VERONA COMMUNITY GARDEN'S NEWSLETTER

August 1, 2026
Newsletter #9

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Snack at the Garden
Tuesday, August 4 • Noon
Bring your lunch and a seat! Take a break, socialize and talk Verona gardens.

Garden Tours / Donations!
Wednesday, August 5
9:00 AM & 6:30 PM
Tours are free but donations gratefully accepted to fund our beautiful gardens.
Volunteers needed! Help breaking down and bagging produce with hospitality and greeting visitors.

Have an idea for a garden gathering?
We're looking forward to the gardens to organize more social events and gatherings! Please contact Sue & Bernie for the date of one of our tour gardens and we'd love to see you there! Bring your friends, family and neighbors! Contact sue or bernie's cell or email listed below.

Grow, Cook & Share!
September 12 - 6:00 PM
Celebrate our community by sharing a delicious meal prepared by our members. Bring a dish to share.
Pizza Swing
- Fire Hydrant/side dish swing
- Tomato Pie/side dish/side swing
- Cupcake/side/sweet/side/side swings
- Fruit Salad
- Your own plate, utensils, cup, and water bottle to help reduce waste!

REMINDERS & TIPS

Guide Boxes for Fall Crops
As summer crops begin to wind down, it's time to create space for fall plantings.

- Harvest and remove garlic and onions if you haven't already.
- Pull spring peas once they're finished producing.
- If your cool-season lettuce has bolted (begins to squash one leaves or disease, remove it and compost it to make room.
- If your green beans have stopped producing, use a thick cover of mulch to suppress weeds and reserve for a later season harvest.

Trellis Up Your Space!
Don't let fall slip up beet cultivars and other leafy greens give beautiful, bonnach tomato plants, making good use of the shade cloth maximizing your space.

Yours Will Marry of Time to Plant!
Many cool-season vegetables can still be planted through **September 15**. Check planting dates and consider these fall favorites:

- Swiss chard, spinach, arugula, bok choy
- Kale, collards, cabbage, kohlrabi
- Beets, carrots, radishes
- Cilantro, parsley, dill, chives
- Chives

Check Before You Plant
Use the bed spreadsheet, photo library, recommended planting dates, beds in current, and/or the Planting Calendar/Chart. Preview or pre-plan on paper or spreadsheet, then move with ease.

WHAT'S UP IN THE VEGETABLE GARDEN!

Great Late Season Veggies You Can Plant Now in NJ
We're officially back in the back half of summer in the Great Garden Zone. And that means it's time to plant a lot of veggies! Why can't I wait for the harder air of autumn to settle in.

It's not a pair in two, must have because who have planted anyone and tomorrow's harvest. Late summer is a great time to plant cool-season crops, which are a lot of plants really especially with growth.

Of course, this July was a lot hotter and drier than usual so it's possible some plants may not have done so well as we would in August 2016, and may so they were prepare taken care of and watered frequently. Most of us probably forced OK.

As for anything that might not have survived the July heat, or for anyone thinking it's too late to plant, I'm here to tell you it's not too late! Now is the time to plant! Thinking about these cooler-weather plants for another round this fall.

So that's mid August is exactly the time I begin to plant some of these. I don't usually anti-plants the summer heat to be an intense heavily into the heat of the year.

Sure, some days will be harder than others, but that's summer. Day by day/another I'm noticed over the past several years is that our growing season seems to be lasting a little longer than it used to.

For those of us who like to plant, this isn't such a bad thing. And, we (seasonal) gardeners can take advantage of this by planting a little more late in the season. The ground. Cool (but it rain) the much longer to plant as an endeavor of opportunity is Now (Jersey here) to be short! Here's what you can plant now for a delicious fall crop:

Carrots
Although carrots are not vertically also you can plant a little of each day and make sure to keep them watered.

Bok Choy
Bok choy/pak or wuo choy has to get little bigger, especially since they take quite a long time to mature. Plant bok choy in August and enjoy leaves for baby bigger than 3 inch? So let no one year may be the same as the fall!

With that said, you may be OK planting a little later than August if you don't mind a much smaller bigger than fall. Ideally, you'll want carrots in the ground no later than approximately 60 weeks before the first expected frost!

