opening new gardens. Julie Conrad on Drachman, Marbie Brault on Wilson, Melva Garzelloni on 30th St., and Fran and Charlie Garcia on Presidio, gave us good geographic spread but gave us extra work when we needed to separate the homeowners' water usage from that of the gardens. But volunteers came forward and took care of that chore every month.

Two large gardens were started at the Congregation Chaverim on E 2nd St. in 2008 and another at Sabino Canyon and we stayed that way until the great expansion under Gene Zonge in 2008.

It's of interest that a person in Canyon City Colorado found us on the Internet and called to ask if she and her husband could help when they moved here. Diane Stevens became our Newsletter Editor and Andy became our Administrative Director. Both did a great job with our growing group, and Diane did long distance editing for us until they arrived.

At First Avenue Garden, we were drawing down too heavily on Ellen's well and stirring up sand at the bottom. This could have damaged the pump so things had to change. Ellen's daughter, Patsy Frennea and her husband Joe, kindly helped us to tap into the city water supply while neighboring Buck's Garage allowed us to tap into their electricity so we could install an irrigation timer. Much to our relief, we were able to continue gardening at First Avenue. However, when Ellen died, the family sold the property and eventually it was covered with concrete and a Sunflower Grocery Store rests on our old garden.

The first 20 years have been filled with generous people building on the work of the founding Master Gardeners. We have started our second 20 years with tremendous growth. We will be busy.

JANUARY–MARCH CALENDAR

All meetings are at 9AM unless otherwise noted. The Sabino Vista Meeting day and time yet to be announced.

January 1 – New Years Day, No Meetings
 January 7 – New Spirit & GD2 Gardens
 January 8 – St. Gregory & Homer Davis Gardens
 January 11 – Nottingham Garden 1PM
 January 12 – Board of Directors, all are welcome
 January 14 – Sunrise & SARG Gardens
 January 15 – Chaverim & Ventana Vista Gardens
 January 21 – Presidio & Mountain Vista Gardens
 January 22 – Keeling Garden
 January 28 – Benedictine & Sewell Gardens

February 4 – New Spirit & GD2 Gardens
 February 5 – Highland Vista Garden
 February 9 – Board of Directors, all are welcome
 February 11 – Sunrise & SARG Gardens
 February 12 – St. Gregory & Homer Davis Gardens

February 15 – Deadline for Newsletter Submissions
 February 18 – Presidio & Mountain Vista Gardens
 February 19 – Chaverim & Ventana Vista Gardens
 February 25 – Benedictine & Sewell Gardens
 February 26 – Keeling Garden

March 3 – New Spirit & GD2 Gardens
 March 4 – Highland Vista Garden
 March 8 – Board of Directors, all are welcome
 March 10 – Sunrise & SARG Gardens
 March 11 – St. Gregory & Homer Davis Gardens
 March 17 – Presidio & Mountain Vista Gardens
 March 18 – Chaverim & Ventana Vista Gardens
 March 24 – Benedictine & Sewell Gardens
 March 25 – Keeling Garden

TIMING AND A BROCCOLI NAMED BROOKBANK

Timing can be everything, so it seems. If you want to become a good striker of the golf ball, you go to the driving range and through repetition hit golf balls, one after another, until your golf swing becomes grooved; exhibiting a kind of muscle memory which translates into a timed backswing and follow-thru resulting in improved golf performance.

There is a kind of timing to desert vegetable gardening also, but it's different. Proper timing in the garden has to do with experience, and a little luck, but mostly, a lot of thinking and planning. We have known through experience what Tucson's climate has in store for us. We draw from meteorological records, and personal observation. Specific weather events may impact us, but in the larger planning process, we just have to disregard them. To be successful with a particular annual vegetable variety, we ask these questions: 1. Does it require cool, or warm season conditions? 2. What are the days to maturity of that particular plant? 3. How long will be the harvesting period. We can now factor in the climate component to guide us to the proper planting plan.

