

Mulvane Community Garden Newsletter

June 2014

VOL.1 ISSUE #4



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:

- Sweet Corn Types
- Sweet Potatoes
- Monthly Planting Guide



Upcoming Garden Related Events:

mulvanecommunitygarden.weebly.com

Sweet Corn Types

Generally described as four types:

- **Standard:** Contains a “sugary gene”. Should be isolated from supersweet varieties, field corn or ornamentals.
 - Do not plant within 200-250 ft OR stagger planting to 12-14 days to offset time to maturity.
 - Plant when soil is at least 55°F
 - Varieties include: Honey and Cream, Jubilee, Silver Queen, Merit, or Sterling Silver.
- **Supersweet:** Holds sweetness longer after harvest than Standard. Possesses a “sh2” gene. Kernels are tougher and may not be as flavorful.
 - Should also be isolated and is sensitive to cool soil so plant when soil is at least 65°F
 - Varieties include: Sugar Loaf, Candy Store, Sweet Time, Florida Staysweet, Challenger Crisp & Sweet, or Sweetie.
- **Sugar Enhanced:** Holds its sweetness longer than the Standard but not as long as Supersweet. Popular due to being both tender and flavorful.
 - More soil temperature tolerant, plant at 60°F.
 - Does not need isolated.
 - Varieties include: Bodacious, Ambrosia, Sweet Temptation, Delectable, Pristine, and Miracle.

- **Triplesweet:** Newest type that combines all of the previous three.

- Varieties include: Serendipity, Avalon, Polka, and Frisky.

Steps:

- Plant seeds 1 in deep, 4-6 in apart in rows 30-36 in apart.
- Thin new plants to 8-12 in, once 4 in tall.
- Corn relies on wind for pollination. Best to plant corn in blocks of at least 4 rows.
- Water, weed and mulch as needed.
- Roots are shallow.

Helpful Tips: Corn Earworm can be an issue for developing ears. It is recommended that a preventative program begin when 10% of ears are showing silk growth and repeated spraying at 3-5 day intervals until 90% of the silks have wilted.

- Bt (*Bacillus thuringiensis*) or Spinosad can be used.
- Direct application of oil (mineral, corn or soybean) to the silks may also be helpful.
- Apply 5 drops by ear dropper to silks that have begun to turn brown and wilt. Any sooner can hinder pollination. Done once.
- May secure tops of husks w/ clothespin or rubber bands.

Harvest:

- When tassels are starting to turn brown and ears swell. (Kernels should be full and milky).
- Pull down and twist to remove ears.
- Prepare for consumption or storage quickly after harvest.
- Freezes well when removed from cob.

Sweet Potatoes



Sweet potatoes prefer loamy, well-drained, aerated soil with a pH range of 5.0-6.2. They also do well in sandy soil.

Steps:

- Plant 12-18 in apart in rows 3ft apart.
- Fertilize about 2 weeks after planting.
- Potassium is good for them. Too much Nitrogen can hinder potato growth.
- Mulching is a good idea.
- Excellent ground cover; Corral vines back into garden as needed.
- Remember to water and weed being careful with the root base.

Harvest:

When vines begin to turn yellow you can prepare to harvest.

- Begin by locating the primary crown/base of the plant.
- Using a potato fork, dig about an 18in wide circle around the plant.
- Pull up on the crown and gather potatoes by hand.
- Do your best not to damage potatoes.

Allow potatoes to sit and cure to develop its sweetness.

- Dust off soil, keeping them unwashed.
- Place in a warm, ventilated area with a temp of 80-90°F for about 10 days.
- Then move them to somewhere cool and dry. Do not use refrigerator or store below 50°F.
- Will keep for about 6 months at 60°F w/ humidity.

Varieties:

- **Beauregard:** High yields, uniform shape with very little cracking.
- **Murisaki:** Japanese variety, purple skin, Vitamin C and Fiber, nutty flavor.
- **Jewel:** Most versatile, “yam-type”, high yield, good baked, steamed or in salads.
- **Vardaman:** Bush variety, short vined, golden skin and deep orange flesh.
- **O’Henry:** Variant of Beauregard, high yield, disease resistant.

Sweet Potatoes Continued...

- **Bonita:** Sweet (double that of O'Henry), tan skin w/ white flesh, good in traditional dishes or as fries.
- **Jersey:** "old fashioned", sweet and creamy, holds form when baked.
- **Okinawa:** White w/ deep purple flesh, smooth & sweet when baked, high in antioxidants "anthocyanins", good in stir-fry, baked or tempura.
- **Sumor:** More vitamin C than most tomatoes, disease and insect resistant, produces slightly more yield than Jewel, has similarities of an Irish potato.
- **Centennial:** Good for short season, orange skin and flesh.

What to Plant Outdoors: September

<u>Plant</u>	<u>Harvest</u>
Lettuce	October
Radish	End Sept – Mid October
Spinach	Mid Oct – Mid November
Turnips	Early Oct – Mid November

October

Harvest

Beans (Snap, Bush, Pole)
 Cabbage
 Carrots
 Broccoli
 Endive
 Cauliflower
 Kale
 Lettuce
 Peppers
 Potatoes
 Radish
 Pumpkins
 Salsify
 Spinach
 Sweet Potatoes
 Squash (Winter)
 Tomatoes
 Turnips
 Beets