

MANHATTAN COMMUNITY GARDEN

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

<i>President's Corner</i>	2
<i>Tiller Clinics</i>	2
<i>Meet the Board</i>	3
<i>Workdays and Socials</i>	4-5
<i>Weed Prevention</i>	6
<i>Upcoming Classes and Events</i>	7
<i>Seed & Planting Calendar for Kansas</i>	8
<i>Recommended Vegetable Varieties</i>	9

"If spring came but once a century instead of once a year, or burst forth with the sound of an earthquake and not in silence, what wonder and expectation there would be in all hearts to behold the miraculous change. "



Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

COMMUNITY GARDEN MENTORING PROGRAM

LOOKING FOR MCG GARDENERS TO BECOME GARDEN MENTORS & MENTEES

The MCG is currently looking for gardeners interested in becoming a part of the MCG Mentoring Program. The mentoring program was established last year to create a way for community gardeners to share knowledge with others in hopes of creating more confident, productive gardeners. The program was also established as a way to connect gardeners who might be looking for a little extra help in their garden with gardeners who would be willing to lend a hand.

Interested gardeners can become involved in one of two ways:

As a Mentor

- You have experience and/or skill in some aspect of gardening

that you would like to share with others.

- You might need a little assistance with caring for your garden at times such as those 'hard work' garden tasks.



- In exchange for labor, you might be willing to share your garden's produce with your mentee (you may or may not choose to share things from your garden).

As a Mentee

- You are a novice gardener and you want to learn about gardening in general or some specific aspect of growing crops that you know little about.
- You are new to our country or region and would like to learn more about how to grow things here in Kansas.
- You may want or need just a little 'coaching' now and then or you may want to assist someone else with specific needs such as 'hard work' garden tasks.

Article continued on pg. 3

Equipment Orientation for All Gardeners

Orientation sessions for new gardeners and returning gardeners will be conducted on:

February 22nd -5:15 PM

February 24th -5:15 PM,

February 26th -10:00 AM

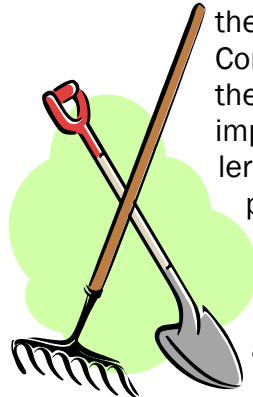
All sessions will be held at the Equipment Shed. Gardeners need to attend one of the three listed sessions, unless you have already attended the first orientation session on Feb. 19th. In addition to providing current information

regarding equipment procedures, the 2011 combination for the locks on both sheds and the North Garden hydrants will be issued.

The combination to the locks will only be issued at these orientation sessions.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

After forty years in construction, I have to say this is the harshest winter I have experienced since 1971. At least we will have good subsoil moisture and the protracted low temperatures allow me ample time to browse through seed catalogs and start my seed sets. Even though this cold, snowy weather keeps us from working in our gardens, your volunteer board has been hard at work preparing for the March 5th Spring Clean-up Workday. This gardening season will be our 37th year of continuous operation as a community garden. As of this date we have nearly 20 new gardeners with one more scheduled sign-up to go. Once we have all of the plots rented out we will have over 25 new gardeners. This will be the highest number of new gardeners at MCG in recent history. I would like for all returning gardeners to be sure



to introduce themselves to the new gardeners and help them get started.

Some of the principal work activities this winter by the board and various committees included the joint efforts of the Equipment & Grounds Committees. If you think the Tool Shed is a decided improvement, tell Pat Butler you appreciate his carpentry skills. When you return to work your garden plots this spring you will find a very neat and orderly shed with new shelving, new gasoline dispensers, and eight additional racks to hold all the tools in a safe fashion. Let's keep the shed organized and clean by returning the tools to their proper location. All of the power equipment has been serviced and all of the hand tools have been sharpened. The Rules & Safety Committee is currently updating the guidelines and you will receive a copy of the revised rules in the near

future. We are continuing the Mentoring Program initiated by Chuck Marr and coordinated by Erika Huber. We encourage all new gardeners to participate in this program and we will need a corresponding number of current gardeners to partner with and mentor new gardeners. The very popular and extremely useful Electronic Newsletter will return the week of February 18th. The Equipment Committee will conduct Tiller Clinics this spring for new gardeners and for returning gardeners who would like to refresh their skills.

