



# Down and Dirty

## Long Beach Community Garden Association

[www.LBCG.org](http://www.LBCG.org)

**SUMMER 2009**

### PRESIDENT'S ITEMS TO SHARE

- 1- The Annual Meeting was held on June 6, 2009 and the only change in your Officers and Directors is the addition of Michael Battistone. Thank you for your participation in this event.
- 2- The Food Bank appreciates all the donations but there are a few items that can not be used by the various organizations to which we deliver. These are herbs, lettuce or any leafy item that wilts and over grown crops that you would not put on your own table.
- 3- Your garden passes are for use to enter into the garden and can not be used in any other part of the park. You also will need to have your pass on any type of vehicle you ride/drive into the garden and this includes a bicycle. All garden passes must be visible.
- 4- We follow the El Dorado Park hours, as this is a condition of our lease. The hours are posted on a wood board across from the gate house and on our main gate. The garden opens at 7 AM and closing times vary by season. **This also goes for Work Party Days as the work parties do not start until 7:30 AM. Please do not go around the gate.**
- 5- Please do not leave a wheelbarrow in your plot or by the trash bins **FULL**.
- 6- The Girl Scout Troop of 283, Newcomb School donated boxes of cookies to the Food Bank for which LBCGA thanks them.
- 7- Please note that there is no parking in the red zone at the Food Bank. This is to allow entry to the Food Bank at all times.
- 8-Now is the time to take a look at your berries for grasshoppers as this is one of their favorite places to be during the day and come out a night to eat your crops. There is grasshopper bait available in the container under the gazebo with instruction, cups and wood sticks. This bait is only good until the first week in October 2009.
- 9- No animals are allowed in the garden, including any in the car.
- 10- Due to our water situation please use a nozzle with an on and off switch so as not to waste water while watering your garden.
- 11- Speed limit in the garden is 5 MPH; we have many children and adults in the garden that feels safe and may just walk into the road.
- 12- Growing sunflowers entice the squirrels to visit your garden. They love to harvest the seeds of the sunflowers.

### RULES AND REGULATION CHANGES

- 1-Under Eligibility: Current year membership expires for non-payment of dues at the last set date in June for renewal.
- 2-Under Member Responsibilities: A-Attend two (2) work parties per year or give four (4) hours of service to the committee chosen. This must be completed on or before the June work party date. B-Stay with the hose when the water is turned on, hand held watering only. No drip system, oscillating sprinkler, no diffusers and no soaker hoses. Use only the hose in your quad. Conserve water at all time.
- 3-Under Banned Plants: Monarch Butterfly Plant (milkweed) as it is a major host of viruses.

### NO WINTER PLANT SALE THIS YEAR

Please be aware that LBCGA will not be having a winter vegetable plant sale in late September. If you want to start your own little seed bed in your garden, now is the time to order your seeds of broccoli, cabbage and cauliflower. The best time to start your seed bed is around August 25th in order for the plants to be ready for transplant by the end of September or the beginning of early October. Winter seedlings need the warmth of October to get going and any planted when the weather cools, usually bolt.

### WORK PARTIES

There will be no work party September 2009 and January 2010. Check the large information board for the dates of other monthly work parties. Please remember you will need your Community Service Hours by the last work party date in June 2009 to renew your membership.

## FOOD BANK

We need three members who would like to take on a yearly job of delivering food from the Food Bank on Friday, Saturday or Sunday. This counts as your Community Hours but needs to be done every week of the year on which ever day you choose of the three days. Please contact Tom McCabe, 562-708-0955

## RATS AND MICE

During the fall and winter months, there is usually an increase in the activity of mice and rats. It would be to your advantage, starting in late August, to set some traps to lower the mouse and rat population.

**PLEASE, USE ONLY TRAPS. POISON IS NOT AN OPTION AND IS FORBIDDEN IN THE GARDEN** as other animals and birds could devour the poisoned mice or rat and in turn die. We do not want that to happen since many of the birds, etc are very beneficial to our gardens and also it is illegal to harm them **WE ONLY WISH TO CONTROL THE MICE AND RATS.**

Thank you for your cooperation.

Joan Criswell  
President LBCGA

## REMINDER

**Tetanus shots**, everyone including children should have a tetanus booster shot every five years. Please check with your physician, you or your child may need a booster.


**Drinking from the hose** is not a good idea as there is no anti-chiffon mechanism on the hoses. The only save drinking water at the garden is the water fountain.

**West Nile Virus Posting** is on our gate, put there by the Department of Agriculture. Please do not leave any standing water in your plots.

## COMBATting APHIDS IN YOUR GARDEN

Aphids come in a number of sizes and colors, winged and non-winged. Aphids are “suckers”—they suck juices from the plant leaves and stems. Some can also transmit plant viruses via that sucking mouth piece.



 They are slow moving, soft bodied insects that suck juices from our plants, and excrete a clear sugary liquid that we call “honeydew.” Frequently, in the presence of an aphid-infected plant, you will notice a stream of ants working busily around the aphids. They are protecting the aphids because these ants want access to the honeydew. Also, it is upon this honeydew that sooty mold can grow and leave a black, sooty deposit on the foliage of the infected plant. You may think that the black deposit is dirt but it not. It is a fungal mold that will spread to your other plants.

Aphids have many natural enemies in our garden. Adult and larval forms of ladybugs and lacewings, syrphid flies, solier beetles and parasitoid wasps (these guys are tiny, not your average wasp) all love to eat aphids. A good approach to aphid management begins with maintaining a healthy garden and encouraging these beneficial insects to make your garden their home. This is done through plant diversity and health.

