

DIGGING IN

At Troy Community Gardens
Madison, WI

SUCCESSION PLANTING

Most gardeners in this area believe in the time-honored tradition of getting your garden in by Memorial Day weekend and then sitting back and waiting for those tomatoes and peppers to ripen. However, by continuing to plant and staggering plantings you spread out your harvest and often dodge pest problems as well.

It is true that summer annuals requiring 100 or more days to maturity have a limited planting window that ends, for the most part, by mid- to late June. This would include all tomatoes, peppers, and eggplant (all from transplants), melons, and most corn, bean, squash and pumpkin varieties. Almost all other vegetables, however, have extended planting seasons that, in some crops, can last all summer long. For successful production, the most important factors to remember are: 1) your first average fall frost date, 2) days to maturity (from direct seeding or transplanting) of the specific variety you are sowing, and 3) whether the plant is frost-tender or frost-tolerant. In addition, as the summer progresses toward mid- or late August, the day length begins to shorten noticeably, and the number of useful daylight hours for ripening a plant also lessens. For example, lettuce planted in mid-May may require 55 days to form a full head, but that same lettuce variety planted in mid-August may require 70 days to form a full head.

For cool weather crops to successfully survive in the summer heat, it is important to **Create Shade** and **Keep Moist**. Perhaps this means growing lettuce and endive under your bean trellises. One gardener has found that placing a pad of row cover several layers thick directly on the ground after seeding and watering helps keep the seed bed's moisture in and aids in germination. If the weather is hot and the ground is very warm, keeping that row cover wet will help cool the soil through evaporation. This is important for some seeds that won't germinate in hot soil. Peek under every few days and when you see shoots, gradually remove layers of row cover to give them more light while still providing a moist environment to promote a strong root system.

The listing that follows is an approximate guide for planting opportunities after the summer solstice (June 21) for common garden vegetables if the average first frost date is mid-October. Dane County's average first frost is October 4-10.

WORK DAY

SATURDAY

July 18

9 AM - 12 NOON

If it is raining on July 18, the work day will be changed to July 19, at the same time.

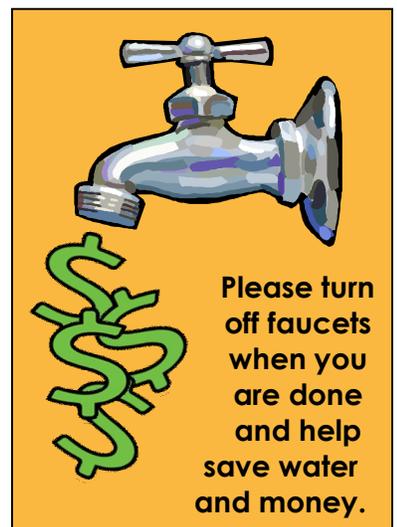
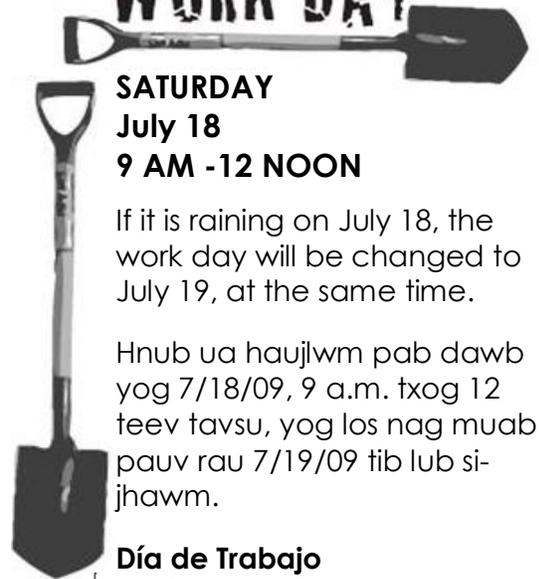
Hnub ua haujlwm pab dawb yog 7/18/09, 9 a.m. txog 12 teev tavs, yog los nag muab pauv rau 7/19/09 tib lub si-jhawm.

Día de Trabajo

El Sábado 18 de julio

9 am - 12 medio día

Si llegara a llover el 18 de julio, el día de trabajo será cambiado para el día 19 de junio a la misma hora.