All we need now is for spring to arrive so we can start working our gardens! You will find listed elsewhere in this newsletter the names and contact information for your 2011 board. Feel free to contact any board member if you have questions or concerns about MCG. If you wish to contact me I can usually be found at the Equipment Shed or working my plots in the East Garden and I will meet all of you at the Equipment Orientation sessions.

-Dick Green

UPCOMING TILLER CLINICS

A Tiller Clinic for New Gardeners and Returning Gardeners who would like to review, renew and refresh their skills on the proper operation of our tillers will be conducted by the Equipment Committee. All sessions will be held at the Equipment Shed. Topics to be covered will include the techniques and procedures for each type of tiller. MCG has 3 front tined tillers and 1 rear tined tiller for all gardeners to use. Each Style of tiller

works a little differently and there are even differences between the front tined tillers that have frustrated many of our gardeners. There is one procedure in particular that is quite helpful regarding the rear tined tiller. Clinic participants will receive hands on training with each type of tiller. So come in your work clothes and try your hand at pre-check-out, starting, transporting, controlling tiller depth, and post-use

check procedures. The 1st clinic is March 3rd @ 5:15 PM and the 2nd clinic will held after the March 5th Workday wraps up. **Please note:** the tiller training clinic is a separate and distinct program from the equipment orientation sessions.



MEET THE 2011 MCG BOARD

Board Members' Contact Information

Name	Office	Committee	Telephone	Email
Dick Green	President	Equipment	785-532-9440	harahey31@gmail.com
Ron Downey	Vice President	Rules and Safety	785-537-2129	downey@ksu.edu
Dale Stearns	Secretary	CROP Walk Liaison	785-410-4318	dnalongview@gmail.com
Linda Teener	Treasurer		785-539-8763	linda@tryufm.org
Pat Butler		Tilling & Grounds Maintenance	785-539-2857	npbutler3@gmail.com
Chris Feit		Compost and Mulch	785-395-0586	feitcr@gmail.com
Erika Huber		Newsletter & Mentoring Program	406-600-5884	erikamattson@gmail.com
Susan Oviatt		Records	785-776-0801	susanovia@sbcglobal.net
Cybil Perkins		Workdays & Socials	785-587-8750	communitygarden@tryufm.org
Jean Squirres-Lake		At-Large Member	785-313-2409	jeannesquires@yahoo.com

****Please do not call MCG Board Members after 9pm.**

Mentoring Program (cont. from pg. 1)

- You may know a lot about gardening 'typical things,' but would like to learn more about preserving things you grow, growing oriental vegetables, or how to control bindweed, for example.

***It is possible that you may want to be both a mentor and a mentee. For example, you may know a lot about growing vegetables, but want to learn more about growing flowers, small fruit, or organic gardening practices.*

How Will It Work: After indicating your interest in participating in the program, you will be sent a brief survey to fill out (either electronically or by mail). The program will be coordinated by Erika Huber, a MCG Board Member. Erika will 'match' interested mentors and mentees based on their survey responses (i.e. interests, knowledge, availability, etc.). The survey responses will be confidential – only shared with your 'match' gardener. You will then determine with your match' how you wish to collaborate, how often

to meet and/or how you will communicate with each other.

How To Participate: Contact Erika Huber @ erikamattson@gmail.com or 406-600-5884. When e-mailing, be sure to indicate if you want to receive a survey to be a Mentor, Mentee or Both. After returning your survey, Erika will contact you with your potential 'match.' We are hoping to have participants matched in the next month.