Let's look at a couple of examples dealing with timing. Suppose we want to have broccoli ready for a holiday meal in December. We know it is a cool season vegetable. We've heard that it ripens to being its most flavorful in cool and even frosty weather. We also know that our coldest weather starts right after Thanksgiving. Then, perhaps, we find a variety called "Brookbank". This highly touted variety matures in seventy-five days according to the seed packet. We count backwards from Dec 20th and discover that "Brookbank" needs to be planted almost the first of October, but that's from a transplant, so we need to backup another five or six weeks. We are now in September in Tucson. We sow "Brookbank" seeds; nurture them through Tucson's very warm fall, into delightful November when, as if by magic, Brookbank begins to ripen beautifully after Thanksgivings' frosty mornings, soon to grace our holiday table with flair. Now that is timing!

And what if we would like to grow "Brookbank" for an Easter or Passover meal? Doing the math for a harvest in April has us seeding "Brookbank" sometime in December. But, alas, the same variety that performed so magnificently in fall is failing us now because cold soils in December and January inhibited consistent growth, and very warm late winter temperatures caused premature flowering. It's a case of bad timing.

Remember: If you would like to invite "Brookbank" to dinner, do so for Hanukah or Christmas.

PRESIDIO GARDEN

We have a well-established garden. Our CGT furnished systems (plot layout, irrigation, the supply and condition of tools, picnic tables, secure fencing, etc) have been in-place and working well for many years. Nearly all of the plots are in use and gardener participation is very good. So, what's new? What can we be interested in learning, or even inventing, to enrich our gardening experience?

There is a wealth of information on the internet that might spark the interest of a gardener. One thing that has caught my interest lately is the concern and controversy over GMO (Genetically Modified Organisms). This is partially due to the fact that I grew up on a farm in Illinois and understand the problems of controlling weeds and producing better yields. These same problems apply to our vegetable gardens, just on a smaller scale. An article in the Nov./Dec. issue of Organic Connections helped me understand what the scientists and farmers want to accomplish with GMO and the undesirable side effects that accompany it.

This publication is online if you wish to check it out. Let's face it, picking up a packet of seeds or some seedlings at your local hardware, grocery, or nursery is easy and quick. But maybe we should be paying more attention to what we're really buying and planting.

But on a different note, think about the "explosion" of interest we have experienced in our type of gardening! Not so many years ago CGT had two or three locations

and was practically knocking on doors to find a neighborhood that would accept a community garden. Now, we are not the only such organization in town and we have grown tremendously in size! With this growth comes the need to stress the "Community" facet of our group. A few people have been working very hard to promote our mission and to physically make it happen. The time is now to get more people willing to serve on the board of directors, become Site Coordinators, help with the newsletter, and generally be more involved in CGT as a whole. In our individual gardens we step-up and help with particular projects. This can be done at any level of the organization! You don't have to take on a leadership role in any one task; help is always appreciated for whatever time you have to give. For some specific examples contact Gene Zonge. . . he'll be happy to give you some suggestions!

Happy Gardening!



Here's Jacquelynn's daughter, Malina, with their 1st baby carrot & turnip harvest.

By Shirley McReynolds

THE MOUNTAIN VISTA UU GARDEN (NORTHWEST TUCSON)

PRESIDIO GARDEN HISTORY

The winter gardens have been planted by most of our gardeners and seem to be doing excellent. We did have that one frost period that lasted for two nights. Most winter crops can handle the freezing temperatures but left-over summer plants did not fare well. However, that will just make room for more winter seeds and plantings.

The vegetables that are growing well in our Northwest Garden are cabbage, kale, spinach, radishes, sugar snap and snow peas, broccoli, carrots and probably more that I do not know about. I, myself, had an abundance of string beans before the frost. (They were not covered and didn't make it) I am going to plant more as the plants are fast growers and the beans really delicious.

We have been experiencing some "good rain" in this December month and that always makes gardeners happy. There is nothing like the nutrients of rain water verses the hard chemicals of Tucson water. I hope, some day, we can have a rain barrel at the garden to collect rain water. At home I put buckets out and collect as much as I can.

From our Mountain Vista UU Garden to yours we wish all a Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukah and a fabulous year of gardening in the New Year.

By Loretta Brevaire

Over on Presidio Road in the heart of Tucson back in the '60s a group of neighbors and friends decided that the large area of vacant land behind the house would make for a wonderful community garden. Not much is known about that garden except they did have plumbing brought in and chain-link fencing to keep out critters as that was about all that was left when my folks purchased the place back in 1978. Querying neighbors over the years hasn't shed much more light on who the participants were or how long it was a viable garden.

