



VERONA COMMUNITY GARDEN



WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

APRIL 11, 2025

Garden Activities



To open the front gate, push down on the handle.

The water will not be turned on until later in April.

All refuse and plant waste must be taken away from the garden. The black municipal trash can is not for garden waste.

The shed bulletin board has information regarding bed assignments, plot map and planting calendars. Be sure to check it often.

Tools and gloves in the shed are community property. Tomato cages, fertilizers and certain other items are for executive committee and school use only.

The metal beds in the public park area are maintained by committee members and students. The crops from these beds are donated to Hillwood Terrace apartment residents and others.

You can use the back gate if it is easier for you to park in the gravel lot.

When purchasing plants, please patronize our partners Hillcrest Farms and Pleasantdale Nursery. Just because it is on sale at the garden center does not mean it is time to plant outside.

Check the planting calendars sent to you and posted on the shed bulletin board.

Each gardener should have a bucket or tote containing the following:
Gloves, a pruner, a snip (small pointed shears), a trowel, a claw rake, string, bags for harvest and bags for waste. A spray bottle of alcohol is very useful for cleaning tools. Alternatively, something along these lines are useful. Garden tools and Tote Set.

https://www.homedepot.com/p/Pure-Garden-8-25-in-Garden-Tool-and-Tote-Set-8-Piece-75-08002/206726394?source=shoppingads&locale=en-US&srltid=AfmBOoowDXbX33JdkaRJOCUA9MAXxydCs4c_FJ_w7sFfnOuc0b1zzFincXw&gQT=1#overlay

Reminders



Make up orientation April 12 9:00am.
Hands-on bed prep and planning mini-workshop and Q & A to follow.

Rain Date for April 12th Orientation, Work Day and Mini-Workshop is April 27th.

The water is turned on.

If you could not make it to our work day, please feel free to use the wheelbarrows to bring soil from the large pile toward the right of the garden over to the metal beds. The metal park beds all need to be filled to three inches from the top.

Students will be in the garden at various times during the day. If you are there at the same time we ask that you NOT engage with those classes.

Workshop schedule:

<http://braccofarms.com/farmtalks.html>

Tuesday, April 29th at 6:30 p.m. for Victory Gardens

This week in the garden...

Square Foot Garden

Plant Spacing Chart

The square foot garden model was developed by Mel Bartholomew and explained in the book, All New Square Foot Gardening originally published in 1981. The book has been updated several times over the years with revised information and additional projects to enhance your square foot garden. Since it works so well, the original concept of square foot gardening remains the same.

The basic concept of square foot gardening involves building a small garden bed out of 2×6 inch boards, filling the bed with a soil blend called Mel's Mix, dividing the bed into one-foot sections, and planting each square according to the plant

spacing.

The square foot gardening method continues to be a popular way to grow an intensive vegetable garden in less space and with less work.

10 Benefits of the Square Foot Garden Method

Some of the benefits to square foot gardening:

Quick Setup: Square foot gardening is a quick way to start a new garden or expand a garden. Once you have gathered your material, you can build, fill, and start planting the same day.

Easy to Plan: The square foot gardening concept is simple and organized. Since the beds are divided into squares, it is easy to plot your growing beds according to the charts in the

book.

No Digging: You don't have to worry about digging a garden because the raised beds are placed on top of the ground eliminating the need to dig or till a garden. The grass decomposes naturally beneath the bed.

Start with Healthy Soil: Building raised beds and filling with quality soil gives you an immediate advantage over a regular garden because you are starting out with soil that is rich in nutrients and organic matter.

No Soil Compaction: Since you never walk on the beds, the soil stays loose and is able to hold water, provide oxygen to the plant roots, and maintain a flourishing microbiological environment that is ideal for plant growth.

For beginner gardeners, start small, choose plants well-suited to your climate and sunlight conditions, prepare your soil by amending it with nutrients, water regularly but avoid overwatering, weed consistently, and be patient as you learn about plant care and pest management; consider starting with easy-to-grow vegetables like tomatoes, lettuce, or herbs, and always research the specific needs of the plants you choose to cultivate.