GARDEN WORKDAYS AND SOCIALS

Community Garden = Teamwork

The success of our Community Garden depends on ALL of us doing our part. To that end, each of us volunteered to help with various tasks when we signed up for our plots. Below is the summary of the 2011 Community Garden jobs that you volunteered to do. Please add these commitments to your personal calendar, if you haven't already. If a time conflict arises please reschedule by contacting Susan Oviatt at susanovia@sbcglobal.net. (Any gardener who does not fulfill their required hours of service runs the risk of not being able to sign up for a garden plot next year.)

Garden Show Workers

<u>Saturday, February 26</u>	<u>Sunday February 27</u>
9-11:00 am Bill B. & Kallie Mc. 11-1:00 pm Max U. & Jackie Mac. 1-3:00 pm Anita C. & Leroy B. 3-5 :00 pm Alan/Marilyn S. & John R.	12-1:30 pm Bill B & Joe H 1:30-3:00 pm Dean Z & John M 3:00-5:00 pm Ernie M.

Scheduled Work Days

All work days occur on Saturdays mornings. You committed to help for at least 2 hours per shift. Reminder emails will be sent to you with the time and name of the coordinating Board Member. Please meet at the shed and remember to sign in so that we have a record of your work hours.

<u>March 5</u>	<u>April 2</u>	<u>May 7</u>	<u>June 4</u>	<u>July 9</u>	<u>August 6</u>
Sharon D. Karen H. Rose & Carl H. Monica M. Malley S. Libby U. Ruth W. Liz & Robert W. Changhua Z.	Nan A. Don B. Leroy B. James C. Larry D. Rose & Carl H. Derek J. Leon L. Jack R. Rita & Fred R-N. Kimberly S. John S.	Nan A. Sylvia B. Don B. Matt & Emily B. Krugar B. Liandi L. Leon L. Jackie M. Susan P. Kimberly S. John S. Liz & Robert W.	Elena B. Corri F. Leila M. Nancy M. Livia O. Susan P. Michael R. Wilma S. Karla W.	Ron C. Annette F. Monte F. Libby J. Yuntao P. Robert R. Melissa T. Breanna U. Evan Z.	Anita C. James C. Annette F. Karen H. J David M. Robert P. Ron R. Evan T. Stuart W. Yuntao Z.

<u>September 10</u>	<u>October 15</u>	<u>November 5</u>
Jeremy & Amelia B. Sylvia B. Kruger B. Peggy A. Misha R. Carol B.	Melisa F. John R. Colleen H. Wade R. Ruth W.	Matt & Emily B. Jeremy & Amelia B. Monica M. Misha R. Brad D. Kalen M.

Scheduled Garden Socials

Garden socials are for the enjoyment and networking of ALL Community Gardeners! The people below have committed to contribute to the success of the event. Socials occur on Saturdays. The time and theme will vary. An email reminder will be sent to those listed below with the time, theme, and name of the coordinating Board Member. Please meet at the shed and sign in.

<u>April 2</u>	<u>May 7</u>	<u>June 4</u>	<u>September 10</u>	<u>November 5</u>
Malley S. Utsab C. Ana F. Breanna C. Kallia Mc. Alan & Marilyn S.	Dean Z. Utsab C. Ana F. Liandi L. Carol B. Wade R.	Nancy M. Livia O. Corri F. Wilma S. Elena B. Michael R. Karla W.	Leila M. Peggy A. Colleen H.	All Gardeners— Annual meet- ing plus potluck lunch.

Mowing

	<u>March/April</u>	<u>May</u>	<u>June</u>	<u>July</u>	<u>August</u>	<u>Sept/October</u>
<u>Garden Shed</u>	Susan s.	Al S.	Jenny C.	Joe M.	Stoner S.	Dee B.
<u>North</u>	Larry O.	Francis B.	Richard S.	Habib D.	Ernie M.	Kathy B.
<u>Organic East</u>	Doug C.	Jeff L.	John E.	Roger H.	Donn L.	Jerry V.

Flower Bed Maintenance, as needed

<u>8th Street Flower Beds</u>	<u>Shed Area Flower Beds</u>	<u>SE Parking Flower Beds</u>
Butch H. Stuart W.	Dave & Bernice S. Kalen M.	Rita & Fred R-N. Colleen H.

