

Mulvane Community Garden Newsletter

April 2014

VOL. 1 ISSUE #2



Stay Connected:

Join the facebook Mulvane Community Garden Group.

Watch cable channel 7 for meeting reminders.

Visit the website for photos and resources.

Spread the word to your friends!

Welcome to a new growing season! It is our mission to provide helpful tips and suggestions to make your garden a success and pass along any garden updates. In addition to this monthly newsletter, you will find further resources at our website.

In this issue:

- Wind Protection & Supports
- Sidedressing & Fertilizer Labels
- Monthly Planting Guide



Upcoming Garden Related Events:

Tentative Work Day & Social

June 7th – more specifics to come...

mulvanecommunitygarden.weebly.com

Wind Protection & Supports

We are all eager for Spring and the much anticipated warmer temperatures and gentle breezes. Strong winds, however, can present a challenge for our still tender plants.

One option is using milk jugs. Cut off the bottom and the top. Press ring into soil. This will allow air circulation without damaging the plant.

Many household items can be repurposed. Use your creativity and consider the amount of space the plant inside will need to continue to thrive through the windy times.

Supports:

Tomato, pepper and other tall growing plants may benefit from staking. Use bamboo or other rods and secure with ties or twine.

Tomato cages provide sturdy support for plants producing abundant fruit.

There are also purchasable tomato ladders that can be assembled to various heights.

Space savers/helpers:

A teepee structure can be constructed using bamboo or other sturdy rods. Tops are secured using twine. Additional strings between rods will aid in its vertical growth. This supports climbing vegetables while planting another in the center.

A-frame trellis can be an option for cucumbers, peas, or squash. Growing with this method helps with air circulation and may decrease problems with disease.

Netting for peas and beans are alternatives to running strings from post to post down the row.

Melon cradles are also available to assist in propping them off the ground and prevent rot.

Don't hesitate in using your creativity or trial and error when it comes to working with your plants and planning out your veggie gardens!



Sidedressing

Sidedressing – is a method of fertilization for plants once they are established.

- **Nitrate of Soda (16-0-0)**
 - Used at the rate of 2 lbs fertilizer per 100 feet of row
- **Lawn fertilizers (30-3-3) or (29-5-4)**
 - Cut the rate in half
 - Use those without weed preventers or weed killers.
- Use of lawn fertilizer more common for home gardener.



The K-State Research & Extension Center has provided a guide at the following link:

<http://www.hfrr.ksu.edu/doc1991.ashx>

Understanding Fertilizer Labels (1-2-3)

- 1 – Amount (%) of Nitrogen (Nitrogen)
- 2 – Amount (%) of Phosphate (Phosphorus)
- 3 – Amount (%) of Potash (Potassium)

How to determine the # of lbs of nutrients within the bag of fertilizer:

Pounds per bag x % = lbs per nutrient

So in a 50 lb bag of (30-3-3)

$50 \times .30 = 15$ $50 \times .03 = 1.5$ $50 \times .03 = 1.5$

$15 + 1.5 + 1.5 = 18$ lbs of nutrients with 32 lbs of filler.

What to Plant Outdoors:

May

Plant	Harvest
Beans (Snap)	Mid June – Mid August
Beans (Lima)	Mid July – Mid October
Cucumbers	Mid July – End August
Eggplant	End July – End October
Melons	Mid July – End Sept
Lettuce	End May – Mid June
Peppers	Early Aug – Mid October
Okra	Early July - End Sept
Pumpkins	End Sept – End October
Salsify	First Sept – End Oct
Sweet Potatoes	Mid Sept – End Oct
Sweet Corn	Mid July – End Sept
Squash	Mid July – End August
Squash (Winter)	End Aug – End Oct
Tomatoes	Early July - Mid Oct
Beets	Mid June – Mid July

June

Plant	Harvest
Beans (Snap)	Mid Aug – Mid October
Beans (Lima)	Mid July – Mid October
Sweet Potatoes	Mid Sept – End Oct
Sweet Corn	Mid July – End Sept
Squash (Winter)	End Aug – End Oct