

MULVANE COMMUNITY GARDEN NEWSLETTER

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An Organized Gardener

by *Marlena Acker*

In all my best attempts to prepare for the next growing season it seems I'm always running slightly behind. Sure, I get wrapped up in browsing seed catalogs and signing up to request yet another catalog that I hadn't already been receiving. I admit I might have a problem and seeking out some sort of intervention or group may be the next logical plan of action, but is not likely to happen. I just love looking at all the varieties of flowers and vegetables the world has to offer. And it really does get me excited for the upcoming year! Well this year I had been debating on whether or not to participate in the Seed Saver Exchange program that a fellow community garden member presented. The more I learned about it the more I realized I should try to organize my gardening, give it structure and make it easier to plan when to transplant my indoor seedlings and to track what works and what doesn't as the growing year proceeds.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Work Day - March 14th at 1:00pm

Thinking that perhaps I'm not the only one interested in being more organized I worked to create a Word document with several pages of charts to cover various topics throughout the year. I've uploaded this file to the community garden website for those who are interested. Here's to a prosperous growing season!!

Work Days and Socials

Since we're entering into a new growing season at the community garden, I wanted to take a moment to remind current members and inform new additions to our group about the required participation in the scheduled work days. Based on the rules and regulations of the garden, each member is expected to complete two of the four scheduled work days throughout the year. The board is attempting to vary the day and or times of the work days so that participation is improved. These dates will be announced in advance and are pending any weather related delays. Be sure to

check your emails, the website or the facebook community garden group page for updates. Expecting group wide cooperation in the work days not only makes it fair for the whole group but it serves as a wonderful opportunity to put the "community" in our community garden. Help the garden to be all that it can and use that time to reach out to other gardeners for questions or advice on gardening. Socials will also be planned and will often be paired with a work day. These are great opportunities and we look forward to getting to know our neighbors!

Seed Saver Exchange Program

In January, fellow garden member Phyllis, presented information at a meeting regarding the Seed Saver Exchange Program.

This is a topic of interest for her and she took the initiative to investigate it further and was able to have our garden added to those who participate. The program provided her with seeds that should do well in our growing zone, as well as, a few supplies. The key to the exchange program is ensuring heritage and heirloom seeds are propagated for future gardener use as the years pass. This would be achieved through the establishment of a seed library for our community and surrounding area. Hybrids and GMO (Genetically Modified Organism) seeds are not used within this program.

An additional part of planting and propagating seeds within this program is to grow the plant for seed, share a portion of those seeds with the exchange program and reserve some for the library. Documentation throughout the growing process is also expected and consists of charting progress, problems, and noting other factors during growing. Phyllis is looking for garden

members who are interested in participating and those who might not be in our community garden but has a passion for heritage and heirloom seed conservation. There is a wealth of information she can provide to those who are interested. If you would like to know more or have specific questions she would be a valuable resource. You can reach out via the facebook community garden group or the community garden website.

[Mulvane Community Garden Facebook Group](#)

<http://www.seedsavers.org/>

[Outside the Seed Packet – Seed Savers blog post](#)



Branching out

The Mulvane Community Garden is currently developing a program that will incorporate and hopefully encourage youth involvement through the Mulvane Rec Center. There will be topics for learning and discussion outlined by some members of the garden board and a possible field trip to the Sedgwick County Extension Center in Wichita. The program will consist of students from 3rd to 8th grade level. Participation will be two days a week and may be divided such that one group or class attends one day and the second group goes on the other, spending their respective

days at the garden accompanied by a Rec Center representative and a garden member volunteer. There is a designated plot for this program. Not only will this be a fun learning opportunity for our youth, but will hopefully encourage additional families/households to become members of the garden. More information will be provided once details are finalized.

"A garden is a grand teacher. It teaches patience and careful watchfulness; it teaches industry and thrift; above all it teaches entire trust."

– Gertrude Jekyll

What to Plant Outdoors

March

<u>Plant</u>	<u>Harvest</u>
Cabbage	Mid June – End July
Broccoli	Early June – End July
Endive	End May – End June
Cauliflower	Early June – Early July
Lettuce	End April – Mid May
Potatoes	Mid June – End July
Radish	End April – Mid May
Peas	First June – Early July
Spinach	Mid May – Mid June
Turnips	First June – Mid July
Beets	Mid June – Mid July

April

<u>Plant</u>	<u>Harvest</u>
Cabbage	Mid June – End July
Collards	Mid May – Mid June
Chard	Mid June – Mid July
Carrots	Mid June – Mid July
Broccoli	Early June – End July
Cauliflower	Early June – Early July
Lettuce	End April – Mid May
Melons	Mid July – End Sept
Potatoes	Mid June – End July
Salsify	First Sept – End Oct
Onions	First Aug – Mid Sept
Green Onions	Mid May – End June
Peas	First June – Early July
Sweet Corn	Mid July – End Sept
Spinach	Mid May – Mid June
Turnips	First June – Mid July
Beets	Mid June – Mid July

Starting Seeds Indoors

If you would like extra information on starting seeds indoors or need a refresher, please check out our newsletter from March 2014. This can be found on our website mulvanecommunitygarden.weebly.com