— continued on page 2

Succession planting *continued from page 1*

Last Planting: Early to Mid-July

Bush Beans - many varieties are ready in 50–60 days and can be planted until mid-July; late plantings avoid the ravages of the Mexican Bean Beetle

Broccoli - direct seed into a well-prepared nursery bed, and then transplant throughout the garden when seedlings are 4–6 weeks old

Cabbage - same as broccoli; however, varieties over 90 days to maturity may not reach full maturity if planted in July

Chinese Cabbage - same as broccoli

Cauliflower - same as broccoli

Corn - plant only varieties that mature in 60–70 days

Cucumber - the longest maturing varieties require 75 days

Chicory - leaves can be harvested in 60–70 days, or roots can be harvested in 100 or more days

Okra - loves the heat, and matures quickly

Leeks - from transplants

Radicchio - same as chicory

Rutabaga - a cold-hardy root that requires a fairly long, cool season for best results

Summer Squash - great for quickly filling in empty spots in a mid-summer garden

Last Planting: Late July–Early August

Carrot - varieties requiring 80–100 days to reach full maturity

Chard - can be planted even later but yields will decline

Collard - same as broccoli above

Kale - same as broccoli

Pea - a narrow planting window of opportunity for producing a fall crop

Last Planting: Mid–Late August

Beet - if grown with protection such as a cloche or hoop house, can be planted well into the fall season

Beetberry - vigorous cool-season re-seeder produces tasty spinach-like leaves and mildly sweet berries

Broccoli Raab - same as broccoli above

Endive - wait until the end of August as soil temperatures begin cooling, and keep soil moist for best germination results

Lettuce - plant every three weeks throughout the summer for continual harvests; can be planted in September but yields decline significantly

Mustard - sow in nursery bed and then transplant throughout the garden

Orach (Mountain Spinach) - germinates in warm soils but thrives in cool weather

Purslane - can be planted all summer when soil temperatures are warm

Spinach - planting at this time produces tasty greens in October

Turnip - fall roots are extra sweet

Last Planting: Early–Mid September

Arugula - versatile, quick green that will re-seed and emerge early the following spring

Cress - rapid-growing green that can be planted throughout the winter if grown under cloches or a hoop house

Huazontle - tasty, vigorous green related to lambsquarter (Chenopod family) that also produces nutritious seeds if planted earlier

Komatsuna - quick-maturing Asian green that can be planted in nursery bed and transplanted like other brassicas (broccoli, kale, etc.)

Radish - quick-growing roots have milder flavor in cool soils

Spinach - planting at this time produces small plants in the fall that go dormant during the winter and resume growing in early spring; harvest begins in late March, with continual production throughout the spring



FISKARS TOOLS HAVE ARRIVED

Fiskars® has generously donated several garden tools to Community GroundWorks where they will be put to work in the Natural Areas and the Community Gardens. What better place than a community garden to test out the durability and usability of their products? Fiskars has a deep commitment to community gardens. According to their 2009 Garden & Outdoor Living brochure, "We see community gardeners as key players in developing future generations of gardeners, and believe it's important to support the people who make communities better places to live." In addition to the donated items listed to the right, Fiskars donated several hand tools, pruning saws, and a tree trimmer that will be used primarily in the Natural Areas but occasionally by the Community Gardens during work days.

In return for Fiskars' generosity, we will be providing them feedback regarding the durability and usability of these tools. Therefore, we need your help. Materials to provide your feedback will be placed inside the shed near the tools. We will ask work day volunteers to specifically use the tools and then fill out a survey. Besides comparing the Fiskars tools to our existing tools, we have also purchased one heavy-duty garden fork from one of the "big box stores" to compare to the Fiskars garden fork.

The Equipment Subcommittee will mark the equipment with unique numbers, so we can track their use and identify them when we collect information from you. Look for these tools and the survey information in the shed in the near future. And, thanks again to Fiskars for their support of community gardens.



**4 Long Handle Digging Shovels
(Steel)**



**8 D-Handle Digging Shovels
(Steel)**



**4 D-Handle Digging Spade
(Steel)**



**4 D-Handle Garden Forks
(Steel)**



**4 Garden Hoes
(Aluminum)**



**8 Cultivators
(Aluminum)**



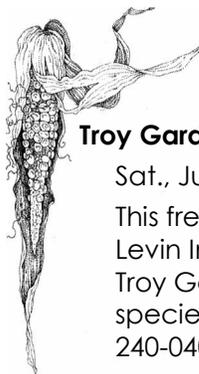
Thanks to all of you who patronized The Roman Candle June 19 and 20. You helped raise \$475 for Community GroundWorks at Troy Gardens.

