

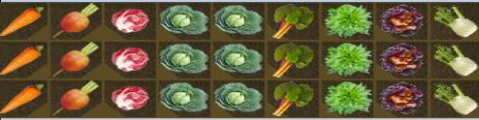


OLD FARM COMMUNITY GARDENS NEWSLETTER

March 2021

Gardening is learning, learning, learning.
That's the fun of them. You're always
learning.

-Helen Mirren



A Word from Your President

WELCOME to another gardening season at OFCG. Everyone receiving this **NEW** newsletter has already paid their annual dues. I assume many of you have already begun planning your garden layout and are anxious to actually make the magic begin. I hope each of you has a phenomenal season this year but **MOST** of all I hope you just have **FUN** and **ENJOY** your garden.

If anyone knows of someone who is wanting to be part of OFCG please direct them to our Information Boards located at each end of the gardens (near gates) or have them contact Chris Scott at 719-337-1835.

We currently have SIX Committees which are: Infractions, Maintenance, Picnic, Garden Awards, Website and Care n' Share. If you would like to help with any of these committees please let me know and I will direct you to the Committee Chair.

Our newsletter will be emailed to every member monthly with new/updated information. I hope you enjoy our newsletter and find it to be informative and helpful.

Carol Kinate, Board President
719-648-9015

The 2021 Garden Board

President – Carol Kinate
Vice President – Chris Scott
Secretary – Colette Larimer
Treasurer – Debra Othitis
Terry Conrad
Hope LaMonica
Mike Harvey
Frank Pado



2020 Garden Award Winners



Best Garden – Plot #D3

Rylie & Colette Larimer



2nd Best Garden – Plot D0 & D1

Jennifer & Brett Phillips

No photos available

Best New Gardener – Plot #B0

Susan Metzger

2nd Best New Gardener – Plot #B4a

Matthew Shelton

Criteria Used in Determining Awards

- Soil preparation** – use of amendments in increase yield
- Planting** – varieties, succession planting, companion plants
- Maintenance** – consistent weed control; pest control, tidiness
- Harvesting** – consistent; eliminates waste; donates excess
- Other** – may not have won same award year



RECOMMENDED Seed/Product Sources:

(To be continually updated with our members input)

Johnny's Selected Seeds (Maine)
www.Johnnyseeds.com
1-877-564-6697

A.M.Leonard's Gardeners' Edge
www.GardenersEdge.com
1-888-556-5676

Territorial Seed Company
www.territorialseed.com
1-800-626-0866 (phone orders)
1-541-942-9547 (Customer Service)

Gardener's Supply Company
www.gardeners.com
1-800-427-3363

Burpee (Seeds/Plants/Supplies)
www.BURPEE.COM
1-800-888-1447

High Desert Seed & Gardens
(heirloom seeds specific for high desert)
www.Highdesertseed.com
1-970-240-3701



"I have found, through years of practice, that people garden in order to make something grow; to interact with nature; to share, to find sanctuary, to heal, to honor the earth, to leave a mark. Through gardening, we feel whole as we make our personal work of art upon our land."

- Julie Moir Messervy, *The Inward Garden*, 1995



Upcoming Garden Classes

From CSU Extension Office via Zoom - \$10 each
Taught by Colorado Master Gardeners

March 17 – Soils: Everything you ever wanted to know but were afraid to ask [Soils: Everything you ever wanted to know but were afraid to ask Tickets, Wed, Mar 17, 2021 at 12:00 PM | Eventbrite](#)

March 24 – Spring Lawn Care – Aeration, renovation & Pre-emergents [Spring Lawn care Tickets, Wed, Mar 24, 2021 at 12:00 PM | Eventbrite](#)

March 31 – Growing Herbs in the Garden [Growing herbs in the garden Tickets, Wed, Mar 31, 2021 at 12:00 PM | Eventbrite](#)

April 7 – Water Wise Rules & Our Sustainable Future
[Waterwise Rules and Our Sustainable Future Tickets, Wed, Apr 7, 2021 at 12:00 PM | Eventbrite](#)

April 14 – Water Wise Gardening – 7 Principles
[Waterwise gardening - Seven principles Tickets, Wed, Apr 14, 2021 at 12:00 PM | Eventbrite](#)

(Classes are recorded for delayed viewing.)

