

# NORTHAMPTON COMMUNITY GARDEN



## NEWS



SEPTEMBER 2002

### FALL INSPECTION IS FAST APPROACHING!

Mark **SUNDAY, OCTOBER 13**, on your garden calendar. That's the deadline for **plot cleanup**. Your plot(s) should be cleaned for the



winter by that date. If you cannot have your plot done by the 13th, you may

request an extension. Just

let us know by October 11

(by e-mail to [mtex@smith.edu](mailto:mtex@smith.edu) or by mail to the Rec Dept, 90 Locust St., 01060) when you'll have your cleanup completed; be sure to include both your name and your plot numbers. *Telephone requests will not be honored.* 🍀

### PLOT CLEANUP INCLUDES:

- ▶ Dead plant matter – remove and compost
- ▶ Diseased material (buggy plants, blighted tomato foliage) – take to dumpster
- ▶ Perennials – trim back dead foliage for winter
- ▶ Plastic debris (old pots, plastic bags, mulch, row cover) – remove
- ▶ Newspaper – remove or completely cover with mulch
- ▶ Small items (tools, watering cans, bird baths, etc.) – remove and store for the winter

▶ Structures (trellises, birdhouses, etc.) – anchor firmly

▶ Fall blooming plants or fall vegetables\* – keep

▶ Please **remove** from the Garden: buckets, watering cans, pails, pots, bird baths, tools, boxes, furniture, tomato cages, hoses, plastic mulch, row cover, paper bags, plastic bags, trash, and anything that can blow away

\*You don't need to remove plants if they are still bearing fruit or flowers – don't uproot your chrysanthemums or cut down your kale! Not all perennials should be cut back for the winter; if you're not sure what to leave, consult a neighbor.

### WHY IS ALL THIS NECESSARY?

Dead plant material (vegetables, leaves, stalks) provides winter shelter for insects and plant diseases no one wants in the Garden. Removing it helps control these pests.

Weed seeds will *not* stay in your plot but will be distributed by the wind and by birds. Removing weeds helps control their growth in your plot and in other people's, too.

Stuff that's left out can be blown around by winter winds and end up all over the Garden. Removing or securing them keeps everyone's plots trash-free.

Items left out may be stolen, so if you value them, take them home for safe storage.

**Inspection** teams will check all Garden plots on the afternoon of **October 13**; if your plot doesn't measure up and you haven't requested an extension, someone will call or e-mail you to remind you to clean up. A second inspection will take place on October 27 – and we'll charge you a \$5 fee, payable at spring registration, to encourage you to meet the deadline and to make things easier for the inspection teams.

**IMPORTANT:** If your plot is not cleaned by the second deadline, you will **NOT** receive registration forms for the 2003 gardening season. 🍀

### COMMUNITY SERVICE

**DON'T FORGET** that all Gardeners must contribute Community Service hours. Many of you have already met that obligation in various ways – as Garden Neighbors, helping with the Survival Center plots and deliveries, contributing to the Newsletter, mowing, maintaining the tool shed, tending the compost pile... But some have not.

**IMPORTANT:** You will **NOT** receive registration forms for next year unless we have a record that you

have given the appropriate number of hours – 2 hours for a single plot, 3 for two plots, 4 for three plots, and 5 for four. 🌿

### MANY GARDEN PROJECTS STILL NEED YOUR HELP:

- ▶ Sign up for work crews on October weekends – check bulletin board at the end of September for sign up sheets.
- ▶ Clean out the tool shed and hang tools in wall holders.
- ▶ Clean grass from lawn mowers.
- ▶ Weed and water shrub borders and the plantings below the Community Garden sign.
- ▶ Weed and water Survival Center plots (around the tool shed and plots F20 1/2 and F21).
- ▶ Weed whack and turn abandoned plots (see bulletin board for plot numbers).
- ▶ Contribute to the Newsletter – articles, recipes, art work (contact Betsey Wolfson: [bwolfson@bikher.org](mailto:bwolfson@bikher.org)).
- ▶ Contribute digital photos to our Web page (contact Sylvia Bonadio: [sbonadio@aol.com](mailto:sbonadio@aol.com)).
- ▶ Help with fall inspections (contact Mimi Teghtsoonian: 584-0317 or [mtex@smith.edu](mailto:mtex@smith.edu)).
- ▶ Mow common areas – but remember that as the weather grows cooler, the grass needs to be mowed less often.
- ▶ When you have finished with one of these projects, fill out a log slip (a supply is available on the bulletin board) and put it in the black mailbox to the left of the bulletin board. 🌿

COMMUNITY SERVICE LOG

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

PLOT NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_

# HOURS WORKED \_\_\_\_\_

PROJECT \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_



### MONEY MATTERS

😊 Thanks to the gardeners who have kept the Garden grass mowed and have limited their use of the dumpster, we have saved a considerable sum of money and find ourselves with a budget surplus! Barring any major unforeseen expenses (in a worst-case scenario, the tool shed might be struck by lightning), that means we can lower fees for the 2003 season. We will know better when all bills for this season are in, but at the moment it looks as if we can reduce the per/plot charge by \$2. 🌿

### REGISTRATION FOR RETURNING GARDENERS

New gardeners may not know that registration forms are mailed out in November and are due at the Rec Dept by January 6, 2003. This is your opportunity to renew the registration for the plot you have. It's also the time when any gardener may request additional plots. If you don't receive a form by the beginning

of December, and you have cleaned your plot and turned in log slips for the necessary number of Community Service hours, give the Rec Dept a call (587-1040) or send an e-mail to [mtex@smith.edu](mailto:mtex@smith.edu). 🌿

### SHARING THE SEASON'S EXPERIENCE

As the 2002 gardening season draws to a close and you review your successes and failures, why not share your experiences with other gardeners? We'll save space in the Winter Newsletter for reports of seed varieties you discovered and can recommend, annuals or perennials that looked good all through a dry summer, gardening practices that worked well... Send your contributions to Betsey Wolfson ([bwolfson@bikher.org](mailto:bwolfson@bikher.org)) or include them when you return your registration forms. 🌿

### SPECIAL THANKS TO:

- ▶ Sandra Suarez for editing the Summer Newsletter.
- ▶ Ann LaFontaine and Sheryl LaFontaine for tending an orphan plot for the Survival Center and delivering the produce.
- ▶ Heather Damon, Rick Bean, and Justine Bertram for making Survival Center deliveries.
- ▶ Denny Wolfe for keeping the compost pile in such fine shape. 🌿

**PLOT INSPECTION  
SUNDAY  
OCTOBER 13**