



OLD FARM COMMUNITY GARDENS NEWSLETTER

May 2022

A Word from Your President

Hello Gardeners!

There is something about the water being ready for use that makes the start to the season feel official. Hopefully your planning and preparations for this season are underway. And if you are taking a more leisure approach instead of planning, I am hopeful that we all will have a wonderful season ahead. It has been great starting to see more faces at OFCG.

As we start to frequent OFCG, here is a reminder to be aware of your surroundings and the locks. Please be sure to take a look around to see if anyone is remaining in the garden when you leave, acknowledge if the gardener(s) remaining will be using a particular gate we can ensure the locking of all gates or if you believe you will be the last person exiting from that particular gate, please lock it. In addition, when locking the gate(s), be sure to mix the code after closing the lock.

I would like to thank all of you for being part of Old Farm Community Garden. A special thank you to the board members and committee members for their continued support, time, efforts and all of their contributions to ensuring the smooth operation of OFCG.

If you know someone that may be interested in gardening here at OFCG with us, please guide them to the OFCG website for more information and to be on the waitlist: www.oldfarmgardens.com. For existing gardeners, if you would like to help with any of our six committees, please contact me or another member so we can direct you to the appropriate point of contact for involvement.

I look forward to seeing you around the garden!

Happy Gardening!
Tiffany Lherisson, Board President
719-208-2089 (call/text) or
email LherissonTiffany@gmail.com

Welcome New Garden Member



Joy Love
Plot D4

Gardeners' Profile by Georgia DeVorss

This will be the fourth season that my sister, Tonia and I have been garden members. I always grew tomatoes in the back yard but we knew that wasn't a possibility any longer when a new squirrel moved in and decide to destroy every plant we had in the yard.

Growing up we had a large garden as well as grape vines, a strawberry patch that would make anyone envious and plum and peach trees. The memories of the fresh fruit and vegetable whirled in our minds as we hoped we could one day garden again.

We are so thankful to be a part of the garden and the harvest that we get. Everyone has been so helpful with their tips and advice. Truth be told it was our mother who cared for the garden as children, we would just weed and water. So any advice that you might have for us we are happy to implement.

We generally can't wait to get started so that we can have fresh salad. The lettuce taste so much better when it's home grown.

Two years ago we had lettuce for three garden neighbors as well as house neighbors. We grow pumpkins because I cook for my dog. I freeze the pumpkin and take a small bag out whenever I'm in need.

We compost all season long. At the end of the season I dig a large hole and we bury all our dead plants in hopes of enriching the soil.

We are looking forward to seeing everyone this year and can't wait for the transformation of the dirt to plants. I always tell my sister, "Let's go play in the dirt." The garden makes us feel like we are part of the community.



2022 Garden Board

- President – Tiffany Lherisson
- Vice President – Chris Scott
- Secretary – Susan Metzger
- Treasurer – Cynthia Fox
- Members at Large: Terry Conrad, Mike Harvey, Hope LaMonica, and Frank Pado

Committee Members

- Awards – Tiffany Lherisson, Mike Harvey
- Infractions – Hope LaMonica, Chris Scott
- Maintenance – Tiffany Lherisson, Cynthia Fox
- Picnic – Hope LaMonica, Sara Morgan
- Website Manager – Jennifer Phillips
- Newsletter Editor – Debra Othitis
- Care & Share – Tiffany Lherisson, Chris Scott, Gerald Hamstra, Linda Schneider & Meredith Haas

EL PASO COUNTY FAIR UPDATE by Heike Whitaker, Colorado Master Gardener

I'm following up with information on our flower, vegetable and herb competition for July at the County Fair Grounds in Calhan.

We do have a date and time for the horticulture competition in July. The event will take place on **July 22, 2022**, we will be there to accept your entry into the competition (cut flowers, vegetables, herbs, houseplants, arrangements, natives, etc) at 1pm. Judging will be at 3pm. Monetary awards and ribbons for both "Floriculture" and "Vegetables, Herbs & Fruits" include 1st place, 2nd place, Reserve Grand Champions, and Grand Champions. Also don't forget the special prize for the biggest homegrown tomato!!