<u>Equipment Maintenance, as needed</u> Bruce Mc. Joe H. David H. Christopher F.	<u>Tilling, as needed</u> Richard S. Jack R. Gary N. Monte J. Derek J. Francis B.
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Attention Gardeners: Interested in having your plot tilled this spring? Contact board members, Dick Green, Pat Butler or Susan Oviatt. *Please refer to pg. 3 for board contact info. Please note: there is a \$5.00 charge for this service.

WAITING FOR SPRING: HELP US AVOID: THE DREADED ATTACK OF THE WEEDS

BY RON DOWNEY-VICE PRESIDENT

The purpose of this article is to get you thinking about your garden and what you want and will need to do to have a productive year. Planning our plot layout, buying seeds and bulbs, finding time to till, etc., are tasks we will need to do to have a bountiful garden. As a fairly new community gardener (three years), I am not the best person to help you with the planting and growing tasks. However, the one thing I do know is WEEDS.

Your weeds are not just your problem; they become your neighbors' problem. When your weeds are out of control, they infringe on all of us. They mature and spread seeds to other plots, they migrate into the paths and obstruct our movements, and they obstruct our view. In total, they become the collective gardens' problems. When your weeds are out of control, you are violating the garden's rules. **Lack of weed control is the most common rule violation we have.** This rule violation is one that you can avoid with some simple actions.

Whether an experienced gardener or a first-timer, we all have to deal with weeds. The productivity of our soil gives us both excellent vegetables and flowers, and loads of weeds. As you plan your assault on planting, you need to equally think about how you will control the coming assault of the weeds.

Weeds, including grass, create several problems. First and foremost, weeds reduce the productivity of the crops you want. They rob water and nutrients from all the things you have planted and want to grow. They compete with plants for light and make the plants spindly and less productive. They create problems when you want to harvest your produce. When the weeds grow, they make it hard to see the produce and to make your way through the garden to collect produce. Like our produce, there are different types of weeds: grasses, morning glories, pig weed, and so on and so on. Also like our produce, the weeds vary by the season. One thing you already know or will learn, once weeds and grass get a firm foot hold, they are difficult to control. I am not sure this is right, but it seems to me that the heat and lack of water doesn't hurt weeds to the same degree as it does produce.



Weed control requires constant attention. Here are some ways that you can avoid the 'Attack of the Weeds:'

- ◆ **Hoeing** – from the time you plant the first seed or plant, hoeing between the rows and the plants will help. Using a hand hoe or cultivator, or a similar tool is hard work, so leave time each trip to the garden to do this. Try the mornings when it is cooler. A sharp hoe is essential so bring a file along to keep the edge of your hoe 'as sharp as a razor'. It is also helpful to scrape the surface-not dig up a lot of soil. This kills weeds with much less physical work.
- ◆ **Mulching** – mulching is putting down a barrier to keep weeds from growing (it also helps with water retention). The garden provides us with a common mulch-dried grass. Spreading mulch between rows and around large plants, will help control the weeds and reduce the need for watering.
- ◆ **Planting** – Leaving enough room between rows and large plants (e.g., broccoli, tomatoes, etc.) will leave you the room to hoe and mulch with the added bonus of making it easier to pick produce. If you plant too close, you will have to use other methods to control weeds.

♦ **Pulling** – When all other methods fail, and they will, you will need to resort to hand pulling of weeds and grasses. Again, done early and often, hand pulling works. It is likely that you will need to pull weeds and grass from around smaller plants (carrots, radishes, etc.).

Pulling (cont.)-When weeds are too close to a large plant that may be damaged by hoeing, you will have to pull the weeds by hand.

What you want to avoid is losing control of the weeds and grass. Once this happens, gain-

upper hand on the weeds and grass becomes very difficult. Mid-summer is one of the more difficult times, when weeding during the heat of the day is very hard work: think early mornings. Be a good neighbor to those around you and to the community and cut down those weeds. Thank you!