Another very easy method of aphid removal is simply using water to knock them off the infected plant. If the aphid is in the process of probing/sucking a juicy stem when you knock it off, and it is probably doing just that, the mouthpiece will be broken and the aphid will no longer be able to eat. See what simple pest control water can be and it is a safe method at that.

For severe infestations, a trip to your favorite nursery and a talk with one of their experts will lead you to yet another method of controlling these pests.

## GOPHER & CRITTER CONTROL

Should you see a mound that looks like a volcano, which is an indication that there is gopher activity, place a flag there and call Frank. **DO NOT RUN WATER** in the hole. Also keep all your plants, especially your artichokes, trimmed up off the ground as animals tend to take up residence under them.



Frank Dayak  
596-1975  
Gopher & Critter Control

## GENERAL MAINTENANCE

Please take care of the wheel barrows by cleaning them out and standing them up on the front wheel. If a wheel barrow needs a new wheel please take them to the green shed in the south east corner and turn it upside down. We'll get them on the road as soon as possible. Do not use the big green carts for manure since it ruins the tires with too much weight. If overloaded and tilted on their sides, the axels will break from the wheels. I wish to thank all those members who helped repair wheel barrows throughout the year and especially John for trimming the vines on the fences.

Nancy Bernstein  
General Maintenance

## REPORT FROM THE ORCHARD



As is to be expected at this time of year, things are getting busy in the orchard. Not only have the citrus produced well over the winter but the apricots have come in with a vengeance. First we had the Aprium's 'Flavor Delight' provide for us over a 4-5 week period and before that finished the 'Blenheim Royal' apricot began to fall and have been producing ever since. Come now are the plums and nectarines and the early peach. Next are the apples. They are beginning to mature though not to my liking yet. The 'Einshemer' is a very early apple developed in Israel and is a good sweet crisp eating fruit. Right now it is still tart.

What all this means is that there is a lot of work to do in the orchard that maybe a lot of our membership who partake of the bounty on the share table do not think about. When I bring some of the pickings to the table, that means one or more of us have already been in the orchard picking and cleaning up under the trees one or two hours. It is a sincere effort to bring you good and wholesome produce. It may not always look the best, but it is ready to use and will not last long because it may be totally ripe. As some of you know we have a resident squirrel who thinks that we have been providing him with an endless supply of apricot seeds. So please, when you help yourselves to the fruit, be conscientious enough to make sure the protection is replaced on the fruit trays to try to deter our 'critter'. He does make such a mess and has wasted much fruit.

Ernie Trait, Orchard

## TRIAL GARDEN

The successes and failures this summer were about equal. The weather has been strange and disease rampant through the gardens as a whole.

### Tomatoes

**Virginia Sweets-** Tomato Growers: The best tomato I have ever had. It was sweet but with lots of tomato flavor. Bicolor about 12 oz to a pound, production was great relatively disease resistant. Everyone who tasted it for me loved it and saved the seed with exception of one person.

**Burpee's Sweet Seedless:** It was ok, true not many seeds, flesh was dense, and the color deep red but I wouldn't grow it a second time because the production and size were a disappointment to me.

**Giant Shilling-**Tomato Growers: It produced an outstanding amount of 1 to 2 pound pink fruit; however the taste was not outstanding. If you want to show off how big a tomato one can grow this is the tomato for you.

**Giant Belgium-**Tomato Growers: The same as the Giant Shilling, with the exception of the fruit. It was on the mealy side. Not recommended.

**Old German-H & H Nursery:** An orange medium sized tomato, not much flavor; the plant didn't seem to grow very well just kind of sat in the ground. Not recommended.

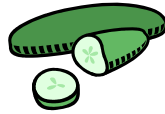
**Rowdy Red-**Tomato Growers: I can't report on this variety at this time because the plant was kicked of level with the ground shortly after I planted it. The replacement plant has not produced ripe fruit yet. I will report on it, in the next newsletter.

**Royal Hillbilly-**Tomato Growers: Medium size flawless red fruit grew really fast and produced good tasting early fruit. I would grow this one again.

### Cucumbers

**Baby Persian-Renee Seed:** The stem was extremely bitter, only about 1/3 of the fruit was edible. They are cute to look at or in an arrangement. It was a heavy producer and somewhat disease resistant. Not recommended unless you like the bitter taste.

**Chelsea Pride-Renee Seed:** It was quite a good producer of the hot house type smooth skinned foot long cucumbers. It is crisp with a mild taste that I personally like.



### Miscellaneous

I planted celery that was given to the trial garden; I was surprised at how well it did. I would suggest it as a good plant to put in the plots where the hose hanger is because it loves the water. The taste is a little stronger than the celery bought at the grocery store. I also decided to plant okra to see if it would do well in the center of the garden. The variety was Simpson Spineless available at most seed companies. For beans it was Kentucky Blue string less, they were outstanding, produced a lot 12 to 14 inch long beans.

In closing it was not a great year but a satisfying and productive year.

Lonnie Brundage  
Trial Garden and Membership

## 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**

**Long Beach Community Garden Association**  
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**Long Beach, CA 90815**

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### **LBCGA OFFICERS**

Joan Criswell	President	598-4076
Lonnie Brundage	1 <sup>st</sup> VP Membership	597-0926
Nancy Bernstein	2 <sup>nd</sup> 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
Tom McCabe	Food Bank	708-0955
Joanne Rice	Diseases/Pest Control	425-4038
Michael Roide	Newsletter	755-6781
Gary Sarka	Water Systems Repair	430-0695
Ernie Trait	Orchard	431-7074

### **SAFETY NUMBERS**

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

**PLEASE KEEP YOUR NEWSLETTER FOR FURTHER REFERENCE**

**WEB Site: [www.LBCG.org](http://www.LBCG.org)**