



OLD FARM COMMUNITY GARDENS NEWSLETTER

May 2021

A Word from Your President

Happy Gardening EVERYONE!

Water Updates - As I am writing this the Water situation has not changed. The project to bring us up to speed with meeting code has not occurred. Until this happens our garden will not have access to water except through the one and only year-round pump. Once this project begins it will be disabled and our only source will be our water spigots located by our individual plots and only when Colorado Springs Parks and Recreation turns our water on for the season. Hopefully this issue will be resolved ASAP. I will email everyone when our WATER is turn on for the season.

I am establishing a section in our newsletter for gardeners who have GARDENING items they want to give away **for free** and/or **for sale**. I'm still working out the logistics on how we will make this happen but I feel it needs to happen in the month the newsletter is sent out and not have a carryover of these items into the next month. Items **for free** could contact me (kinatec@aol.com or (text) 719-648-9015) and I will make sure these items are listed in our monthly newsletter and items **for sale** will be listed in newsletter with direct contact to the gardener selling item. All items that haven't been spoken for will be donated elsewhere. We will start this in May but will likely change process after that.

Comments/Suggestions please!

Gardening Services - Garden Tilling
"Done Dirt Cheap" - Steve - 719-321-2386

Local Calendar - Horticultural Art Society (HAS) of Colorado Springs Plant Sales:
5/21-5/22: Tomatoes, peppers, perennials, herbs, vegetables from local growers. All sales 9-4 at HAS Cottage, 224 Mesa Rd/Glen Ave, Monument Valley Park, Colorado Springs, CO, Hasgardens.org.

Carol Kinate, Board President
719-648-9015

2021 Garden Board

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



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

GARDEN TRIVIA - Victory Gardens

Amid regular rationing of food in Britain, the United States Department of Agriculture encouraged the planting of victory gardens during the course of World War II. Around one third of the vegetables produced by the United States came from victory gardens. It was emphasized to American home front urbanites and suburbanites that the produce from their gardens would help to lower the price of vegetables needed by the US War Department to feed the troops, thus saving money that could be spent elsewhere on the military. By May 1943, there were 18 million victory gardens in the United States - 12 million in cities and 6 million on farms.
Source: Wikipedia

Welcome



Laura Regnier Plot C8

Plan Ahead for Hail Mitigation

By Fredricka Bogardus, Colorado Master Gardener

If there is any single risk to your garden for total destruction, it is probably a 20 minute hailstorm in the middle of the growing season. Plants that were just moments ago flourishing and green can be reduced to something that resembles chopped spinach. While there isn't a lot you can do to prevent the damage, you can try to minimize it.

Watch the weather. Protection won't do you any good if it isn't in place when the storm hits. Very warm weather and predicted thunderstorms in the afternoon are the risk periods for hailstorms. The warmer the weather, the more likely damage will occur.

Hail cloth, available in local garden centers, is a tightly woven cloth that allows sunlight through but is tough enough to repel hail. This is a great product idea for the top of hoop structures, tomato cages or any other structure you may have available. For young plants consider some temporary protections while the plants get started. Walls of water can be placed on heat loving plants such as tomatoes and peppers. Gallon milk cartons with the bottom cut off can protect new seedlings such as cucumbers, squash etc... Make sure to leave the cap off for ventilation. They offer pretty good weather protection until the plant outgrows the structure or needs access to pollinators.

After the storm, if your plants have been damaged you may wonder what to do with them. If the damage is minor, fertilize lightly and wait for one week or so to see if they recover enough to be welcome in your garden. If recovery isn't satisfactory to you then your only option is to remove the plant, and if it is still early in the season, you can replant.