I will follow up with the "Open Class" instruction guide and entry form, as well as a tip sheet on how to prep your entries! Please help us to support this tradition and share your love for gardening! Please help us to support this tradition and share your love for gardening!

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May 2022 (page 2 of 2)

Did You Know This About Tomatoes?

Determinate and indeterminate refer to the tomato's growth habit. Determinate tomatoes are small, compact plants. They grow to a certain height, stop, then flower and set all their fruit within a short period of time. The harvest period for determinate tomatoes is generally short, making them good choices for canning.

Indeterminate tomatoes continue to grow, flower, and set fruit until killed by the first frost in fall. Accordingly, the harvest from indeterminate varieties often extends over a 2 or 3 month period. Yields are generally heavier than determinate types, but are usually later to mature. Indeterminate tomatoes are large, sprawling plants which often perform best when grown in wire cages or trained on stakes.

Source: <https://hortnews.extension.iastate.edu/faq/regards-tomatoes-what-meant-terms-determinate-and-indeterminate>

Did You Know This About Lettuce?

Lettuce is a fairly hardy, cool-weather vegetable that thrives when the average daily temperature is between 60 and 70°F. It should be planted in early spring or late summer. At high temperatures, growth is stunted, the leaves may be bitter and the seed stalk forms and elongates rapidly. Some types and varieties of lettuce withstand heat better than others.

There are five distinct types of lettuce: leaf (also called loose-leaf lettuce), Cos or romaine, crisphead, butterhead and stem (also called asparagus lettuce). Leaf lettuce, the most widely adapted type, produces crisp leaves loosely arranged on the stalk. Nearly every garden has at least a short row of leaf lettuce, making it the most widely planted salad vegetable. Cos or romaine forms an upright, elongated head and is an excellent addition to salads and sandwiches. The butterhead varieties are generally small, loose-heading types that have tender, soft leaves with a delicate sweet flavor. Stem lettuce forms an enlarged seed stalk that is used mainly in stewed, creamed and Chinese dishes. Crisphead varieties, the iceberg types common at supermarkets all over the country,

Source: <https://web.extension.illinois.edu/veggies/lettuce.cfm> See this short video on harvesting lettuce: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EkvNU6dG0pA>

Did You Know This About Radishes?

Radishes (*Raphanus sativus*) are cool season vegetables that are easy to grow and come in a wide variety of root colors, shapes, and sizes providing for a range of end uses.. For example:

White Icicle – A pungent white radish about 5- 8 inches (13-20 cm.) in length.

Sparkler – A round, bright red radish with a distinctive white tip; all white inside.

Cherry Belle – This is the type typically sold in your grocery store and it is flavorful in salads

White Beauty – A small, round radish with a sweet, juicy flavor; white inside and out.

French Breakfast – This mild, extra-crunchy, slightly pungent radish is good raw or cooked.

Early Scarlet Gold – A juicy, crispy-tender heirloom variety with a round shape, red skin, and white flesh.

Daikon Long White – These are huge radishes that can reach lengths of 18 inches!

Fire and Ice – This is an oblong radish with bright red on the top half and pure white on the bottom half; sweet, mild, and delicate in flavor and texture.

There are also some unusual types such as Sakurajima Mammoth which can weigh up to 100 pounds at maturity having a sweet, mild flavor.

Source: Marion Cerruzi, Colorado Master Gardener

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

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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 Gardening Resources

You can access free, research based Fact Sheets on many gardening topics from The El Paso County Extension Office. See listing at <https://extension.colostate.edu/topic-areas/yard-garden/?target=publications#fruits>

Resources for planting tomatoes

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

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

If you have questions or concerns about Old Farm Community Gardens, contact Tiffany Lherisson, Board President @ 719-208-2089 (call/text) or email LherissonTiffany@gmail.com