Quick Vegetable Planting Guide for the Pikes Peak Region

Cool Season Crops: Sow from Seed April 15 – May 15

Spinach, greens, carrots, radishes, beets, chard, kale, collards, turnips, cilantro, dill



Cool Season Crops: Sow from Plants from April 15 – May 15

Broccoli, cabbage, kohlrabi, cauliflower, potatoes, asparagus, onions, parsley, rhubarb, chives, raspberries



Warm Season Crops: Sow from Plants from May 15 – June 7

Tomatoes, annual herbs



Warm Season Crops: Sow from Seeds from May 15 – June 7

Beans, corn, summer squash, winter squash, pumpkins



Note: Planting dates are approximate and depend on the seasonal weather. On

Gardening Tips from the Garden Father

by Larry Stebbins

When it Makes Sense to Start Your Plants Indoors

I start my plants, indoors, from seed, for two reasons. First, if the varieties I want are not available as plants from the local nurseries or second, the quality of plants are not up to standard. Some do it to save money (but for the small home gardener the savings are doubtful). If you are going to start indoors, the ones I recommend are tomatoes, peppers, eggplant, cabbage, broccoli, kale, lettuce, Swiss chard, popcorn and herbs to name a few. I never start root crops (carrots, beets and turnips) inside, since they do not transplant well. I also found that beans, squash and pumpkins do better when direct seeded into the garden (but wait until all danger of frost has passed).

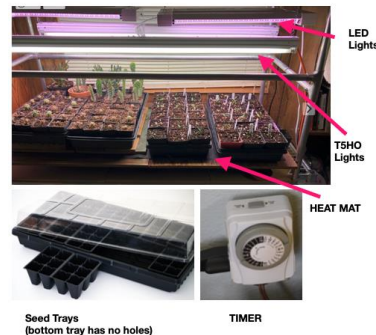
First you need a good light source. I recommend, full spectrum T5HO lights or full spectrum LED (my blog on February 1, 2019, at www.thegardenfather.com/garden-blog will provide more information. You will need at least a double bulb or preferably a 4-bulb system to provide all the light you need. Of course you will also need a stand to hold the lights. A 4 tired wire storage rack works great (4 to 5 ft high and 4 ft long, available at Lowes).

A heat mat is highly recommended. Seeds need 80° to 85°F to germinate. The mats come in variety of sizes. The 4 ft by 20-inch mat works great for my set up. The more expensive ones with a thermostat are not needed since the cheaper ones never get above 85°F. My lights are on a timer that is set to stay on 14 hours each day. The heat mat, however, stays on 24 hours a day. Seed trays with a clear dome are handy (make sure the bottom tray has no holes so it won't drip all over). When seeds are first planted I put the clear plastic dome on top to increase humidity. It is removed as soon as the seeds germinate.

For soil, use sterile potting mix to prevent diseases. Fertlome Ultimate Potting Mix is a good choice.

The biggest mistakes beginning indoor gardeners make is getting a light source that is too weak or too high above your plants, which makes your plants leggy. The other is starting your seedlings too early. Peppers, broccoli, cabbage, kale and lettuce can be started as early as April 1.

Tomatoes should be started between April 7 and April 14. Popcorn is started on May 1. When your plants start to crowd the pot, they need to be potted up to a larger pot. Never let your plants get root bound in their small pots. Now let's grow some veggies!



For more gardening tips, visit my garden blog at:
[The Garden Father - Organic Gardening, Vegetable Gardening](#)

Free Research-Based Gardening Advice

The El Paso County Extension Help Desk is operating remotely at this time due to the COVID-19 virus. You can submit questions by email at csung2@elpasoco.com, and they will get back to you as quickly as possible. They are not able to take walk ins/samples or phone calls at this time. Follow them on Facebook at Colorado Master Gardeners – El Paso County.

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

- April 15** – Deadline to forfeit plot & get full refund of fees paid
- June 1** – Planting in plots must have been started
- June 15** – Plots must be at least 50% planted
- Oct 31** – Deadline to clear beds for winter