

NORTHAMPTON COMMUNITY GARDEN



NEWS



JULY 2013

GARDEN NEWS

- ▶ The next big date on the Garden calendar is **RAGWEED WALKTHROUGH** on **July 14**. See the article elsewhere in this issue for more information.
- ▶ Our **PETITION** to Northampton **DPW** asking for the access roads to the Garden to be repaired garnered 140 signatures and was delivered mid-June. We've had no response so far, but we're hopeful that appropriate action is forthcoming.
- ▶ Don't forget the **ROCK DUST** — that big pile under tarps beside the wood chips. The dust comes from a quarry in Westfield. It's called Pioneer Valley Basalt; if you want to know its composition, check the bulletin board on the tool shed for a chemical analysis. Use it as fertilizer — one 5-gallon bucket of the stuff per plot. Studies have shown that it increases yield as well as the nutritional value of vegetables. And thanks to **ART LARSON, ISMAEL DIAZ, and MOISES DIAZ**, who oversaw the unloading of the dust and got the tarps in place to protect it from rain and wind.
- ▶ We hope you've noticed the handsome **NEW SIGNS** at the entrances to the Garden, welcoming visitors and asking them to observe Garden rules. Thanks goes to Betsey Wolfson, who designed them, had them made, and helped mount them.

- ▶ Special thanks also to **SCOTT WEBER**, who has been looking after our **LAWN MOWERS**. He asks us to remind you that mowers should be used only on paths, not to clear overgrown plots (where various hazards lurk, including stones to break mower blades). He also reminds us that non-power mowers are an option for mowing narrow paths.
- ▶ The Garden Committee agreed at its last meeting that **USE OF THE POWER MOWERS SHOULD BE RESTRICTED TO PEOPLE 16 YEARS OR OLDER**. Please don't let younger children use our mowers, even if they are permitted to use your mowers at home. 🍀

RAGWEED WALKTHROUGH

Why do we worry about ragweed in the Garden? Many gardeners are mildly or seriously allergic to the pollen of *Ambrosia artemisiifolia*, common ragweed; it can spoil their pleasure of being in and working in the garden.



Ragweed – *Ambrosia artemisiifolia*



2013 GARDEN CALENDAR

RAGWEED / WEED WALKTHROUGH

July 14

FALL CLEANUP DAY

Saturday, October 12

FALL INSPECTION

Sunday, October 19

GARDEN COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Third Monday each month
@ 6:30 P.M. at the Rec. Dept.
(or in the Garden during nice weather; call to confirm)

A Garden goal is to get rid of as many ragweed plants as possible before they flower. 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, its seeds will continue to ripen 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.

If you don't know what ragweed looks like, see the photo below, or look at the sample plant near the garden shed.

On **Sunday, July 14**, inspection teams will walk through the Garden

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



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. 🍀

FIND THE GARDEN ON FACEBOOK

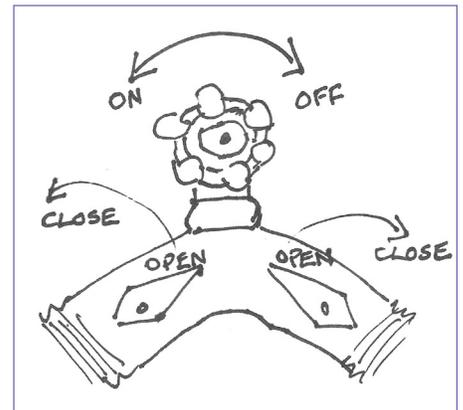
[HTTP://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/GROUPS/183723795531/](http://www.facebook.com/groups/183723795531/)

LOCK YOUR CAR!

We've had reports of thefts from cars parked in the area, so, to be safe, remember to lock up.

CLEAR YOUR EDGES

Please clear rocks, stakes, or any other objects from the border of your plot to make it easier for mowers to happily mow past.



HELP US CONSERVE WATER

Please remember to turn off the handle of the faucet as well as both little on/off toggles.