

Spring 2013
Children's Vegetable Garden Program
February 16, 2013

Agenda 1: Gardening Session #1 for spring 2013

Welcome to the first day of this wonderful program! Let's all make it a great season!

To save paper, every child/parent and gardening mentor will be e-mailed the weekly agenda and any other information needed. It is each and everyone's responsibility to bring the necessary copies to the garden as well as starting and maintaining a reference folder and gardening journal. The goal here is to repeat these techniques back in your home or in your community garden. Hopefully by the end of this season, you are eating more fresh fruits and vegetables!



Every child that's participating in this program will need to complete a Pre-evaluation form and turn in by the end of today's session.

Instructors

*Please go over the Check Box with **all** children (together).*

Check Box

Once children are assigned their plots, after registration, have them **sign-in** and show them where their section and individual plots are. Instructors and Volunteers should introduce themselves and welcome the children and parents to the program. The **Lead Instructor** of each section will go over the **history** of the program. If any information is not correct on the Section Roster Contact Information, make sure that the Registrar Staff corrects any changes for next week to include adding their email address.

The **Lead Instructor** of each section will go over the **daily garden checklist** with **ALL** the children and their parents. Don't forget to mention where the restroom facilities are located. Explain the importance of what is expected and of keeping a well-organized reference folder and gardening journal.

Stress the importance of being on time and ready to garden. Encourage the parents and children to be here as early as **8 am**, on the first day on February 16. After that, they can arrive at 8:50 am.

Please be here the first Saturday at **7:30 am** sharp, and thereafter at 8 am, to help set up, meet, and plan with **Gina, Main Lead**; as well as, to meet with the other section team members to plan the morning out. **SHOWING** up late puts everything behind and promotes problems. We have to work together your section to make the Children's Vegetable Garden succeed.

Instructions to Children

Please go over the Check Box

- Do not to walk in or on any of the beds. It's very hard to replace irrigation lines and broken boards. If there are any issues or concerns, please notify Miss Gina.
- Flag any fire ant mounds.
- Pick up debris in-and-around your section and walkways. This includes any weeds, rocks or trash. Throw material away in assigned trash cans. **DO NOT PUT ANYTHING IN THE COMPOST BINS.**
- 3 cups of natural derived organic granulated fertilizer should be evenly applied throughout each individual plot. This includes a half a cup inside each of the two tomato cages and the remaining 2 cups evenly distributed throughout the plot.
- Level and rake plot area to scratch the existing fertilizer in. Discard all rocks, large debris, weeds and any plants (lettuce and carrots). **WE ARE NOT TILLING OR DIGGING DEEP INTO THE SOIL!**
- Cover the inside of both tomato cages with about 2 inches of finished compost. Try not to remove the cages. The compost is located center of the garden area (Special Section Area).
- Use caution when using the wheel barrows around the wood and irrigation lines.

We start planting today!

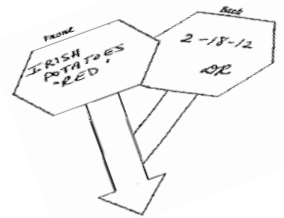
Today we are planting: 8 white Irish potato pieces, 2 broccoli transplants; 2 cabbage transplants, 10 yellow and 10 white onion sets. Look at Planting Guide and at the [Example Plot](#).

- Handle plants and seeds carefully at all times.
- Use the irrigation on/off valve as a guideline.

- Irish potatoes 'White Kennebec':** Locate the area of your plot between the two tomato cages. We will be planting two rows of potatoes with four seed pieces each today. Two trenches will need to be dug evenly from one tomato cage to the other, leaving at least 4-6 inches away from the sides of the plot. Each row should be about a foot apart from one another. Try to pile the soil in the middle of the plot. Each trench for the white Irish potatoes should be about 3 inches deep. Each trench should be dusted with a half a cup of rock phosphate. Space the individual seed pieces (cut side down) into their appropriate trenches. Each potato should be evenly spaced about 10-12 inches apart, as well as, the same distance away from each tomato cage. Back fill the soil into the trenches and lightly level the area out. Do not pack the soil. Notice the [Example Plot](#): the middle is shallower than the two planted rows. This will be important later for piling up the soil on the growing plants. Water the plantings with the water can.



Place one identification tag in this planted area. The tag should have the name of the plant as well as a date and the gardener's initials. See example: (Front) Irish potatoes white and (Back) 2/16/12 DR.



