

Down and Dirty

Long Beach Community Garden Association

www.LBCG.org

WINTER 2010

President's Message

1-In a meeting with the Parks Department and Animal Control regarding the squirrels, rabbits etc. problem, we were informed that we are still not allowed to trap. They suggested that we raise raptor perches to help control these rodents and the Board is in the process of gathering information to implement this suggestion. We hope this will increase the population of raptors and turn their hunting grounds into our garden. Please do nothing to discourage the raptors to be in the garden. Again, I wish to remind all members that **poison is not allowed in any form as a control method.**

What to Do:

Put hoops up and cover all plants with netting then secure with cloth pins. You can go to South Coast Supply, 3626 Cerritos Ave, Los Alamitos, 562-596-6666 for the hoop material (masonry ladder) and they will cut it to whatever size you like, then Jo-ann's for netting, either in store or online. Then weight down all sides so the squirrels can not get under, they may chew thru but then they may move to the next garden that has no netting.

2-We are a year round garden so plots are to completely planted and harvested at all time with new vegetables of the season (token planting and cover crops are not allowed).

3-If you have moved; please remember to give your new address to Lonnie Brundage. Any correspondence mailed to the current address on file is considered delivered.

4-The South/East manure bin has the Food Bank cages there for storage. Please do not take any of these cages and do not store any of your cages there. All members' cages are to be stored in their own plots. Due to a possible rainy season and run off into the creek we do not put manure in the South/East bin during the winter.

5-Winter Disease Display is under gazebo.

6-Reminder that animals of any kind are not allowed in the garden and this includes in your car.

7-If you wish to have beds in your plot please remember to submit your plans with all dimensions to the president by placing them in the mail box at the small barn. They will be reviewed and you will receive a phone call to discuss them.

8-Remember that your hang tag is to be displayed at all times while in the garden and only give you passage to the garden not the Animal Control or ASPCA parking lot. If you park in those locations you should have business with ASPCA or Animal Control.



Rules and Regulation Changes

1-Under Garden Plot: Not have trellises, supports, cages, crops, art work or any structures to exceed six (6) feet in height including vegetation. Structures are not to exceed 2 feet wide by 6 feet in height.

Replacement Border

Please check your borders of your plots and if need replacement contact Chuck Davis, 438-2073 prior to February 19, 2010 and be placed on the list. Let him know.

Vacation and /or Illness

Please contact Joan Criswell when you go on vacation or if a health issue arises where you will not be able to maintain your plot for a short time. She will need what period of time this will cover, I.E. vacation from 1-1-2010 to 1-20-2010. This is so that when the correction walk is done we will take this into consideration. Make sure the person watching over your plot during this time has a pass, gate opener and a copy of the Rules and Regulation, which they have read. You will be held responsible for any infraction of the Rules and Regulation that this person does while maintaining your plot.

Work Parties

There are six work parties left in this membership year to get your Community Service Hours. The dates are:

February 6th March 6th April 3rd May 1st June 5th.

All dates are subject to change. Watch the large information board for any changes. No Community Service Hours will be given after the work party of June 5th, 2010 and all members must have four (4) hours of service prior to renewal of membership in June 2010.

COMPOSTING AND VIRUSES

Last year we suffered a devastating virus infection in almost all of the squash grown here at LBCGA. Since most of the samples taken by Dr. Mathews, virologist from UC Riverside came back as the CMV virus (cucumber mosaic virus). The virus easily spreads to other crops including beans, chard, cucumbers, peppers, etc. It has the capability of infecting 1200 different varieties of plants.

The virus has major hosts, milk weed (Mammoth Butterfly Plant), being number one, a **banned plant**, and number two, all weeds. This is why we are always after you to keep your garden weeded. The way the virus is transferred is by aphids and ants. Thus, control of weeds, aphids and ants is a must.

Once infected, transfer to other crops can be transferred by the ants/aphids and also by YOU. Yes, moving from an infected plant to a non infected plant gives that healthy plant the virus. It is that quick. A good practice is to wipe your tools and hands with Clorox or Clorox wipes, when moving from one plant to another.

