



# OLD FARM COMMUNITY GARDENS NEWSLETTER

July 2021

## A Word from Your President

Happy Gardening EVERYONE!

I hope everyone is enjoying their garden experience this year. With the extra warm weather and our occasional rain it appears that our veggies/flowers are really liking it. Also, the weeds are having a great time and multiplying like crazy. Just remember to keep all weeds out of the pathways. You are responsible for 1/2 of the area adjacent to your garden plot. I myself have work to do regarding this garden rule to be compliant.

**Picnic Information** will be forthcoming next month as I hear about the date it will be held. Always fun and a great way to meet your fellow gardeners.

**Farmer Markets** are popping up everywhere. Great way to experience different veggies. It also might be something you yourself want to grow in the future.

Any questions or concerns please always feel free to contact me.

Enjoy the summer!

Happy Gardening,  
Carol Kinate, Board President  
719-648-9015 (call/text)



## Are you proud of your vegetables and/or flowers? Do you have a competitive nature?

Consider participating in the El Paso County Fair – July 11<sup>th</sup> to the 18<sup>th</sup>

Enter your best flowers or vegetables at the fair. In addition to bragging rights, **you can win ribbons and cash!** All details can be found at [https://cdn.saffire.com/files.ashx?f=fg&rid=ElPasoCOFair&f=Horticulture\\_Premium\\_List\\_2021.pdf](https://cdn.saffire.com/files.ashx?f=fg&rid=ElPasoCOFair&f=Horticulture_Premium_List_2021.pdf)

**You can make Old Farm Community Garden proud!**

## Gardener's Profile

### Why I Garden– by Jennifer Phillips

Hi! I am Jennifer Phillips and I garden in D0/D1 – the Southwest corner of the Garden. I have been gardening at OFCG for 13 seasons.

I was introduced to gardening as a child. My father had a small plot in our backyard with primarily tomatoes (the best homegrown tomatoes from the humid Missouri climate!) We grew a few radishes, carrots and lettuce. I also picked strawberries, raspberries and blackberries with my grandfather in his backyard as a child. I went years without gardening until we bought our home in Old Farm. We walked our German Shepherd dog around the Old Farm Garden and I so admired all of the beautiful plants and things that were going on. I decided to get on the waiting list and it took me 4 years to get offered a plot! I was so excited when my turn came. I landed what I considered a primo plot in the NW corner. Our Shepherd at the time also thought so because Brigitta became the mascot dog with me hanging out beside the gate while I gardened! I quickly learned so much from my fellow gardeners, local gardening classes and trial and error! The Garden became my new set of Friends! It also became my place of sanctuary. While raising two very busy boys who became “teenage” boys, the garden became a place for me to escape to and find solitude and a place for myself. At times when life got hard – a very difficult job situation, teenage times, parent illnesses and life in general, my garden has always been a place for me to go to where I have been able to find a friendly face, dirt to stick my fingers into and find new life growing. It is hard work, but it always produces for me. Over the years I have served on the Garden Board in various capacities, President for 3 years, Secretary for 2 years, and Board member at large for at least 3. I recommend everyone serve at some time in some capacity. It really is important to contribute and learn the interworking of the Garden.



In 2018 I moved my plot to the SW corner and I have been very please as I was able to expand my space and I inherited Raspberries!! I added a garden potting bench which helps as I am getting a little older LOL! Things I like to plant: lots of tomatoes under a plastic hoop house to give them that Missouri humid growing environment. Big Beef is a favorite as well as a new cherry called Sun Sugar. They are soo sweet! Peppers such as jalapeno and bells (purple). I have a thing about purple. I grow purple beans, purple cauliflower, and purple basil. I tried purple peas but they didn't taste very good! All of my other beans must be the French filet type because we don't like the strings. I have given up on squash. They produce too many. I now just beg off my garden neighbors! I grow garlic of course! I planted 224 plants last fall. Why you say? Because I have given garlic to so many friends they now expect some every year. And I love doing that.

PS: I plant my pumpkin seeds in between my garlic and then I am very careful when I remove my garlic – the pumpkins then have a place to take over the rest of the season. This year my new “try” is Potato Onions. I planted them last fall so I will let you know how they turned out. One year I accidently got shallots instead of garlic and by planting shallots in the fall they grew very large. Larry and I determined that this is the best way to plant them so that is our protocol now for shallots. Potatoes are in, I planted two grapevines, cucumbers, lettuce, carrots, radishes, broccoli, spinach, lona peas (very yummy), tomatillos – you always need to plant two of them for pollination. I also have a flower bed I inherited. It has the most beautiful Peony and purple Clematis. Check it out here in the next few weeks! Stop by anytime for a visit. I love meeting my fellow gardeners!

### Garden Member Wins Prestigious National Award!



For nearly 50 years, the Jefferson Awards recognize extraordinary public service that inspires others to action.

On June 23, 2021, our own Larry Stebbins was awarded the Colorado Springs Jefferson Award.

**Congratulations Larry!**

**NOTICE:** The August edition of our newsletter will feature various zucchini recipes.

Please send your favorite recipes for zucchini to Debra @ [debraothis@gmail.com](mailto:debraothis@gmail.com).

