

COMMON GROUND

NRH Community Garden



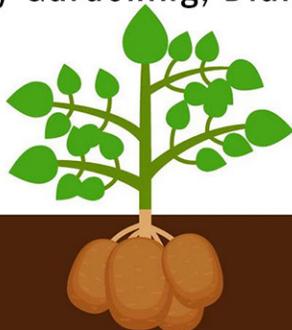
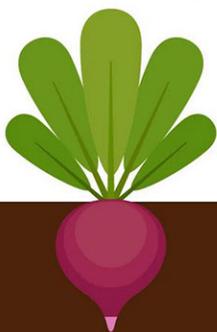
New Garden Coordinator -- Rachel Howe

Rachel received her Master Gardener Certification from the Tarrant County Master Gardener Association in 2019. She works part-time in the medical field, and became interested in gardening with the Grapevine Garden Club.

Rachel is a high energy individual with great gardening and people skills. Her smile will light up a room! She looks forward to working with our gardening community to help keep Common Ground one of the best community gardens in Texas. You'll see a lot of her at the garden.

I still have a plot and will continue working at the garden in an advisory position and help in any way I can.

Happy Gardening, Dianne



NEWS

Great news for our garden! See page 3.

The beautiful garden photos featured in this newsletter are courtesy of Devon Walker.

Get information for free on-line classes! See page 6.

“A garden is never as good as it will be next year.”

Thomas Cooper



Garden Photos courtesy of Devon Walker



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NEWS UPDATE FOR COMMON GROUND!

GREAT NEWS

NEWS FROM THE COMMON GROUND COMMUNITY GARDEN LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

Recently we received the very exciting news that the NRH Common Ground Community Garden will be able to stay at our current location permanently. The City Council approved the purchase of the entire property that the church is selling. This includes our garden and the church building. Some of the contract details are still being worked out, including an environmental study of the land/property to ensure there are no issues. But they are moving forward with finalizing the details.

The short term plan is to possibly lease the church building to another church congregation. The longer term plan is to tear down the church building and build a new Fire Station to replace Fire Station #3 (currently across the street from our garden). The current Fire Station is old and needs to be replaced..and our garden is the beneficiary of being part of the land purchased for this new building. How perfect is that!?

All of this means that our garden will be a permanent part of the NRH city-owned land, and we will not have to worry about another lease expiring..or losing all that we have built in our current location. The City of North Richland continues to be the most excellent partner that any garden could hope for. In the coming weeks, the garden council will be meeting to discuss how we can return to a fully functioning community garden and possibly even improving on the community education and services that we are already providing. We welcome any ideas and input that you may have and ask for your patience and understanding as we work together to bring the garden back to vigorous life.

Thank you all so much for your participation and support and we are eager to continue growing alongside you for many years to come!



How to Prevent Spider Mites on Tomato Plants

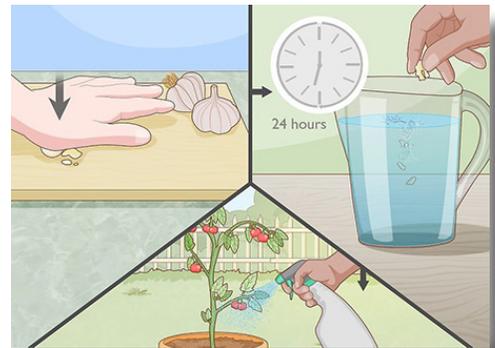
1. Plant your tomato plants where they stay warm without drying out. Tomato plants need at least 7 hours of sunlight every day to grow successfully. Plant your tomatoes outside in a location that gets enough sunlight, but is not in the direct path of the afternoon sun.

2. Ensure your tomato plants are growing in loamy soil with lots of organic matter. Tomato plants aren't overly fussy when it comes to the soil, however, the proper soil conditions will help ensure the soil stays moist and will not create conditions where spider mites may thrive. Plant your tomato plants in soil that is loamy, with lots of organic matter (compost, peat moss, or manure).



3. Place hot pepper or garlic in the soil to prevent spider mites. When planting your tomatoes, spray the soil under the plants with homemade hot pepper or garlic spray to keep spider mites away and prevent them from harming your tomato plants.

For the hot pepper spray, add 1 teaspoon of cayenne pepper flakes to 1 cup of water in a spray bottle. Shake the bottle to mix the ingredients and allow at least 24 hours before using it.



For the garlic spray, add 2 mashed garlic cloves to 1 quart of water. Allow the mixture to sit for 24 hours and then strain out the garlic pieces. Put the mixture into a spray bottle to use.

4. Sprinkle diatomaceous earth on the soil, in unbroken rings, around your tomato plants. You can also sprinkle or dust the D.E. directly onto the leaves of your tomato plants. Spider mites will not attempt to cross the D.E. barrier around the plants, but you do need to reapply D.E. after it has rained. Do not apply any D.E. to the flowers on your tomato plants. D.E. doesn't distinguish between good and bad insects and may harm pollinators if applied to the tomato plant flowers.



Controlling an Infestation of Spider Mites on Tomato Plants

1. Cut off and remove parts of your tomato plants that are infested. Once an infestation has progressed, you may need to resort to more drastic measures. If you notice specific parts of your tomato plants appear bleached or bronzed, or if the leaves have started to curl, cut those pieces off using garden shears.

Dispose of the infected portions of your tomato plants in the garbage or by burning them. Do not put them in your compost pile or you may spread the infestation to other plants in the future.



2. Spray insecticidal soap on tomato plants to kill spider mites. Spray the soap onto your tomato plants, making sure to focus the spray on the undersides of the leaves where spider mites live. Reapply the soap again if you see continuing evidence of spider mites on your tomato plants. Do not use insecticidal soap on tomato plants that are water-stressed or when the temperatures are higher than 90 °F (32 °C).

Make your own insecticidal soap by combining 1 teaspoon of mild liquid soap (such as castile soap) to 1 quart of lukewarm water in a spray bottle. Shake the spray bottle before using the soap.



3. Use neem oil to control and prevent spider mites. Combine 1.5 teaspoons of neem oil concentrate to 1 teaspoon of mild liquid soap (such as castile soap) and 1 quart of lukewarm water in a spray bottle. Shake the bottle to mix the ingredients and spray directly onto your tomato plants, specifically on the undersides of the leaves.

Neem oil spray can take a while to work on spider mites. To give it the best chance to work properly, wipe off the leaves (with a sponge or cloth) of your tomato plant first to remove as many spider mites as possible.





Bits and Pieces

FREE ONLINE GARDENING CLASSES

Keep NRH Beautiful has partnered with Tarrant Regional Water District and Tarrant County Master Gardeners to bring you a free online class each month through the end of this year. Topics will include lawn care, composting, sprinkler repair, trees and more. This is a great alternative to attend until Common Ground can schedule seminars again.

Information about each class and a link for registration can be found on Facebook at; www.facebook.com/KeepNRHBeautiful.

We will also send out information to our gardeners as we get more information.

June's class is Tough Plants for North Texas. Visit ntxtoughplants.eventbrite.com to get more information and register for the free class.



Visit the Tarrant Regional Water District's website -- Save Tarrant Water -- to check out more free online classes which are held several times a month. Visit <https://savetarrantwater.com/events/> for more info. Topics include Tree Identification, Soil Health and Amendments, and Backyard Composting.