If you removed your infected plants when we asked you to then just maybe your soil did not get infected. If you did not remove your infected plants then the virus could have gone down the roots of your plant to all of the lateral roots and thus infected your soil. When removing infected plants it is necessary to remove at least six inches of soil laterally around the plant and also 6 inches deep. Bag the plant and soil and discard it. Then go and wash your hands.



Now, let's talk about another source of the virus. Sad but true----your composter. So you placed some old leaves from your chard, beans, etc. and because sometimes you can't see virus, you put infected plant parts into your composter. Some members may also put weeds into their composters. Now, you have infected your composter and your compost. To kill a virus, your composter has to reach 200 to 220 degrees F, and because the composter **will never, and I mean never**, reach 200 degrees and not even 150 degrees the virus will not die. Then you put this compost into your soil, with the virus, which will then spread to any plant.



Bottom line, Dr. Mathews said the number one virus transmitter is compost that you have been making. She suggested that we ban composting but we didn't as many of you enjoy composting. We are merely telling you that composting is one of the number one reasons that we have virus in our gardens.

So there you have it. You can stop composting or you can continue, but remember your compost will not kill any diseases as it will never get hot enough and if you put a diseased leaf in your composter you are going to have disease and virus in your garden.

Let's all make an effort to get this virus situation under control.

Summer Squash Planting

Since we had a virus outbreak of the CUCUMBER MOSAIC VIRUS and the SPOTY VIRUS this past summer, it may be difficult to grow squash this coming year. Planting your squash very early in the season might be the thing to do in order to enjoy some squash before the virus count becomes too high which will destroy the plants. If you do plant early, please protect from frost with walls of water or winter weight row cover. If we encounter major virus on squash this coming summer it is possible that we will have to ban squash the following year in order to help control the spread of virus in our garden. If your plants become diseased please remove them immediately to help control the spread to other plants and plots.

Plant Calendar

October through March:
Asian greens, Beets, Broccoli, Cabbage, Carrots, Cauliflower, Celery, Swiss Chard, Endive, Escarole, Garlic, Kale, Kohlrabi, Leeks, Lettuce, Mustard, Bunching Onions, Shore Day Onions, Parsley, Peas, Radishes, Turnips, Spinach

March Through June:
Beans, Beets, Carrots, Corn, Cucumbers, Eggplant, Herbs, Lima Beans, Loose Leaf Lettuce, Melons, Okra, Onions, Peppers, Pumpkins, Radishes, Squashes, Swiss Chard, Tomatoes, Turnips, Spinach

July Through September:
Beans, Beets, Carrots, Cantaloupe, Celery, Corn, Cucumbers, Eggplant, Lima Beans, Okra, Squash, Swiss Chard, Tomatoes, Leeks, Lettuce, Radishes, Broccoli, Cauliflower, Endive, Kale, Kohlrabi, Peas and Sweet Peas, Mustard, Bunching Onions, Parsley, Parsnips, Turnips



Remember: If you have a gopher problem place a red flag at the site and you **MUST** call Frank Dayak at 596-1975.

Long Beach Community Garden Association
P.O. Box 50167
Long Beach, CA 90815

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

LBCGA OFFICERS

Joan Criswell	President	598-4076
Lonnie Brundage	1 st VP Membership	597-0926
Nancy Bernstein	2 nd VP General Maintenance	597-4552
Sher Meyers	Secretary	428-8604
Mary Rasmussen	Treasurer	498-7428

BOARD MEMBERS

Michael Battistone	Orchard/Work Parties	626-9221
Chuck Davis	Border Replacement	438-2073
Frank Dayak	Gopher & Critters	596-1975
Kevin Holman	Flower/Landscape	425-4038
Page Martin	Food Bank	433-3005
Joanne Rice	Gazebo	425-4038
Michael Roide	Newsletter	755-6781
Gary Sarka	Water Systems Repair	430-0695
Ernie Trait	Orchard	431-7074

SAFTEY NUMBERS

Ranger Station	570-1765
Ranger Cell Phone	572-6445
Park Gate	570-1772
L.B.P.D. Eastside	570-5808

WEB Site: www.LBCG.org

The LBCGA Officers and Board wish you a healthy and bountiful gardening in 2010

PLEASE KEEP YOUR NEWSLETTER FOR FURTHER REFERNCE