

Down and Dirty

Long Beach Community Garden Association

www.LBCG.org

Winter/Spring 2009

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Ladies and Gentlemen of the Garden

Due to the down turn in the economy having a membership and gardening a plot is no longer a "hobby". We have 70 plus people waiting for a chance to supplement their income in these lean times, with a garden plot. The fact is we are a Community Garden Association that has always donated vegetables to the various shelters of Long Beach. We accomplish this goal by donating any excess vegetables to our Food Bank. We can no longer be patient when it comes to the plots not fully planted and harvested. On March 1, 2009 the summer crops may be planted in the garden and correction notices will be sent to any plot not fully planted by **April 30**. We are also collecting canned goods at the Food Bank, however please be sure to check that the expiration dates are still current on your donated goods. Just think of the good 300 cans of food for the hungry could do if every member gave just one can per month.

Other Things to Share with Members

1- Unfortunately I must inform you that I have received multiple reports of theft from members, of their crop and other garden items. Please, if you see someone in a plot near you and it is not the plot owner ask if they have written permission to be in that plot, get their plot number or look at their vehicle for the blue pass number. Also, we have had thefts from the Food Bank. If you ever see anyone taking from the Food Bank, please take their blue pass number, watch to see if they go to a plot, possible their own garden, then report this to an officer or board member. Remember that taking anything from the Food Bank, the Orchard or any item from any other plot than your own is considered stealing and results in immediate loss of member's plot.

2-As you all know, we are having a problem with rats, mice and rabbits that are eating our crops, most of the time before it gets a chance to mature. I myself grew broccoli and did not get a head and only a few shoots from my plants. We all have to check our plots and see if there is any place these critters can hide and nest. Please clean up your storage area and open your compost bins every time you are in the garden. Another thing to do is to trim up all of your plants that have large leaves on the ground such as artichokes.

3-All members have openers to enter and leave the garden. These openers work during the operational hours of the garden but after hours you cannot use the opener to enter or exit the garden. To exit you must drive your vehicle or place something like a wheelbarrow over the metal plate in front of the right side of the gate. This will open our gate and the Animal Control gate. If you are found in the garden after the posted hours by an officer or board member you will receive a Correction Notice and if it is by a Park Ranger you will receive a ticket for \$40.00. Our hours are the same as the Parks hours and are posted at our front gate.

4-We still have shovels and miscellaneous tools for sale. Contact Nancy Bernstein, 597-4552

5-If you wish to do a social and private tour of the garden for any groups, i.e. Brownie, Girl Scout you will need to submit the date, time and proof of insurance to the Board.

6-Speed limit in the garden is 5MPH; we have many children in the garden

Up and Coming Events

Please mark your calendars for these important dates:

Renewal dates and times: Saturday June 6th and June 13th, 10 am to 12 noon; Sunday June 7th and June 14th, 1 pm to 3 pm; Wednesday June 10th and June 17th, 6 pm to 8 pm.

Annual Meeting: Saturday June 6, 2009 at 9:30 AM, after the work party

Tomato Tasting Festival: Saturday, July 25, 2009.

Joan Criswell
President LBCGA

Pests

Last summer, 2008, we experienced an influx of the Fruit (Fig) Beetle (some people call them June Bugs). Thousands of them took over our gardens and destroyed vegetables, including tomatoes. Many of us hand picked them daily and dropped them into pails of water to which we had added dish detergent. However, we are sure that those members who did not try to do this will have enabled those beetles to mate and deposit their eggs into all garden plot soil. When you are preparing your soil for spring planting you will probably come across numerous grubs that look like this.



Fruit (Fig) Beetle

Please destroy every grub that you find. Let's try to be diligent in doing this so that we can get a handle on this infestation.

Disease

Please be advised that the climate conditions here at LBCGA are conducive to tomatoes, squash and cucumbers developing mildew. Mildew can cause your plants to decline and die. To prevent that from happening, you need to take the proper steps to prevent mildew. Please ask one of your garden neighbors for a solution or go to a nursery and ask them to provide you with the proper material to prevent the mildew. Also, look at our website at www.lbcg.org and peruse the site for information pertaining to mildew. Thank you for your cooperation.

Joanne Rice
Disease and Pest Control

Food Bank

Fellow gardeners in these trying economic times the Food Bank donation recipients are literally begging for our continued support through the donation of our excess crops. I participated in the "Inspection Walk-Through" in February and was amazed (and a little dismayed) at the number of plots that had large amounts of broccoli and heads of cauliflower that were not being harvested and thus going to waste/seed.