I was a young adult with plenty of friends and in 1981 about a dozen of us were filled with enthusiasm and fueled by Mexican food and decided we'd try and resuscitate the garden. That was my first real taste of just how quickly people can abandon a project! It didn't take long before it became three core people trying to do everything to get it up and running again and finally it was just solely me with my hose watering long-forgotten zucchinis that had become the size of zeppelins. It was a very, very sorry "community" garden indeed.



Fast forward twenty years or so and my husband and I now own the property and I'd recognize the potential it still had to be a garden. It was far too much for me alone and I already knew it needed more than initially enthusiastic friends and neighbors to really get a garden up and running and keep it going. Finally one day I plucked up the courage to contact – Community Gardens of Tucson [Editor's note – probably November 2002]. It was Sue Lopez who I spoke to and I explained to her that it did have water and fencing and she took interest. We set up an appointment to meet to see the space and she along with the CGT steering committee came over to check it out.

About a week or two later, Sue called me and CGT would take it on! We were thrilled!

Then the work began . . . I know I've forgotten so much but I remember it was so exciting at the time. Hoards of people and equipment going back and forth. I clearly remember George arriving with a large van filled with volunteers to help clear the area inside the fencing. It didn't take too long before it was actually up and running and there were plots with vegetables growing in them!

It was a far, far different garden then than it is now though. There were probably less than twenty plots (if that many!) and most of the vacant area surrounding the fenced in space was overgrown with creosote and prickly pear. There was no gate and I can recall George and Darlene making some type of pull-across "gate" out of abandoned, old wire fencing. I think it hooked closed with a rusty nail! When you think about it, it really wasn't all that many years ago.

One day I was introduced to a fellow named Gene and he was going to have a plot in our garden. Who would have dreamed that Gene would one day be leading the CGT! Gene took us from a little garden to a big one in what seemed like the blink of any eye. Plumbing, clearing, parking, tools, sheds, plots, plots and more plots all seemed to materialize in a short time under Gene's supervision and hard work.

I always held out hope that somehow it would be a proper garden one day. Little did I know it would turn into the wonderful and flourishing garden it is now and I thank CGT for seeing the potential I did and putting their time, effort and resources into our little overgrown patch of land and making it what it is now.

By Fran Garcia

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:
 Susan Dick
 (t) 520.790.5356
 (e) sddhiker@yahoo.com

Doolen Garden (Midtown)
Near Grant & Country Club
 Site Coordinator: Gene Zonge
 (t) 520.326.0458
 (e) admin@communitygardensoftucson.org

Davidson Garden (Midtown)
Near Alvernon & Fort Lowell
 Site Coordinator: Gene Zonge
 (t) 520.326.0458
 (e) admin@communitygardensoftucson.org

GD2 (Midtown)
Near Grant & Swan
 Site Coordinator: Judy Kempf
 (t) 520.322.9842
 (e) kempfj@email.arizona.edu

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

Homer Davis Garden
Near Wetmore & Romero
 Site Coordinator: Gene Zonge
 (t) 520.326.0458
 (e) Admin@CommunityGardensOfTucson.org

Keeling Garden (Midtown)
Near Fort Lowell & First Ave.
 Site Coordinator: Mark Bryant
 (t) 520.795.1718
 (e) mkwbry@gmail.com

Mountain Vista UU Garden (Northwest)
Near Ina & Thornydale
 Site Coordinator: Betty Meikle
 (t) 520.990.4663
 (e) b_meikle@yahoo.com

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

Nottingham Garden (Midtown)
Near Alvernon & Glenn
 Site Coordinator: Gene Zonge
 (t) 520.326.0458
 (e) admin@communitygardensoftucson.org

Presidio Garden (Midtown)
Near Fort Lowell & Country Club
 Site Coordinator – Shirley McReynolds
 (t) 520.408.0659
 (e) ShirleyMcRoo@aol.com

Sabino Vista Garden (Northeast)
Near Sabino Canyon & Cloud
 Site Coordinator: Patty Dean
 (t) 520.733.1791
 (e) patricia3dean@msn.com

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) Admin@CommunityGardensOfTucson.org

Sunrise Garden (Northeast)
Near Sunrise Drive & Craycroft
 Site Coordinator: Gene Zonge
 (t) 520.326.0458
 (e) Admin@CommunityGardensOfTucson.org