### 2021 Garden Board

President – Carol Kinate  
Vice President – Chris Scott  
Secretary – Colette Larimer  
Treasurer – Debra Othisis  
Members at Large: Terry Conrad, Mike Harvey, Hope LaMonica, and Frank Pado



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## Succession Planting! And Now is Almost Last Call for Planting!

by Larry Stebbins

Tyee spinach harvested today. It is getting ready to bolt so it needs to be harvested soon. Every two to three weeks and up until the end of July, I plant a small row of carrots, spinach and lettuce. This way I have great veggies all season long. In Colorado Springs, I plant my final planting of carrots, lettuce, and spinach the third week of July. This will give them plenty of time to mature before Mother Nature ends the growing season. If I plant much later, I may get hit with an early frost.



Tyee spinach planted three weeks ago



Tyee spinach just planted today. Burlap will be kept moist to ensure the seeds germinate in the hot weather.

Every two to three weeks and up until the end of July, I plant a small row of carrots, spinach and lettuce. This way I have great veggies all season long. In Colorado Springs, I plant my final planting of carrots, lettuce, and spinach the third week of July. This will give them plenty of time to mature before Mother Nature ends the growing season. If I plant much later, I may get hit with an early frost.

You can follow Larry's helpful garden tips on his blog @ <https://thegardenfather.com/garden-blog/>

## Gardening Q & A – Some questions we're hearing in the garden...

Q: Why are my plants turning yellow?

A: *Abnormal yellowing of leaf tissue is called chlorosis. Leaves lack the essential green pigment chlorophyll. Possible causes include poor drainage, damaged roots, compacted roots, high soil pH, and nutrient deficiencies in the plant. Learn more at:* <https://extension.illinois.edu/blogs/extensions-greatest-hits/2007-08-28-yellow-leaves-can-indicate-plant-problems>

Q: What is a soil amendment?

A: *A soil amendment is any material added to a soil to improve its physical properties, such as water retention, permeability, water infiltration, drainage, aeration and structure. The goal is to provide a better environment for roots. But what to choose? Learn more at:* <https://extension.colostate.edu/topic-areas/yard-garden/choosing-a-soil-amendment/>

Q: What is that white powder I see on tomatoes and other vegetable plants throughout the garden?

A: *Diatomaceous earth is used to deter (and kill) flea beetle that make "shotgun holes" in the leaves of plants that can weaken the overall health of the plant. It is made from the fossilized remains of tiny, aquatic organisms called diatoms. Their skeletons are made of a natural substance called silica. Learn more at:* <http://npic.orst.edu/factsheets/degen.html>

Q: Why do the leaves on my squash plants look white?

A: *Powdery mildew can infect squash, pumpkins and cucumbers. It is a fungal disease that causes powdery white spots to form on leaves. It can be treated with Neem oil and can be reduced or prevented with proper watering from underneath the leaves and good air circulation. Do not pick fruit when the vines are wet, because of the danger of spreading diseases.*

Follow us on Facebook - Old Farm Community Garden

## July Garden Calendar By Debra Othitis

-Harvest garlic when several of the lower leaves go brown but 5 or 6 of the top leaves are still green. Place out of direct sunlight in an area with good air circulation to cure. (See "Resources" below for guidance.)

-Harvest zucchini when the fruits are 6 to 8" long. They are at their best at that size.

-Replant leaf lettuce & spinach and sow seeds of sugar snap peas for a fall harvest.

-Tomatoes need consistent watering to prevent blossom end rot and misshapen fruit.

## Free Research-Based Gardening Advice

Submit your gardening questions to [csung2@elpasoco.com](mailto:csung2@elpasoco.com). They will open their in-person garden help desk (and take samples) on Wednesdays May 19<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> (Mon & Wed, June- Sept) from 9-noon and 1-4 at 17 N. Spruce St or call 719-520-7684. Follow them on Facebook at Colorado Master Gardeners – El Paso County.

### Resources :

Harvesting Garlic: <https://planttalk.colostate.edu/topics/vegetables/1827-harvesting-garlic/>

Growing Zucchini: <https://extension.unh.edu/blog/zucchini-plants-flowering-not-producing-fruit>

Zucchini Plants Flowering But Not Producing Fruit  
<https://extension.unh.edu/blog/zucchini-plants-flowering-not-producing-fruit>

## Upcoming Colorado Master Gardener Lunch & Learn Series via Zoom (\$10 each)

Sessions will be recorded for delayed access.

July 14 Tomato Troubles

July 21 Q and A Pests and Problems in the Garden

To register, go to: <https://elpaso.extension.colostate.edu/classes-and-workshops/>

## Spinach and Cheese Squares Recipe

Colorado Cache Cookbook - Recommended by Anna Stebbins

4 oz. butter	1 tsp salt
3 eggs	1 tsp baking powder
1 C flour	1 pound Monterey Jack cheese, grated
1 C milk	4 C chopped, fresh spinach

Melt butter in a 9x13 inch pan. Beat eggs. Add flour, milk, salt & baking powder. Add cheese and spinach, mixing well. Spread into the pan with melted butter and bake at 350 degrees for 35 minutes. Cool 30 minutes before serving. Cut into squares.

NOTE: These freeze well in plastic bags.

## IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

Sept TBD – OFCG annual picnic

Oct 31 – Deadline to clear beds for winter

If you have questions or concerns about Old Farm Community Gardens, contact Carol Kinate at [kinatec@aol.com](mailto:kinatec@aol.com) or text 719-648-9015