Some beginner-friendly plants to consider:

- Vegetables: Tomatoes, lettuce, cucumbers, carrots, radishes, zucchini, peppers
- Herbs: Basil, mint, parsley, cilantro, rosemary, thyme
- Flowers: Marigolds, sunflowers, zinnias, petunias, cosmos



This week in the garden...

Warmer soil: The soil in raised beds drains and warms quicker in spring allowing you to start planting spring greens sooner. In addition, heat-loving plants such as eggplant, peppers, and tomatoes prefer a warm soil so they will flourish in raised beds.

Less Weeding: Since you are starting with fresh soil, there are fewer weeds for the first few years. Intensive planting also shades the soil and helps prevent weeds from growing. Weed seeds do blow in over time, but they are easy to manage. Weeds pull out easily since the soil is fluffy and loose.

Easy to Water: Since the beds are small, it is easy to provide moisture to the crops and not waste water by watering the garden space.

Easy Upkeep: Just like all living things, soil needs to be fed in order to provide a healthy environment to grow your vegetables. Simply adding organic matter each year will maintain the texture of your soil and replenish nutrients.

Adding a trellis to the north side of the bed allows you to grow vining crops such as pole beans, indeterminate tomatoes, or cucumbers. Crisscross two 10-foot pieces of PVC and you have a dome that you can drape with plastic for some frost protection, deer netting to keep critters out, or row covers to keep insects off the plants.

Greater Yield: Since there are no paths between rows, there is no wasted space. This intensive planting results in a greater yield.

Square foot gardening allows you to plant much closer. In order to make growing a garden easier, we have put together a plant spacing chart to help you.

- Arugula - 4 plants per square
- Basil - 4 plants per square
- Bean-Bush - 1-4 plants per square
- Bean-Pole - 1-4 plants per square
- Beets - 9 plants per square
- Broccoli - 1 (18" spacing is best)
- Brussels Sprouts - 1 plant per square
- Cabbage - 1 plant per square
- Chinese Cabbage - 9 plants per square
- Carrots - 16 plants per square
- Cauliflower - 1 (18" spacing is best)
- Corn - 4 plants per square

Verona Community Garden Walkway-

Building a Legacy One Brick at a Time

Verona Community Garden and That's My Brick!® have joined forces to raise money for our project! The Verona Community Garden is located near HBW middle school. The goal of this space has been to create a multi-use community centerpiece. The garden has given community members an opportunity to learn, connect and grow together. This cherished spot has grown over the last 4 years and is fully funded by grants and donations. As the demand for the garden has grown we are in need of a walkway in our public section of the garden. We are asking for your support through an engraved brick fundraiser. Help us create a legacy for the community by showing your support with this fundraiser.

How to Order:

Just follow the simple step-by-step process below to place your order in the link below. Be sure you are happy with your brick design as it will look very similar to the image on your computer when completed.

<https://www.thatsmybrick.com/veronagarden>



This week in the garden...

- Cucumber - 2 plants per square
- Eggplant - 1 plant per square
- Greens (Baby Harvest) - 16 plants per square
- Greens (Mature Harvest) - 4-8 plants per square
- Kale - 1 plant per square
- Kohlrabi - 4 plants per square
- Leeks - 4-8 plants per square
- Lettuce (Heading) - 1-4
- Lettuce (Loose Leaf) - 4 plants per square
- Okra - 1 plant per square
- Onion - 9 plants per square
- Parsnips - 16 plants per square
- Peas - 1 plant per square
- Peppers - 1 plant per square
- Pigeon Peas - 1 plant per square
- Pumpkin - 1 plant per square
- Radicchio - 2-4 plants per square
- Radish - 16 plants per square
- Rhubarb - 1 plant per square
- Shallots - 4 plants per square
- Spinach - 9 plants per square
- Squash (Summer) - 1 plant per square
- Squash (Winter) - 1 plant per square
- Sweet Potato - 1 plant per square
- Swiss Chard - 4 plants per square
- Tomatillo - 1 plant per square
- Tomatoes - 1 plant per square
- Turnips - 9 plants per square
- Basil - 4 plants per square
- Calendula - 1-4 plants per square
- Chives - 9 plants per square
- Cilantro - 9 plants per square
- Dill - 1 plant per square
- Fennel - 4 plants per square
- Oregano - 1 plant per square
- Parsley - 1 plant per square
- Rosemary - 1 plant per square
- Sage - 1 plant per square
- Tarragon - 1 plant per square
- Thyme - 4 plants per square



