

VOLUME X
ISSUE 5

OCTOBER 2020 NEWSLETTER

COMMON GROUND

NRH Community Garden

**“I’m so glad
I live in a world
where there
are Octobers.”**

—L.M. MONTGOMERY

Upcoming Events

All events at the garden have been cancelled until further notice.

We will not have a fall garden seminar this year or a spring seminar in 2021.

Meanwhile, help us keep our garden in good shape by pulling weeds around your plots! If you notice a common area that needs attention, do not hesitate to dig in!

“You can
bury
a lot
of
troubles
by
digging
in
the
dirt.”
- Author Unknown

Community Garden Spotlight



Jon Mark and Adela Jennings -- Plots 503 / 304

Mark began gardening at Common Ground in May right in the middle of this pandemic! He has experience gardening on several acres. Now he and his wife, Adela, live in HomeTown. They grow herbs on their patio but are excited to be able to grow vegetables at Common Ground. Mark enjoys looking at You Tube videos for hints and advice on growing vegetables. This summer in his first plot, he grew okra, green peppers, cucumbers, squash and jalapeño peppers and Husky Red Cherry Tomatoes. He got the idea for the supports he built for his plants from YouTube. This fall he plans on planting greens. Recently, he requested a second plot. He is planting some Bee Balm from seed, and eventually wants to plant a variety of herbs. Check out his plots and welcome him to our garden (acceptably social distancing, of course).



*Autumn is a season
followed immediately
by looking forward to
spring.*

Guess that Vegetable!

These are vegetables that have been growing in Common Ground this summer.

Name that vegetable by just looking at leaves and / or blossoms!

Answers are on page 7.



1



2



3



4



5



6



7



8



Fall Garden Tasks You Can't Ignore

1. Pull up dead plants

Clean up the summer garden before it gets too cold. Once the plants are dead, it is good practice to remove them as soon as possible. Fungal disease and garden pests will overwinter in the dead leaves and stems.

IF YOU ARE PLANNING A FALL / WINTER GARDEN:

2. Till the soil

Tilling is the quickest way to get the soil ready for planting. Tilling the soil helps break up clumps in hard and compacted soil. It only kills the weeds currently growing on the surface of the soil, and plenty of weed seeds will be stimulated to grow, so it is only a temporary fix. Wait 4-7 days after tilling to apply compost, manure, or mulch so that the weeds that were pulled up at tilling have time to dry out and die.

3. Fall planting

There is some debate on the average first frost date in our area, but it seems to be somewhere between November 22nd and the 25th. So, you can still plant a fall garden in October. Look for frost tolerant vegetables to grow in the fall. Some of these include:

Beets	Broccoli	Carrots	Cauliflower	Chard	Collards
Garlic	Lettuce	Parsnips	Radishes	Spinach	Turnips

4. Use row covers to extend the growing season

If you decide to go ahead and plant a fall garden right now, make sure you have a plan in place if it does frost while your plants are still growing. Frost protection can be as simple as a fabric cover that lays over the top of the plants at night.

IF YOU ARE NOT PLANTING A WINTER GARDEN:

5. Winterize your plot

If you are not planting a fall garden, it is time to winterize your plot. If you do not winterize, you are inviting garden pests and diseases to invade your plot.

Mulch: Mulching over the winter serves a few purposes: you protect the soil from erosion, block out light to decrease weed growth, and add organic matter to your soil which will help your garden in the spring.

Cover crops: Cover crops are used to add nutrients and organic matter to your soil, protect the soil from drying out and suppress weed growth. Options include mammoth red clover, Austrian winter peas, winter rye, and ryegrass.

Cover soil: An alternate solution to cover crops is to cover your soil with landscaping fabric or straw to protect your soil.

20 Things To Include In A Garden Journal

Part One

Keeping a garden journal will improve your gardening skills, provide you with historical information about your garden to better predict results, and help you keep an inventory of your plants, seeds, and preserved produce. Read Part One below to see what to include when you are journaling about your vegetable garden. This will be a four part series, so keep reading future issues for more tips!

1. Take notes about the weather.

Make sure you are taking notes about how the weather is affecting your plants. Are you having a rainy year? Is it especially hot? Make notes about these things in your vegetable garden journal. You'll catch on to patterns a lot quicker when you are writing things down.



2. Seed starting and planting dates



Take notes about when you get your plants in the ground. As you journal from year to year, you might find that your plants do better within a certain date range. How did they do with the transplant during that time period? If it was early or late, they may have struggled with the transplanting.

3. Insect pests and pest control used

You are going to be dealing with bugs in your garden. Observe them, figure out what they are, and then make notes about how you dealt with those problems. How well did your methods of pest control work for you? Are you happy with the results? Was it simply handled or a real pain?



4. Plant inventory



Make notes about the varieties of vegetables you plant. If you're not taking notes, how will you know which varieties to add to your must-grow list? Do not forget to note how many of each plant you have. Coupled with your notes about your harvest, you can use this information to plan how many of each plant you need for your family. It is also important to record which plants grew happily in your garden and which had trouble.

5. Plants that were standouts in your garden

These are your biggest producers, healthiest plants, or prettiest plants. Whatever your measure of success is, make notes about the plants that grew best in your garden.



Bits and Pieces

PRACTICE

SOCIAL

DISTANCING



PLEASE WEAR YOUR MASK!!

10 GARDENERS MAX AT A TIME IN THE GARDEN

IF YOU'RE SICK PLEASE STAY HOME

**WEAR A MASK OR FACE
COVERING CORRECTLY**



**PLEASE SHOW COMPASSION AND RESPECT. PROTECT EACH OTHER.
PLEASE DO NOT APPROACH OTHER GARDENERS WITHOUT WEARING
YOUR FACE COVERING OVER YOUR NOSE AND MOUTH.
WITH EVERYONE'S HELP, WE'LL GET THROUGH THIS TOGETHER.**

Please remember the shed items are not sanitized, so you need to wear gloves and wash your hands with soap/sanitizer after use. You can also bring your own tools if you are more comfortable doing so. Please pitch in when you see something needing repair or cleaning up. If each gardener will keep the weeds pulled around his/her plot, it will be a big help! Please trim plants that have grown over your plot into the walkways! All of us together can keep Common Ground looking beautiful.

Vinegar Based Homemade Weed Killer

This is a well-regarded recipe for killing weeds without chemicals, but there is one caution. Using vinegar and dish soap is great basic weed killer on its own. When you add salt, you can affect the soil and make it difficult to grow things on that area in the future. If you want to replant in that spot, omit the salt.

Homemade Weed Killer

- 1/4 cup salt
- 3 cups vinegar
- 1 teaspoon dishwashing liquid

Place the salt and vinegar into an empty spray bottle and shake to mix well. Then add the dishwashing liquid and gently shake a few times. Spray directly on weeds. This homemade weed spray is best used in full sun on a warm day and is most effective on young weeds.

Guess that Vegetable!

Here are the answers to the quiz on Page 3. How did you do?



1. Corn



2. Cucumber



3. Chard



4. Loofah



5. Purple Hull Peas



6. Sweet Potato



7. Okra



8. Zucchini