Upcoming UFM Gardening Classes

Vegetable Gardening for Beginners

2/9/11 to 2/16/11 (W)

7-830 pm

Learn the basics of growing a wide variety of vegetables including seed/plant selection, soil improvement, watering, and culture.

Container Gardening for Herbs, Flowers and Veggies

3/31/2011, 4/7/2011, 4/14/11 (Th)

730-830 pm

Enjoy the freshness of home grown with a container garden just steps away from your door.



Spring Back to Gardening Workshop & Plant Swap

4/2/11 (Sat)

9 am-1 pm

Join Riley County Extension Master Gardeners for their spring workshop and plant swap. There will be a variety of classes to choose from.

For more information and to register, go to www.tryufm.org or call 539-8763

Manhattan Area Garden Show

Saturday, Feb. 26th, 9-5pm & Sunday, Feb. 27th, 12-4pm Place: Pottorff Hall in Cico Park

Seminar Schedule

Saturday, February 26, 2011

10 A.M. Growing Orchids

11 A.M. Controlling the Lawn

Sprinkler

NOON Exciting New Perennials for 2011

1 P.M. Exciting New Annuals, Vegetables & Herbs for 2011

2 P.M. Conifers for Kansas

3 P.M. Small Trees for Landscaping

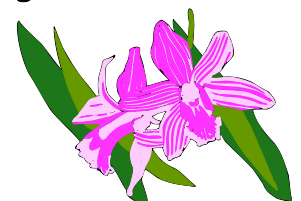
4 P.M. Fragrant Shrubs

Sunday, February 27, 2011

1 P.M Colorful Annuals and Shrubs

2 P.M. Growing Blueberries

3 P.M. Grafting Heirloom Tomatoes





Seeding and Planting Calendar

Plant Harvest

MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV
		Beans (Snap)	Beans (Snap)	Beans (Snap)	Beans (Snap)			
						Beans (Snap)		
		Beans (Lima)			Beans (Lima-Bush)			
		Beans (Lima)			Beans (Lima-Pole)			
	Cabbage		Cabbage					
				Cabbage			Cabbage	
	Collards	Collards						
	Chard		Chard					
		Cucumbers		Cucumbers				
	Carrots		Carrots	Carrots			Carrots	
Broccoli			Broccoli					
				Broccoli			Broccoli	
Endive		Endive		Endive			Endive	
Cauliflower			Cauliflower	Cauliflower			Cauliflower	
		Eggplant			Eggplant			
						Kale	Kale	
	Melons			Melons				
Lettuce	Lettuce					Lettuce	Lettuce	
	Lettuce	Lettuce						
	Peppers				Peppers			
Potatoes			Potatoes					
				Potatoes			Potatoes	
		Okra		Okra				
Radish	Radish					Radish	Radish	
	Pumpkins						Pumpkins	
	Salsify						Salsify	
Onions					Onions			
Onion Sets		Green Onions						
Peas			Peas					
Spinach		Spinach				Spinach	Spinach	
		Sweet Potatoes					Sweet Potatoes	
	Sweet Corn			Sweet Corn				
	Squash	W. Squash		Squash	Winter Squash			
	Tomatoes			Tomatoes				
Turnips			Turnips		Turnips		Turnips	
	Beets		Beets	Beets			Beets	

Recommended Vegetable Varieties for Kansas

Courtesy of K-State Research and Extension

Asparagus

California types (Atlas and US157) produce higher yields in warm springs; New Jersey hybrids produce higher yields in cool springs.

- Atlas (H)
- California UC 157 (H)
- Jersey Giant (H)
- Jersey King (H)
- Jersey Knight (H)
- Jersey Supreme (H)
- Purple Passion (H)



Beet

- Chioggia
- Cylindra
- Detroit Dark Red
- Early Wonder
- Kestrel
- Perfected Detroit
- Red Ace (H)
- Ruby Queen
- Touchstone Gold



Broccoli

- Diplomat (H)
- Green Comet (H)
- Gypsy (H)
- Marathon (H) (late)
- Packman (H)
- Premium Crop (H)