TROY COMMUNITY FARM LAUNCHES A NEW BUSINESS

By: Megan Cain, Program Manager

You may have heard the news that this year Troy Community Farm launched a new business - Madison FarmWorks. The business designs, installs and maintains vegetable gardens at homes and businesses across Madison. We also work one on one with gardeners to further their education about gardening. As a gar-

dener, I am sure you realize that there is always more to learn. That's probably one of the reasons why you like gardening! Madison FarmWorks would like to offer discounted services to community gardeners this year. We can help you set up a garden design, create a planting schedule, plan a fall garden, educate you in a specific area such as Fertility and Weed Management, Insect Pests, or Seed Starting, work side by side with you in your garden, or just answer all of your burning questions about gardening. July is not too late to get the most out of your garden, and it is the perfect time to plan your fall garden. We charge \$30/ hour with a one hour minimum. You will be consulting with Claire, the farmer at Troy Community Farm, or Megan Cain, Program Manager of Madison FarmWorks and the East High Community Farm, and a community gardener at Troy. Email Megan at madisonfarmworks@troygardens.org for more information or to make an appointment.



Upcoming Events

Troy Gardens Tree Walk: An Exploration of Edibility

Sat., July 11, 9 am - 10:30 am

This free workshop will cover aspects of the Sol Levin Interpretive Trail and the edible woodland at Troy Gardens. You'll learn about (and taste!) edible species along the way. Contact Christie Ralston at 240-0409 or at christie@troygardens.org to register.

Community Gardens Work Day*

Sat., July 18, 9 am - 12 noon

Madison Area Community Garden Leaders Gathering

Sat., Aug. 1, 8:30 am - 1 pm (see details below)
Sheboygan Community Gardens

Savor the Summer at Troy Gardens*

Sat., Aug. 1, 3 pm - 7 pm (see details to the right)

Community Gardens Work Day*

Sat., Aug. 15, 9 am - 12 noon

CAC Community Gardens Bike Tour with the Mayor

Sat., Aug. 29, 8am - 1 pm

Tour beautiful southwest Madison community gardens and join us for lunch! For more information, contact Nicole Craig at 246-4730 ext. 208

* For details about these events, please call the Community GroundWorks office at 240-0409.

Savor The Summer at Troy Gardens



**Saturday, Aug. 1
3pm-7pm
Free Family Fun!**

Our annual celebration includes fun stuff like: meet & greet Toby & Tag, the Friendly Horses; West African drums & dancing; Kids' Crafts, Games & Activities; free hayrides around Troy Farm & Prairie; Troy Gardens "water park" including slippery slide & sprinklers; and neighborhood talent show at the Kids' Garden Living Stage.

New this year . . .

Madison Community Gardens Feast! All Madison community gardeners are encouraged to donate whatever is ripe from their gardens on Friday, July 31. Place your veggies on the picnic table next to the shed. We'll pick them up by 7 pm. The following day our team of chefs will create a feast to share with everyone who comes to Savor the Summer! Everyone is invited to explore and enjoy Madison's biggest and best community garden.

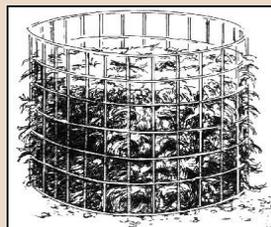


MADISON AREA COMMUNITY GARDEN LEADERS GATHERING

Several times a year, CAC hosts a gathering for garden leaders. All current and aspiring community garden leaders, along with gardeners and community members, are invited to meet and discuss their questions, concerns and successes in coordinating and leading gardens. The meeting will include small group discussions for kids gardens, food pantry gardens as well as household or plot gardens. For more information, contact Janet Parker at 246-4730 ext 218 or janetp@cacscw.org.

When: Saturday, August 1, 9:00 am - 1 pm. If you'd like to visit the Westside Farmers Market beforehand for free coffee, meet us at 8:30 am and bring \$ if you'd like to buy a little breakfast of fruit, a baked treat, turnips, whatever suits your fancy from the market! After the gathering, join us for the fun Troy Savor the Summer Festival from 3:00 - 7:00 pm at Troy Gardens.

Where: Sheboygan Community Garden, behind the Hill Farms DOT building, off Segoe & Sheboygan Aves.



DATE SET FOR COMPOSTING WORK SHOP

The date for the Composting Work Shop will be **Saturday, September 19**, starting at 9 a.m. All Troy gardeners can earn volunteer time by attending the workshop. When the work shop is completed, we will do a few work day tasks and then start our annual Harvest Festival at noon or shortly thereafter. Please mark your calendars and plan on attending.

We have arranged for Joan Laurion of Buckle Up Compost™ to present the bin method of composting and to answer your composting questions. In addition, one of the Hmong garden families will present a method commonly called trench composting employed by some of the Hmong gardeners. The work shop will be translated into Hmong, Spanish and Lao as needed. If you would like to volunteer to help organize this event or help set up the day of the event, please contact Jill Schneider at schneiderjill@charter.net or 608-241-1821.