The Summer Day Emily Dickinson

Who made the world?
Who made the swan, and the black bear?
Who made the grasshopper?
This grasshopper, I mean –
the one who has flung herself out of the grass,
the one who is eating sugar out of my hand,
who is moving her jaws back and forth instead of
up and down –
who is gazing around with her enormous and
complicated eyes.
Now she lifts her pale forearms and thoroughly
washes her face.
Now she snaps her wings open, and floats away.



I don't know exactly what a prayer is.
I do know how to pay attention, how to fall
down
into the grass, how to kneel down in the
grass,
how to be idle and blessed, how to stroll
through the fields,
which is what I have been doing all day.
Tell me, what else should I have done?
Doesn't everything die at last, and too soon?
Tell me, what is it you plan to do
with your one wild and precious life?

This week in the garden...

Zone 7 - Monthly Garden Calendar: Chores and Planting Guide

April

April is the month that Zone 7 has its average last frost. After the last frost date, it is generally considered safe to plant tender seedlings outdoors. Last frost dates are estimates, so while you can anticipate the last frost, your best bet is to rely on the weather forecast or local recommendations!

Scatter annual flower seeds in flower borders. The fine seeds need no covering. The plants grow rapidly and provide colorful blooms in early summer.

You can sow seeds outdoors directly into the garden for beets, carrots, Swiss chard, kohlrabi, late cabbage, leaf lettuce, mustard greens, collards, turnips, radish, spinach, bunching onions, and peas.

Plant new trees and shrubs by the end of the month.

Continue to stay on top of and pot up your tomato seedlings.

Resist planting out warm season summer veggies! The chance of a late frost is still high, and warm days can be deceiving.

You can still start seeds indoors of okra, squash, cucumber, melons, and watermelons

Sow vining crops in individual peat pots since these do not transplant well if the roots are disturbed.

Plan new landscaping projects on paper first. Do not overplant. Be sure you know the mature size of each plant and allow for growth.

Cover Brassica crops with floating row cover to protect from cabbage moth and flea beetle damage if these little critters have been a problem in the past. They tend to come out a touch early.

Keep “hilling up” potatoes.

May

May is all about getting everything in the ground! Those long season crops like peppers, corn, and tomatoes can all go in safely now.

You can keep starting okra, squash, cucumber, melons, and watermelons indoors. Sow vining crops in individual peat pots since these do not transplant well if roots are disturbed.

Begin hardening off frost-tender plants in late April and early May, including vegetables, herbs, and flowers that have been started

indoors.

By the second week of May, it should be safe to plant almost everything outdoors. Houseplants, too, can be moved to a shady spot in the yard for their summer vacations.

Keep all direct-sown veggies well watered out in the garden. This will help with germination and establishment.

If the forecast looks good, sow seeds outdoors of beans, okra, squash, sweet corn, Southern peas, asparagus beans, and watermelon. Plant only partial rows of beans and sweet corn so that successive plantings can be done every week or two. Sweet corn should be planted in paired rows or blocks for good pollination.

Plant sweet potato slips after the soil has warmed, though this may not be until the beginning of June.

Direct sow sunflowers, nasturtiums, marigolds, borage, basil, and other warm season flowers and herbs.

Have a trellis system in place for your tomato patch before the plants begin to sprawl.

This week in the garden...

Newly transplanted vegetable plants should be protected from cutworms with collars. Cut strips of cardboard two inches wide by eight inches long, staple them into circles and place them around the plants. Press the collar about one inch into the soil. These collars will fence out the cutworms and protect the stems of the vegetable plants.

Be sure to harvest leafy greens often because they will soon bolt.

June

Keep up with that seeding! As the weather warms up, direct sow outside in successions to make sure you extend that harvest all season long! It's also time to keep an eye out for pests! Learning to identify and control pest infestations early on can make things way easier on you as the season progresses and for the years to come.

Continue to cover Brassica crops with floating row cover to protect from cabbage moth and flea beetle damage if these little critters have been a problem in the past.