Cabbage

- Extremely Early
- Gonzales (H) (mini-head)
- Stone Head (H)
- Early
- Discovery (H)
- Midseason
- Blue Dynasty
- Bravo
- Red
- Red Acre
- Red Rookie
- Ruby Ball



Cabbage, Chinese

- Blues (H)
- Jade Pagoda (H)

Asian Greens

- Joi Choi (H)
- Komatsuna
- Kyona Mizuna
- Mei Qing Choi (H)
- Tatsoi



Carrot

- Gold King
- Gold Pak
- Red Cored
- Chantenay
- Royal Chantenay
- Scarlet Nantes
- Tendersweet



Cauliflower

- Cheddar (H; orange)
- Graffiti (H; purple)
- Fremont (H)
- Self Blanche (late-maturing)
- Snowball (early maturing)
- Snow Crown (H)



Lettuce

- Head
- Crispino



Leaf

- Black Seeded Simpson
- New Red Fire (red leaf)
- Prizehead (red)
- Red Sails (red leaf)
- Red Saladbowl (red oakleaf)
- Salad Bowl (oakleaf)
- Slobolt
- Waldmans Green

Romaine

- Green Forest
- Jericho
- Paris Island Cos



Lettuce (cont.)

Soft head

- Buttercrunch
- Ermosa
- Harmony

Onion

There is a lot of interest in growing sweet, mild-flavored onions. Original sweet onion varieties were Bermuda types (white or yellow) with flatshaped bulbs. Texas Grano or Granex are also mild-flavored onions (grown as Vidalia, Maui, etc.).

- Candy
- Granex (poor keeper)
- Redwing (red, good keeper)
- Red Burgundy (poor keeper)
- Super Star (white)
- Texas Grano (1015Y – fair keeper)
- Walla-Walla (poor keeper)
- White Sweet Spanish (late; good winter keeper)
- Yellow Sweet Spanish (late, good keeper)



Parsnip

- All-American
- Hollow Crown
- Harris
- Model



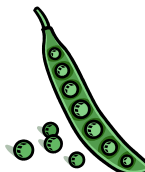
Pea

Edible Pod

- Sugar Ann
- Sugar Bon
- Super Sugar Snap
- Sugar Sprint

Shelling Types

- Burpeeana
- Frosty
- Green Arrow
- Knight
- Little Marvel
- Maestro



Peas (cont.)

Snow Peas

- Dwarf Grey Sugar
- Mammoth Melting Sugar
- Snow Green

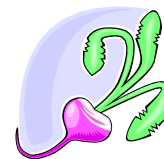
Radish

Multi-colored

- Easter Egg
- French Breakfast

Red

- CherryBelle
- Red Boy
- Scarlet Globe



White

- White Icicle

Rhubarb

- Canada Red
- Crimson Red
- McDonald
- Valentine



Spinach

- Long Standing Bloomsdale
- Space (H) – smooth
- Tyee (H) – slow to go to seed

Swiss Chard

- Bright Lights
- Fordhook Giant



(H) indicates hybrid variety

Reference

Ted Carey, Rebecca McMahon, Charles Barden, Ward Upham and Charles W. Marr, *Recommended Vegetable Varieties*, Kansas State University, May 2009

**Manhattan Community
Gardens c/o UFM**

1221 Thurston Street
Manhattan, KS 66502

We're on the web!
tryufm.org

What's Inside

- Meet the 2011 MCG Board
- President's Corner
- Join the Mentoring Program
- Equipment
entations
& Tiller Clinics
- Weed Prevention
- Upcoming Classes
- Garden Show
- Seeding & Planting Calendar
- Choosing Vegetable Varieties for Kansas

Thank You!

To the 2010 Board Members for your service.
We greatly appreciate your commitment to the
Manhattan Community Garden!



Garden Plots Still Available!!

Please tell your friends, neighbors, co-workers, etc., there is still time to sign-up to join the community garden. There are six full plots and one 1/2 plot available as of Feb. 14th. Please contact Susan Oviatt @ 785-776-0801 or susanovia@sbcglobal.net to sign-up!

