

# NORTHAMPTON COMMUNITY GARDEN



## NEWS



JULY 2010

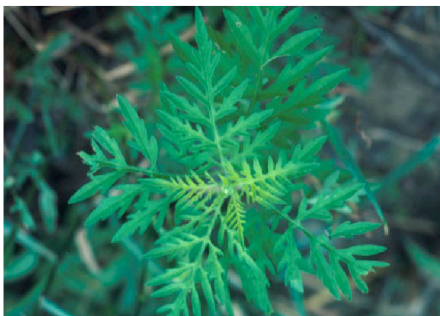
### RAGWEED WALKTHROUGH

Since ragweed pollen is a notorious allergen, a Garden goal is to get rid of as many ragweed plants as possible before they flower. If you don't know what ragweed looks like, see the photo below, or ask a fellow gardener. Please pull up any ragweed you find in your own plot(s). Keep an eye out for ragweed growing in public spaces, and pull that up too. Once ragweed has flowered, it will continue to ripen seed even after it is pulled up.

Because ragweed seed remains viable for many years, you should throw flowering ragweed in the dumpster – not in the compost.

On Sunday, July 18, inspection teams will walk through the Garden to check plots for ragweed. When they find plants in a plot, they'll tag one or two samples with red tape. Avoid that red badge of shame, and get rid of the ragweed now!

Teams will also check for plots that seem overtaken by weeds. If yours is one of these, you'll receive an e-mail or a phone call to make sure you are still working your plot. 🌿



This is ragweed!

### GARDEN NEWS

**HOSES.** The Garden Committee has voted to replace the 50-ft hose supplied to each water outlet with a 100-ft hose. This won't happen at once, but as a 50' hose wears out, the replacement will be a longer hose. Please don't take new hoses from the tool shed; any new hose is slated for a specific spigot. Wornout hoses will be retired to the tool shed and labelled, and any gardener who wishes may mend one and return it to a water outlet. Be in touch with Elaine Pourinski, our water czar ([AZULHERON@AOL.COM](mailto:AZULHERON@AOL.COM)), about any problems with faucets or hoses.



### 2010 GARDEN CALENDAR

#### COMPOSTING WORKSHOP

Saturday, July 17 11 A.M.

#### RAGWEED/WEED WALKTHROUGH

Sunday, July 18

#### FALL INSPECTION

Sunday, October 17

#### FALL CLEANUP DAY

Saturday, October 23

#### SECOND INSPECTION

Sunday, October 31

#### GARDEN COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Second Monday each month  
@ 6:30 P.M. at the Rec. Dep't.

### SURVIVAL CENTER DELIVERIES.

The Garden is ready to accept donations of surplus produce and deliver it to the Survival Center. The Center provides fresh fruit and vegetables to individuals and families in need, and they depend on our donations to keep those items in good supply. There is a new setup for gardeners to leave their excess produce; you can check it out under the bulletin board on the tool shed. Pickup times are Monday by noon, Tuesday and Thursday around 4 P.M. (or a little later), so put items in no earlier than 12 hours beforehand.

### SPECIAL THANKS TO

- ▶ **Johanna Halbeisen**, who has updated and rationalized our bulletin boards.
- ▶ **Devorah Levy**, for coordinating Garden Neighbors.
- ▶ **Elizabeth Thulin**, who is coordinating Survival Center deliveries.
- ▶ **John Lanzillo**, who helped with the new Survival Center setup.

### GARDEN TIPS

Here is some useful information about watering.

**WHEN TO WATER?** Garden lore has it that watering should be done in the early morning, and many gardeners stick to that rule. However, there is research that shows that watering done after noon is as good for the plants as earlier watering. So, if your schedule doesn't allow you to get to the Garden until afternoon, you can water with a clear conscience.



Scarlet Runner Bean Seeds  
by Heather McQueen

**WHEN NOT TO WATER?** On a hot dry day, plants may look wilted because the leaves have lost water through transpiration although the soil is moist. Check the soil an inch down, and don't water if you find adequate moisture at that level. It's possible to "drown" your plants. Providing shade for wilting plants is the remedy.

**HOW MUCH?** The rule of thumb on watering is that most plants need about 1" of rain a week. If less rain falls, then supplementary watering is in order – best to water less frequently but more deeply.

**HOW?** It's best to water plants where they enter the earth, rather than spraying them from above, so all the water goes where you want it – to the roots of the plant.

Some plants have fairly specific needs. Potatoes need to be kept moist when they are first planted, but their soil should be allowed to dry out a bit when they are in full leaf. Other members of the nightshade family – tomatoes, peppers, and eggplants – like a regimen of regular watering so the moisture level in the soil is kept more or less constant. Cucumbers and melons like a lot of water, and they should be watered very deeply.