Colorado potato beetle adults, eggs, and larvae can be handpicked to remove or sprayed with an organic insecticide. The adults are yellow-and-black-striped beetles. The eggs are yellow and laid in groups on the undersides of leaves. The larvae are humpbacked and red. Look for them on the stem tips. They are present almost all season.

Also keep an eye out for striped and spotted cucumber beetles. They transmit bacterial wilt to squashes and melons. Adults and eggs can be handpicked throughout the season.

Watch out for Mexican bean beetles. To be on the safe side, you can cover the entire crop with floating row cover as soon as seedlings emerge.

Aphids of all types show up on a range of host plants as soon as the warm weather arrives. Look for them in newly unfurling foliage. Sticky leaves are also a sign of their presence since they secrete a 'honeydew.' While it can be alarming, the honeydew itself doesn't damage the leaves. Aphids, however, do damage the plant. Spray leaves with a strong jet of water to dislodge

most of them. Insecticidal soap is an organic approved product that provides pretty good control as long as the insects are wet enough. A second and third treatment to kill newly hatched eggs may be needed in five to seven days.

Squash vine borer adults are one inch long, orange and green day-flying moths that are emerging from the soil about now. They lay brown, button-shaped, 1/16 inch eggs at the base of the vines of summer and winter squashes. Examine stems daily and remove eggs by hand to prevent burrowing of larvae as they hatch. Wrap lower 6 to 12 inches of stem with aluminum foil or floating row cover to prevent egg laying.

Keep direct sowing sunflowers, nasturtiums, marigolds, borage, basil, and other warm season flowers and herbs.

The beginning of June is an excellent time to take softwood cuttings of shrubs to start new plants. Some shrubs that can be propagated in this way are spirea, lilac, and viburnum.

This week in the garden...

Stay out of the garden when the vegetable plant leaves are wet. Walking through a wet garden spreads disease from one plant to another.

After your vegetable garden is well established, it is best to water it thoroughly once a week rather than giving it a light watering every day. That way, a deeper root system is encouraged to develop, which will later help the plants tolerate dry weather.

Keep a close eye on the quality of your spring crops. Hot weather causes lettuce to bolt and become bitter. Plant a warm season crop as soon as the spring vegetables are harvested.

In most cases, blossom end rot on tomatoes, peppers, squash, and watermelons can be prevented. Do this by maintaining uniform soil moisture by mulching and watering correctly, planting in well-drained soil, and not cultivating deeper than one inch within one foot of the plant. Blossom end rot can also be corrected with an application of calcium-heavy fertilizer such as bone meal. Avoiding high nitrogen fertilizers can also help.

Continue planting direct-seeded, warm season vegetable crops such as beans, summer squash, and cucumbers.

Garden flowers, whether annuals or perennials, benefit from "deadheading" after flowering. By removing the spent flower heads, energy is used to produce more flowers, foliage, and roots. Many will produce another flush of blooms.

Flowering requires lots of energy so it can be helpful to fertilize annual plants with a balanced fertilizer once flowering begins. Fertilize one more time before the end of the season.

Weed the garden regularly to keep the task easy and manageable.

There is still time to plant heat-loving Southern peas and asparagus beans.

Pinch the flowers off of herbs like basil, mint, and oregano to promote bushy growth.

Harvest onions and garlic as the tops dry and fall over. Braid garlic tops and hang in a cool, dry place. Cut onion tops back to one inch and dry thoroughly before storing. Use any damaged produce immediately.

What To Plant in Zones 7-8

Sow Outdoors:

- Asian Greens (Starting mid-March)
- Asparagus
- Broccoli (late March-April)
- Brussels Sprouts*
- Cabbage*
- Cauliflower*
- Celery
- Horseradish
- Kale
- Lettuce
- Onions
- Potatoes
- Radicchio*
- Spinach*
- Blackberry Plants
- Blueberry Plants
- Currant
- Figs
- Fruit Trees
- Grapes
- Raspberry Plants
- Strawberry Plants

*Varieties marked with an asterisk denote varieties that can be planted indoors by early march, and can start being planted outdoors in late March.



This week in the garden...