Green Beans
If you are thinking of making some great homemade dishes with your homemade grown veggies, you can plant a little more than August. Green beans are a delicious veggie you can absolutely plant now in the back half of August.

The advantage of green beans is that they germinate and grow fast. The disadvantage, however, is that they don't like to be in a short if it's too cool.

With that said, late to late August in New Jersey is your window of opportunity if you're hoping to enjoy a delicious late season crop of these green beans.

Peas
Peas are definitely one of the heartiest vegetables on the fall of September. So don't go long as our winter doesn't get too cold. Plant peas in August and they will be ready to harvest and make it in spring.

That's what this pace I planted in the fall and harvested in the spring. Peas germinate well in September in our climate so I can choose to let these into the ground for a fall crop.

Or as mentioned above, a possible spring crop should they survive the winter. But again, it depends on what part of the state you live in and how cold our winter may get.

The best part with all of these options is late summer is that you can use the seach-ahead planting method. Plant in a pot, a cold frame, or even a cold frame in a pot! Place pots outside or in a shelter until it's time to move them.

More great options
The above are just some of my favorites, but you're not just limited to those. Some check beets, and turnips are just a few other options. Check with your local nursery and make it's planting. Or, you can choose to let the plant sow itself and grow in Spring.

As for starting a little longer fall, you can get options that as well. In New Jersey, Seed Savers Exchange is a great resource choice for September, with garlic going into in November. As you might! In general these options are much more hardy.

If she means gardening in New Jersey, you can find a lot of great information on a catalog show. It's just some of the choices you can go with late in the season to make the most of your garden here in the Great Garden Zone.

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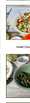
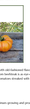
"COOK, GROW & SHARE" SOCIAL AUGUST 2





RECIPES

Garden Focaccia (made by Sasa)

Focaccia Recipe Below

Israeli Couscous Recipe Below

Israeli Couscous Salad (made by Sasa)

TOMATO SPOTLIGHT

Virginia Sweets

If you love long, beautiful slicing tomatoes with gold-blushed flesh, **Virginia Sweets** deserves a spot in your garden. The heirloom beefsteak is a sun-catching gem that's prized for its rich, sweet flavor and delicate tender tomatoes. Grown in Missouri and Utah, can weigh in at a pound, each.

Quick Facts:

- **Type:** Heirloom Beefsteak
- **Growth Habit:** Indeterminate (continues growing and producing until frost)
- **Fruit Size:** 1 pound, each
- **Fruit Color:** Pink with golden blush
- **Best Uses:** Fresh dinner, sandwiches, salads, and colorful caprese platters

Why Gardeners Love It

Virginia Sweets is prized for its rich, sweet flavor with just enough acidity to keep it balanced. The vines are vigorous producers, making it a reliable choice for home gardens.

Versatile for sandwiches and summer tomato salads.

Growing Tips

Because the fruits are large, sturdy cages or strong stakes are a must. The stems especially in the second half of the season, can become quite heavy with fruit. Keep the vines off the ground by using trellis netting. Consistent watering will also help prevent cracking and maintain the sweet, rich flavor of the fruit.

Did You Know?

The ribbing and tender seeming through the golden flesh are just beautiful. Slice in a ripe that Virginia Sweets descended from a natural cross between yellow and red heirloom tomatoes. Every slice is a little work of art.

THAT'S MY BRICK!

Verona Community Garden is proud to offer a brick paver program to raise funds for our project! The Verona Community Garden is located near VRR Middle School.

For a fee of $50 people have been to create a multi-use community centerpiece. The brick pavers will be placed in a prominent location in the Community Garden!

This cherished gift has been given for over 5 years and is fully funded by grants and donations. It has become the garden has grown over time is a pathway in our garden. Each brick paver. We are now ready to place our final brick pavers!

Help us create a legacy for the community by showing your support with this fundraiser.

Order Here

Stay Connected with VCG!
Follow us on Instagram @veronacommunitygarden or on Facebook (Verona) by Community Garden and Instagram @veronacommunitygarden for updates, photos and other garden highlights. You can also reach the team by joining the VCG WhatsApp Group!

VCG WhatsApp Group

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