Please pick, clean, bag and place your excess harvest on the Food Bank table across from the gazebo. If you wish to donate but cannot get out to your plot for any reason, call me and I will arrange to have what you wish to donate picked for you. (If I don't happen to pick up the phone, please leave me a specific message with your name, plot number, and item(s) you want to donate). Please grow an extra row for the hungry.

Thanks and happy, healthy gardening to one and all.

Tom McCabe
Food Bank

Trial Garden

This past fall I trialed several new varieties of small vegetables started by Joanne Rice. Thank you, Joanne for your hard work all these years in Trial Garden. I can only hope to be half as successful as you were.

The winner hands down was Gonzales mini cabbage. Everyone who tied it has the same thing to say, raw it was sweet, crisp and had great flavor, steamed or stir fried it held up nicely and tasted really good. The seed can be purchased at Pinetree Garden Seeds.

Alcosa and Samantha mini savoy cabbages were also good selections, super mini red was another hit with me, all from Johnny's Seeds.

I also tried to grow Trefalgar Brussels Sprouts however, I went to the garden one day and the aphids were so bad you could literally see them falling off the leaves. Yuck, I couldn't wait to pull them up and throw them away. To me Brussels Sprouts are simply aphid manufacturing plants.

All the ornamental cabbages were just gorgeous; I hope you enjoyed looking and them, Kamome Red, Kamome White, Sunrise Kale and Sunset from Pinetree.

A new lettuce you can still see in the Trial Garden is Garden Babies, a single serving butter head from Renee Seeds. So far it looks good and the few leaves I have tasted are good.

For summer I will be planting 5 new tomatoes, including the first seedless tomato from Burpee, Sweet Seedless, others are Royal Hillbilly, Shilling Giant, Rowdy Red, and Virginia Sweets all from Tomato Growers Supply. I will include a couple of new varieties of eggplant and some new beans.

If you have a small family or just don't want a ton any one vegetable, you should try one of the new mini varieties. The taste is comparable or better than the large varieties and they can be planted more densely for a longer crop.

Lonnie Brundage
Trial Garden



First Time Gardener Hints

1-Don't be too hasty, March 1st, to plant those tomatoes, squash, cucumbers etc. March 17th is usually the last frost date. If you plant prior to that date, please, protect your tender veggies from frost with row cover of some sort. Also, when you do plant your tomatoes, after danger of frost, a good idea is to place your cages over them and then surround that cage, half way up, with clear plastic to protect from the winds.

2-**FLEA BEETLE** - This little, almost invisible beetle mostly attacks the leaves of eggplants. They are very difficult to control so instead, try preventing the infestation. When you plant your eggplants, put a layer of black and white newspaper on the soil around the plant. Place a cage or wall of water over the plant and on top of the newspaper. If using a cage, wrap it in clear plastic sheeting making sure that it goes all the way to the soil level. Allow your plants to mature to a 1 ½ foot height before removing the plastic/wall of water. These mature, pest free plants, will now produce well. Otherwise, the flea beetle damage would be so intense that the plants will be stunted. Yes, you may still get some flea beetle damage but your plants are now mature and healthy enough to withstand the attack.



3-To keep mildew to a limit water your crops from the ground and never overhead as they may not dry for the cold evenings.

4-Cut old and diseased leaves from your tomato plants and keep leaves off the ground. Go to our website for more information as to diseases and pests.

5-See your local nursery for preventive products for mildew and other diseases/pests.

COMMUNITY HOURS/WORK PARTIES

Work Parties are normally the first Saturday of the month and always posted on the large board at the front of the garden. They begin at 7:00 am for the Board members and 7:30 am until 9:30 am for gardeners. **No one who is NOT in the work party is permitted to enter the garden from 7 am until 9:30 am.**



Please go to the gazebo first, to check yourself in with your plot number and how many people are working with you and to get your job assignment. You may work for another members plot only if the plot member is there and working themselves. After the work party go back to the gazebo and pick up your slip showing your hours. All members are required to do four (4) hours of community service per year, July 1st to June 30th. All community hours must be completed by June 2009 work party since renewal begins in June 6, 2009.

THERE WILL BE NO MAKE UP WORK PARTIES OR INDIVIDUAL HOUR ASSIGNMENTS GIVEN IN 2009.

Cook Book Sales

We still have LBCGA Cook Books available for \$2.00. Should you wish to purchase one or add a recipe contact Mary Rasmussen at 498-7428.



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

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

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
P.O. Box 50167
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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

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

SAFTEY NUMBERS

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

PLEASE KEEP YOUR NEWSLETTER FOR FURTHER REFERENCE