RECOMMENDED Seed/Product Sources *(To be continually updated with our members input)*

Harding Nursery 721 N Powers Blvd, Colorado Springs, CO 80915
www.hardingnursery.com
719-596-5712

Heidrich's Colorado Tree Farm Nursery 7440 Templeton Gap Rd, Colorado Springs, CO 80923
http://www.coloradotreefarmnursery.com
719-598-8733

Spencer's Lawn & Gardens Center 1430 S Tejon St, Colorado Springs, CO 80905
www.spencersgardens.com
719-632-2788

Don's Garden Shop & Landscape Materials 6001 E Platte Ave, Colorado Springs, CO 80915
www.donsgardenshop.com
719-591-1040



How to Transplant Tomatoes into the Ground

Written by Marion C., Colorado Master Gardener



Tomatoes are a warm season crop and need to be transplanted when the day temperature is around 60 degrees. If the temperature is less than 55 degrees for more than a week your crop will be stunted. Keep in mind that tomatoes cannot withstand frost, so make sure the ground is warm enough for transplanting and you have slowly exposed your plants to the outside (hardening off). Check your last frost date, usually mid to late May to make sure you are not planting too early. If there is any chance of a frost after you have planted your tomatoes in the ground, it's best to cover the tomato plants with some kind of protection like walls of water or frost cloth.

The first step is to find the appropriate location for your tomato plants. You need to find a spot in your garden that gets at least 6 to 8 hours of direct sunlight per day. Tomatoes like rich soil, so add 1-3 inches of compost or aged manure and mix it in your soil. Before planting the tomatoes in the ground, pinch or clip off all of the bottom leaves from the tomato stem. You want to get the tomato as deep into the ground as possible. The tomato will grow roots all along the stem, so the more stem that we can get into the ground, the stronger your tomato will be.

One way to do this is to dig a shallow trench and lay the tomato plant down into the trench so that the stem is in the trench and the top of the tomato stands up straight, don't worry, the tomato will straighten up as it grows.

After planting, it is really important to mulch around your tomato plants. Mulch helps to maintain soil moisture, cuts back on weeds and helps to prevent water splashing up. You want to avoid having leaves getting splashed because of soil borne pathogens. You can use things like shredded leaves, or hay. Make sure your mulch does not contain seeds. I typically add mulch directly after transplanting, then place a stake next to the plant so that the plant can be tied up later. Again, this prevents the plant from sprawling over the ground where disease can be picked up and avoids the fruit to rot on the ground.

Determinate varieties (including bush varieties) reach a certain plant height and then stop growing. Indeterminate varieties continue to grow and produce tomatoes all along the stems throughout the growing season. Indeterminate plants need extra-tall supports of at least 5 feet.

Indeterminate tomatoes (most are) also like a lot of space, so about 24 to 30 inches between tomato plants is a good amount of space. Use a yardstick or a piece of wood cut to size to measure the space between plants.

Rows should be about 3 feet apart. You can use trellises for determinate tomatoes. It is important to allow air and light to penetrate your plants. Make sure to water the tomatoes into the ground. Do not water overhead as getting leaves wet can encourage disease. Follow the seed label directions regarding fertilization.

May Garden Calendar *By Debra Othitis*

- On warm days, starting a week or two before planting, begin hardening off seedlings in a sheltered location starting with just 15 minutes a day and increasing daily by 15 minute increments.
- Thin seedlings of early planted crops such as carrots, lettuce, spinach and beets.
- Asparagus stalks can be harvested right at the soil level when they are larger than 3/8 inch diameter.

Late May when soil is at least 50° & fear of frost is past:

- Transplant tomatoes and bury them deep to the topmost pair of leaves so they will root all along their stems. Tomatoes produce best if they are well rooted. (see article at left)
- Plant eggplant and pepper plants and other tender annuals starts like zinnias.
- Plant corn, bean, pumpkin, squash, cucumber, and early-maturing melon seeds.
- Plant annual seeds outdoors.

Free Research-Based Gardening Advice

Submit your gardening questions to csung2@elpasoco.com. They will open their in-person garden help desk (and take samples) on Wednesdays May 19th and 26th (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 for planting tomatoes

- <https://cmg.extension.colostate.edu/Gardennotes/720.pdf>
- <https://cmg.extension.colostate.edu/Gardennotes/717.pdf>

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

Sessions will be recorded for delayed access.

- June 9 The Good, the Bad and the Ugly -- Insects in the Garden
- June 30 Q&A – Growing Vegetables
- 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/>

FREE GARDEN ITEMS *(contact Carol Kinate)*

- FREE 19'/'1" diameter metal pole (two sections with connector in middle)
- FREE approximately 100 feet of drip lines

GARDEN ITEMS FOR SALE *(contact Seller)*

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

- 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

Follow us on Facebook - Old Farm Community Garden