Remember that the Watering Exchange (details on bulletin

board) can help you find someone to water your garden while you are on vacation. Then you can go away with no worries and be, like me, 🍀

—The Happy Gardener

## MASTER GARDENER DEMO GARDEN & WORKSHOPS

The Western Mass Master Gardeners' Demonstration Garden is thriving, thanks in no small part to the advice and help offered by the Northampton Community Garden family.

Three large handicapped-accessible beds dominate the plot, providing plenty of room for experimentation and demonstration. One lushly planted bed is devoted to themed annuals (currently red, white & blue for the summer and likely to change to harvest colors for the fall). A second bed holds perennials that are familiar to most Valley gardeners, but we hope to eventually feature less common specimens that highlight the variety of textures, shapes, and colors available to perennial gardeners. Finally, the kitchen garden bed contains a wide array of vegetables, many in unusual colors (like the beautiful purple jalapeno pepper).

Our first demonstration is a **Composting Workshop**, planned for Saturday, July 17 at 11 A.M. Learn different ways to build your compost pile, what you should put in the pile, how to speed the composting process – and more! Meet at the tool shed; bring a folding chair. You don't need to register.

In September we'll offer a **Plant Division Workshop**. All demonstrations are free, and all interested gardeners are welcome!

Please let us know if you have ideas for other workshops or if you'd like to see us experiment with a particular plant or theme. We plan to be a part of the Northampton Community Gardens for many years to come and hope you'll see us as a resource as you plan and implement your own plots. For more information on the Demonstration Garden or to offer ideas, please contact Ray Ellsworth at [ELLSWORTHRS@VERIZON.NET](mailto:ELLSWORTHRS@VERIZON.NET). 🍀

## GROW FOOD NORTHAMPTON!

In response to overwhelming concern about the potential loss of the Bean family farm to sports fields last fall, and the apparent dedication to in-town agriculture, a new organization has coalesced – Grow Food Northampton. We incorporated as a nonprofit this spring to further the mission of improving food security through local sustainable agriculture.

There is lots to do, including creating a community farm, promoting food gardens everywhere in our city, providing educational opportunities for people of all ages to learn organic, sustainable growing techniques, and expanding the availability of Community Garden plots in additional locations. Please join us!

[GROWFOODNORTHAMPTON.COM](http://GROWFOODNORTHAMPTON.COM) 🍀

—Adele Franks



Snow Pea Seeds  
by Heather McQueen

## BULK BUYING THROUGH NOFA

The Massachusetts chapter of the Northeast Organic Farming Association organizes two annual orders for farmers and gardeners. Participants can save money on mineral amendments and fertilizers, cover crop seeds, compost and potting soil, BPA-free small and wide mouth canning lids, and seed starting supplies while supporting NOFA's mission to educate members and the general public about the benefits of local organic systems based on complete cycles, natural materials, and minimal waste for the health of individual beings, communities and the living planet.

Download the order form at [WWW.NOFA MASS.ORG/PROGRAMS/BULKORDER/INDEX.PHP](http://WWW.NOFA MASS.ORG/PROGRAMS/BULKORDER/INDEX.PHP), after July 15. BPA-free lids will also be for sale at the NOFA Summer Conference August 13-15 in Amherst. 🍀

—Cathleen O'Keefe

## NEW EASTHAMPTON COMMUNITY GARDEN

Park Hill Road in Easthampton is my route for a weekend walk. I love passing Park Hill Orchard, watching the progress the new owners have made in renovating their

apple and pear orchards, and hearing the roosters and chickens squawk in their run. Further down the hill is Echodale Farm, where heritage cattle graze in a field lined by dozens of newly-installed bird houses. A bit further on is a murky pond created by some industrious beavers.

The last time I took a walk on Park Hill Road, I discovered a brand new Community Garden! The city purchased the land in 2007 with Community Preservation Funds, and the garden came together very quickly this spring. The project was spearheaded by Laura Fisher, member of the Conservation Commission, who dedicated the garden to the memory of her grandfather, a farmer.

In May the field was plowed and harrowed by neighbors from Echodale Farm and Park Hill Orchard. Plots were assigned shortly afterward, and there is already a waiting list for 20' x 20' plots (about 40). There is one shared water spigot and a garden shed for storing tools, many of them donated by the community.

At the Ted Sparko Memorial Community Garden, everyone agrees to use organic gardening practices only and to contribute five hours of work per season to the garden. 🍀

—Betsey Wolfson

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



## FAUCET AND HOSE ETIQUETTE

- ▶ Please coil your hose after each use, and hang it on the hose rack.
- ▶ Watering cans take precedence at the faucet.
- ▶ Soaker hoses should not be left unattended.
- ▶ Sprinklers are not allowed.
- ▶ If a community hose needs a new washer or has other leaks, please follow up. Washers are usually available in the Garden Shed.
- ▶ Questions? Elaine Pourinski, our volunteer water manager, helps us keep our water fees reasonable. Reach her at [AZULHERON@AOL](mailto:AZULHERON@AOL).

Please do not turn your car around in our neighbors' driveways on Burt's Pit Road.



Drive down to the ball field to turn.