

NORTHAMPTON COMMUNITY GARDEN



OCTOBER 2012

GARDEN NEWS

FALL CLEANUP DAY

Come to the Garden on **Saturday, October 20**, 10–12 and 2–4, to help get it ready for winter. If you need community service hours, this is a great time to help out.

FALL INSPECTION

Fall Inspection is scheduled for **Sunday, October 21**. See the next column to learn how to prepare for the inspection and what the inspection teams will be looking for. Please remember that failure to pass the inspection means that you won't be able to renew your plot(s) for next year.

REGISTER FOR 2013 SEASON

Plot **renewal forms** will be mailed in early December to all gardeners who have passed fall inspection (see story below) and fulfilled their community service requirements.

These forms will allow you to:

- 1) renew registration of your garden plot(s) for 2013 and
- 2) request an additional plot or plots.

Also included will be a questionnaire, in which the Garden Committee asks how you think we could improve the Garden. 🌱

FALL PLOT CLEANUP

All gardeners must clean up plot(s) in preparation for winter. The deadline for cleaning your plot(s) is Sunday, October 21. Your

plot must pass fall inspection on that date before you may register for the 2012 season.

FALL INSPECTION

Around 2 P.M., teams of volunteers will be checking plots to make sure the guidelines for fall cleanup have been met. They will be looking to see whether:

- You have **cut down** all dead plant material and properly disposed of it. (Compost it in your own plot or in one of the community compost piles. Do not leave old tomatoes, squashes, etc., lying in your plot uncovered, as this attracts animals. Put diseased plant material in plastic bags and toss into the dumpster.
- You have **cut down** tall grasses and weeds around your plot, to no more than 6" tall. (This is important; if not cut, they will send unwanted seeds into your plot and others' plots as well.)



2012 GARDEN CALENDAR

** FALL CLEANUP DAY **

Saturday, October 20

** FALL INSPECTION **

Sunday, October 21

GARDEN COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Second Monday each month
@ 6:30 P.M. at the Red. Dept.

- You have **cut back** perennials where appropriate. (The point of this is to prevent unwanted seeds from invading others' plots.)
- You have **disposed of** all paper and plastic debris, paper and plastic bags, and plastic plant pots. (Left in your plot, they blow all over the Garden and across the street into our neighbors' yards.)



Illustration by Heather McQueen

- You have **removed** all tools and watering cans if not in use; you have taken hoses home or coiled them and stored them flat; you have removed plastic furniture. (Some of these items will blow around the Garden and be lost to you and become a nuisance to someone else. All will deteriorate from being exposed to weather.)
- You have **laid flat and anchored** securely any stakes, tomato cages, etc., that you leave in your plot.
- You have **firmly anchored** any structures – arbors, trellises, birdhouses – that remain in your plot.

Northampton Recreation Dep't.
90 Locust Street
Northampton, MA 01060

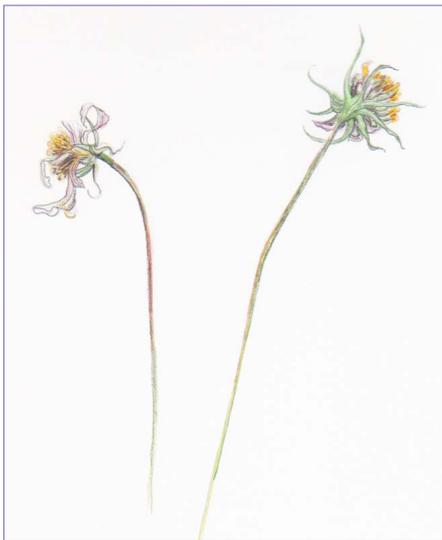


Illustration by Heather McQueen

- You have a **visible, legible sign**(s) showing your plot number(s).

There will be a second (and last) inspection on Sun., November 4. You may request an automatic extension until that date, but no later. Send your request by e-mail to MTEx@SMITH.EDU or by surface mail to the Recreation Dep't. (90 Locust St., 01060).

WE MUST RECEIVE THE REQUEST BY NO LATER THAN FRIDAY, OCTOBER 12.

If you do not meet the guidelines for cleanup noted above, you will

receive a written notice specifying what needs to be done by Nov. 4. If your plot requires a second inspection, there will be a \$10 fee, payable with registration. If your plot requires a second inspection only because there was no plot sign, there will be a \$5 fee, payable with inspection.

The second inspection crew will also pick up paper and plastic debris and discard it, and will remove tools, watering cans, etc., and store them in the tool shed. They will remove plastic chairs and other furniture, and place them beside the tool shed. If they have to remove items from your plot, there will be a \$10 fee, payable with registration. 🍀



Photographs by Gloria Santa Anna

