

LETTUCE GROW



We Need Your Help

Next week, May 18-24 we need your help to tidy up the Community Garden. In past years, a work party is scheduled in May to clean up communal areas. Since these are not normal times, we have scheduled a **Work Week**. Every gardener has been asked to accomplish one task in the Garden. The jobs needed should take no more than 30 minutes.

Bob Lawton, the Garden Manager, will post a list of tasks and names of Gardeners who have volunteered on the Garden Shed. Bob will be at the Garden daily from 2 until 3 pm the week of May 18-24 .

Let Bob know by phone or text at 503-270-4665 if you have not yet committed to a specific task. **We need a few tool handy helpers.** You can also reach Bob through the Garden website, sisterscommunitygarden.org

Any time you are in the Garden, practice social distancing and wear gloves—remember, tools, wheelbarrows, and watering cans are used by all.

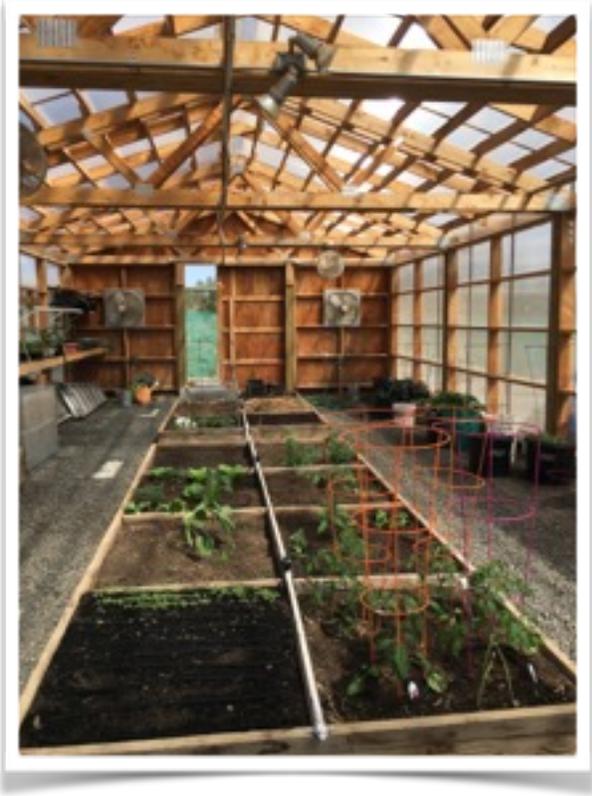
FYI

May 18-24—Garden Clean Up Week.

June 1—Plots must show cultivation by this date.

Would you like to know more about the Community Garden? Join the Leadership Committee for 2020-2021. There are openings for three members. Call or text Tom Gonsiewski at 503-810-2747.





Greenhouse News

Tomatoes a-plenty are filling up the beds and the East side shelves of the GH. Last year powdery mildew was a problem in the GH. To prevent the mildew and improve your crop, make sure to **prune your tomatoes** to increase air flow and keep foliage and tomatoes off the ground.

Pruning guidelines are posted on two tomato plants on the shelf as you enter West doors of the GH regarding pruning guidelines for your tomatoes. Remember, **pruning is not optional**—pruning is a necessary practice for healthy plants in a healthy GH.

Starts can be placed on the West wall of the GH. The shelves there are for all Gardeners to use.

The **GH drip irrigation system** is on a timer that comes on each day for 10 minutes at 6:00 a.m. We have added a filter on our input water to reduce sediment that reduced the effectiveness of some soaker tubing in the past.

All Gardeners are asked to check on the north and south doors in the GH. If it is too hot, open the doors; if it is too cold, close the doors completely. Use the wired door stops when leaving the doors open. We hope to get two new ceiling vents installed by August to improve circulation. Until then, adjust doors when needed.

Ready. Set. Sow.

Its not too late to plant from seed in your outdoor plots..Broccoli, Peas, and lettuce can be still planted from seed. We had frosty mornings last week.

It is recommended in Central Oregon to wait until the first week in June to set out green beans, cucumbers, and squashes in the Back 40. Our uneven temperatures means that the soil takes time to warm up. Gardeners use straw and garden covers to help this process before and after planting. Add some of the new compost and/or manure to your spot while you're waiting for warmer nights.



Opportunities

While every Gardener works on their assigned bed, there are other ways to enjoy a membership in the Sisters Community Garden. Gardeners serve on the leadership committee, tend communal beds, and help provide fresh produce to the Sisters Food Bank— putting the “community” in the Sisters Community Garden.

For the 2020-2021 garden season, we are in need of three people to join the **leadership team**. If you are interested in learning more about gardening in Sisters Country, or helping with publication and fundraising, or if you just want to

get to know the Sisters Gardeners this is a good way to get the most out of Garden membership. **Contact Tom Gonsiewski**, Garden President by text or phone 503-810-2747 to volunteer.

This year, one **Steward is needed** to look after the Hops on the East side fence and another is needed to **maintain and run the Chipper/ Shredder** for the compost bins.

Regarding the Compost Bins: Remember that only kitchen scraps, coffee grounds and finely chopped yard debris such as grass clippings go into the first bin. Other Garden debris, such as sunflower stalks need to be put into the pile adjacent to the bin for shredding.

News to Use .

Thinning All vegetables and plants have optimal spacing requirements. As Cass Peterson writes on her [Vegetable Gardener](#) blog, “It is far better to have one-tenth of the crop flourishing than the whole lot malnourished and spindly.” Find out more about thinning on the [Vegetable Gardener](#) site.

Tomato Info. [Tomato Dirt](#) gives best gardening tips on growing tomatoes. This newsletter is a favorite!

How and when to plant in Central Oregon. This guide provides region-specific tips and techniques for more successful gardening here. Growing Vegetables in [Central Oregon](#) go to publication EM9128.

Our first bin of “homemade” compost was recycled into the compost heap this month.

Thanks go out to Kathleen Cochran and Bob Lawton.