□ **Broccoli Transplants ‘Green Magic’:** Locate the last tomato cage in the plot furthest away from your on/off irrigation valve. Go 18 inches out from the outside of the middle of the tomato cage into the plot then 8-10 inches up and 8-10 inches down (when in doubt, observe the [Example Plot](#)). Plant the transplants a little deeper than the soil line of their containers, possibly covering the purple color of the main stem and or just below the seedling leave. **Do not remove the peat pot.** The plants should be nice and erect. Firm the soil around the plant. Lightly water the plants with the water can. Place one identification tag in this planted area.

□ **Head Cabbage ‘Cheers’:** Proceed 18 inches away from the center of each broccoli plant towards the end of your plot. Plant each cabbage transplant a little deeper than the soil line of their containers, possibly covering the purple color of the main stem and/or just below the seedling leave. **Do not remove the peat pot.** The plants should be nice and erect. Firm the soil around the plant. Lightly water the plants with the water can. Place one identification tag in this planted area.

□ **White Onion sets:** [Instructor's: you only need one bunch of onions per section. One bunch of planting onions should have about 60 to 100 sets/plants for the entire section.] The small ones will grow as good as the big ones. Go 18 inches away from the recently planted cabbage transplants and plant one row of 5 onion bulblets up and down the plot and evenly spaced out. The second row of 5 onions should be about a foot apart from the first row. Each individual onion plant should be planted about 5-to-6 inches apart. This is a total of 10 plants for the two rows.

Each plant should be planted as deep as the bulb starts tapering up. Make a planting trench about 1-to-2 inches deep and lightly dust the trench with some soft rock phosphate. The onion plants should be firmed-in, nice and straight, after they are watered. Finish the onion section with one identification tag. **Note:** 6 inches of space should be left at the very end of the plot.

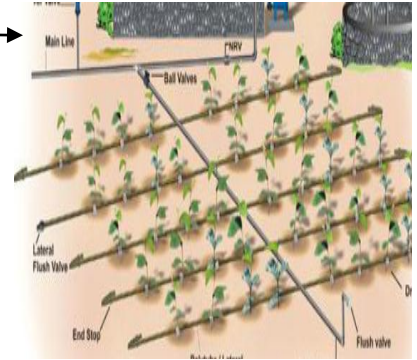
□ **Yellow Onion sets:** Follow the same procedures as the white onion planting, but situate yourself at the very front of your plot where the on/off valve is located. [Instructor's: you only need one bunch of onions per section. One bunch of planting onions should have about 60 to 100 sets/plants for the entire section.] The small onions will grow as good as the big ones. Go 18 inches away from the recently planted cabbage transplants and plant one row of 5 onion bulblets up and down the plot and evenly spaced out. The second row of 5 onions should be about a foot apart from the first row. Each individual onion plant should be planted about 5-to-6 inches apart. This is a total of 10 plants needed for the two rows.

Each plant should be planted as deep as the bulb starts tapering up. Make a planting trench about 1-to-2 inches deep and lightly dust the trench with some soft rock phosphate. The onion plants should be firmed-in, nice and straight, after they are watered. Finish the onion section with one identification tag. **Note:** 6 inches of space should be left at the very end of the plot.

Become familiar with the irrigation system.

Without getting anyone wet, water planting area with low pressure for about **10 to 15 minutes**. **Do not flood plots on walk-ways. If the plots start flooding, let them drain a little, then proceed in watering again. DO NOT RELY ON THE SYSTEM TO WATER NEWLY PLANTED TRANSPLANTS.**

If your irrigation system cannot be fixed, notify your Instructor.
[Instructor: see if you can unclog, if not, flag it and provide **Miss Gina** with the section number and problem.]



Starter Solution: Fertilize all of today's new vegetable transplants with a quarter of a gallon of Hasta- Gro starter mix. Due to the weight of the water can (2 gals), Instructors will mix 1 oz. of Hasta-Gro with half of the water can, about 1 gallon of water (not full water can). Each plot today will only need a quarter bucket of mixed liquid fertilizer. This means that half a water can of mixed fertilizer should do four plots. Do not let any of this fertilizer get on the leaves, just on the soil around the plants.

Are you completely finished? Has your Instructor or Garden Mentor walked your plot and section? Does everything look good and clean? No weeds, no trash, no rocks, etc. All plants watered? All tools placed in tool shed up? What did you learn today? What time are you suppose to be here next week?

Does Miss Gina have any 'Special Chores' for your Section? Has everyone met Miss Gina?

Homework! Everyone should know what they are planting this season? Go to the produce section this week at your favorite grocery store and look what the farmer is shipping to market. Look at what the vegetables costs. Start researching on how to prepare these vegetables.

INSTRUCTORS: Make sure **all** volunteers and children sign-in and out every week and check with Miss Gina before you leave.

Thanks Everyone! It's going to be a great spring.

David Rodriguez