Fancy Crepes With Berries in Grand Marnier Syrup

Servings: 12

Though the original recipe calls for Grand Marnier, you can substitute Cointreau or any other orange-flavored liqueur or fruit brandy of your choice. Many liquor stores sell single-serving “nips” or “airplane” bottles.

Ingredients

Fruit topping

- (make 3 hours ahead of serving)
- 1 pint strawberries, hulled and cut in half
- 1/2 pint blackberries
- 1/2 pint blueberries
- 1/2 pint raspberries
- 1 cup sugar
- 1 tablespoon fresh lemon juice
- 1/4 cup fresh orange juice
- 1/2 cup Grand Marnier or other orange liqueur

Instructions

Combine the berries in a large bowl and set aside. In a small saucepan, bring the sugar and 1 cup of water to a boil. Stir in the lemon juice, orange juice, and Grand Marnier. Remove the pan from the heat and set aside for 5 minutes to cool. Pour the syrup over the berries, then store in the refrigerator.

Ingredients

Crepes

- (make at least 1 hour ahead)
- 3/4 cup all-purpose flour
- 1 tablespoon sugar
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 2 eggs
- 1 cup milk
- 2 tablespoons vegetable oil
- 1 tablespoon Grand Marnier or other orange liqueur
- 2 tablespoons butter

Instructions

In a blender or food processor, combine all of the ingredients except the butter and blend until smooth, stopping occasionally to scrape down the sides of the container. Cover and chill the batter (for at least 1 hour, make ahead if you wish).

In a 6-inch skillet or crepe pan over medium heat, melt the butter. Add 3 tablespoons of

batter and quickly tilt the skillet in all directions until the batter covers the bottom. Cook for 1 minute, or until the crepe shakes loose easily from the skillet. With a spatula, flip the crepe and cook it for about 30 seconds on the other side. Repeat the procedure with the remaining batter, adding more butter if necessary.

Stack the crepes between sheets of wax paper and cover with a clean dish towel until ready to serve, or store in a heavy-duty plastic bag for up to 3 days in the refrigerator or up to 4 months in the freezer.

Ingredients

Whipped Cream

- (make 1 hour ahead)
- 2 cups heavy cream
- 3 tablespoons confectioners' sugar
- 1/2 teaspoon vanilla extract

Instructions

Beat the cream until it is foamy. Gradually add the sugar and vanilla, beating until soft peaks form, then set aside.

Gently warm the berries over low heat. Spoon about 1/3 cup of whipped cream into the center of each crepe. Roll up the crepes and arrange them .

This week in the garden...



on individual serving plates.
Top with the warmed berries.

Almanac

February 21, 2024



Champagne Mimosa

Servings: 1

Champagne Mimosas are a sophisticated treat with brunch. Dress them up by serving in tulip glasses on ice or simply multiply the recipe and fill up a pitcher.

If you can swing it, use fresh-squeezed orange juice. Also, we would recommend a dry champagne or sparkling wine (such as a “Cava”), not a sweet wine.

A classic mimosa recipe calls for equal parts sparkling wine to orange juice, however, you can certainly adjust the recipe to have less (or more) alcohol if desired.

For a festive touch, add a splash of cranberry juice. For something special, add a tablespoon of liqueur like Grand Marnier or Chambord. For a mimosa mocktail, use sparkling soda.

Ingredients

- 1/3 cup chilled champagne or sparkling wine
- 1/3 cup chilled orange juice
- Optional: 2 dashes bitters
- Orange slice, for garnish

Instructions

Pour the champagne or sparkling wine into the glass first. Then, add the orange juice. Do not stir. Optional: Add bitters. Garnish with an orange slice.

Almanac

December 30, 2021



Virgin Mimosa

Prep Time: 5 minutes

Total Time: 5 minutes

Servings: 3

Ingredients

- 8 ounces Orange Juice
- 4 ounces Limeade
- 4 ounces Lemon-Lime Soda
- Orange Slices optional
- Strawberries optional

Instructions

1. Fill the glasses about a third to half-way full of the orange juice.
2. Next, add the limeade. You want about half as much limeade as orange juice. The glass will now be about three-quarters full.
3. Top off with lemon-lime soda.
4. Stir gently. Garnish if desired and serve.

Cook This Again Mom