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

Ventana Vista Garden (Eastside)
Near Kolb & Sunrise
 Site Coordinator: Gene Zonge
 (t) 520.326.0458
 (e) admin@communitygardensoftucson.org

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

Youth On Their Own Garden (Midtown)
Near Prince & Flowingwells
 Site Coordinator: Gene Zonge
 (t) 520.326.0458
 (e) admin@communitygardensoftucson.org

IT'S ONION PLANTING TIME AGAIN

Our wonderful Candy onions will be delivered about mid-January so be sure to prepare your soil if you plan to plant some. There will be enough for one bunch (30-60 onions) per paid plot. As soon as they arrive I will contact the Site Coordinators so they can pick them at my home for distribution to their gardeners. When you get the onions, you need to plant them right away. We have noticed a big difference between the onions that are planted soon after getting here and those that sit around for a long time. The ones that are planted immediately get established faster and grow a lot more quickly. We recommend planting at the far end of your plot, away from the green valves. This makes it easier to move the irrigation tape away from the onions when they are finished growing and it is time to let them dry out and cure.

Baby onion plants are called slips. Baby onion bulbs are called sets. We recommend planting slips because the sets have been

disappointing since they usually flower instead of making a nice big onion bulb. To plant onion slips, you need to first decide if you are going to let them all develop in to big onions that can be stored for many months or if you are going to harvest some of them as green onions that need to be refrigerated and eaten within a week or two. If you want to harvest some as the season progresses, you can plant them more closely. If you want to have storage onions, they should be planted 6 inches apart. You should put them in to the ground only about ½ inch deep, just enough to keep them from falling over. Check on them every couple of days after you plant them to make sure that they haven't fallen over. If they have fallen over, just plant them again a little deeper. Happy planting.

By Darlene Schacht

Vegetables

Herbs⁴

	Germ. Soil Temp. °F	January		February		March		April	
		1-15	15-31	1-15	15-28	1-15	15-31	1-15	15-30
Artichoke/Cardoon	70-80	T	T	T	T	T	T		
Arugula	40-95	ST	ST	ST	ST				
Asian Greens	45-85	ST	ST	ST	ST				
Beans (Bush)	65-85						S	S	S
Beans (Fava)	65-85			S	S				
Beets	50-85	S	S	S	S	S	S		
Black-eyed Peas	65-95								S
Broccoli	45-95	ST	ST	ST	ST				
Broccoli Raab	45-95	ST	ST	ST	ST				
Brussels Sprouts	45-95	T	T						
Cabbage	45-95	ST	ST	ST	ST				
Cauliflower	45-95	ST	ST	ST	ST				
Carrots	45-85	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
Chinese Pole Beans	65-100								S
Collards	45-95	ST	ST	ST	ST				
Corn	60-95				S	S	S		
Cucumber (Armenian)	70-95								T
Cucumber	65-95							S	ST
Eggplant	75-90								T
Endive	65-80	ST	ST	ST	ST				
Garlic/Shallots	45-85	T	T						
Irish Potato ²	45-75	T	T	T	T				
Jerusalem Artichoke ²	70-80		T	T	T	T	T	T	T
Kale	45-95	ST	ST	ST	ST				
Kohlrabi	65-80	ST	ST	ST	ST				
Leaf Lettuce	40-80	ST	ST	ST	ST				
Melons	75-95								T
Mustard Greens	45-95	ST	ST	ST	ST				
Okra	70-95								
Onion/Leeks	50-95/70-75	T	T						
Parsnip	50-70								
Peas	45-75	S	S						
Peppers	65-95								T
Pumpkin ³	70-95						ST	ST	ST
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	T	T	ST	ST				
Spinach (NZ & Malabar)	70-80								ST
Squash (Summer)	70-95						ST	ST	ST
Squash (Winter)	70-95						ST	ST	ST
Sweet Potato	75-85								T
Swiss Chard	50-85	ST	ST	ST	ST	ST	ST		
Tomato	60-85				T	T	T	T	T
Turnip	60-105	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	
Basil	55-75								ST
Chives	55-75	T	T						
Cilantro	55-75	ST	ST	ST	ST				
Dill	60-80	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				
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
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.

LEGEND	
	Unwise to Plant
S	Sow Seeds
ST	Sow Seeds & Transplant
T	Transplant

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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.”

SUBSCRIPTIONS

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