

# Garden News

MAY 2021

## WELCOME BACK!

The past year has been long and difficult. We're happy to welcome back so many returning gardeners, as well as a large crop of new gardeners. We hope you all find refuge and beauty in our Community Garden. 🐦

## ➡ JUNE INSPECTION

**Sunday, May 30** is the date for our annual **IS-YOUR-PLOT-PLANTED? INSPECTION**.

We're checking for just four things:

- Your plot at least partially planted and we see evidence that you have been working on it
- You have a legible, accessible sign with your plot number(s)
- Edges of your plot are trimmed
- Weeds are under control

Volunteer inspection crews will be checking that **you've been working in your plot** this season: i.e., seeds planted or starter plants in place; weeds under control; and grass at the edges of the plot trimmed.

Perfection is not required, but evidence of gardening activity is. No one wants weed seeds blowing onto another gardener's plot. If your plot is a sea of weeds, it'll fail.

The inspection crews will also check to make sure there is a **permanent, visible, legible plot sign** that displays your **plot letter and number**. Please make the letters at least 1 1/2" tall, and set the sign 18" off the ground. You may wish to write

your first name somewhere on your sign, so neighbors can say, Hello. 🐦

## COVID UPDATES

### FACE MASKS OR COVERINGS

Although COVID guidelines are rapidly changing, the City of Northampton has asked us to ask all gardeners to wear masks when walking around the garden. When you enter or leave the Garden, or walk around, please wear a cloth mask or face covering. If you're working in your plot and are not near others, you may take it off.

### SOAP

Soap is available at each spigot, so please wash your hands often.

### SHED AND TOOLS

Tools are available for sharing, but we ask that only one person at a time enter the shed.

### MOWERS

Only approved **mowing team** members may use the power mowers. 🐦

## NEW GADEN COMMITTEE MEMBERS

We welcome the following people to the Garden Committee this season:

### MOWING

Karen Smith is our new Mowing Manager. She has already orgaized mowing for May and working on the June Schedule.

## WATER TEAM

Sarah Bachrach and Greg Mongeon join Jana Chicoine to inspect faucets weekly and replace spigots and hoses if needed.

## INSPECTIONS

Donna Cuipyllo will be managing three inspections this season.

## SHED

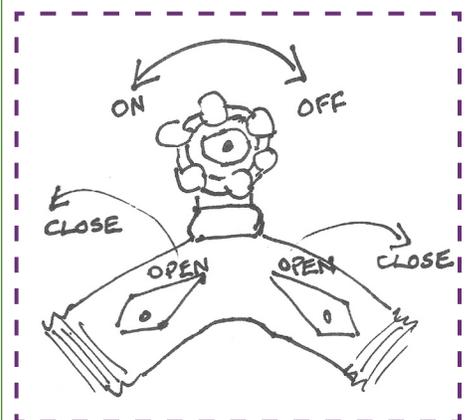
Sarah Bachrach and Micky McKinley will keep the shed and tools organized and in good condition.

Many thanks to all of you! 🐦

## A FEW TIPS

- Please help us **conserve water**. Water is our largest Garden expense.

Let us know if you notice a leaky hose or faucet. Please turn off both the handle and the lever — every time! Use mulch to keep your beds from drying out.



**PLEASE TURN OFF BOTH THE HANDLE AND THE LITTLE LEVER. EVERY FAUCET! EVERY TIME!**

- Throw **weeds** and any diseased plant material in the **dumpster**, not the compost pile.
- Use the brush pile for your brush and woody debris.
- **Label** your tools, so you can easily find them if they get misplaced.
- Bring a **nozzle** for the hose; we do not supply nozzles, since they tend to “walk away.” 🐦

### THANK YOU

Thank you, Northampton Parks and Recreation Department, especially **SANDRA GROSS**, **JACKIE LIENERT**, and **ANN-MARIE MOGGIO**, who worked behind the scenes all last year so we could keep the garden open, even while the Rec. Dept. office was closed to the public. They helped us this year, too, to register Returning Gardeners, 🐦

### TO CONTACT THE GARDEN COMMITTEE

E-mail us at [NOHO-GARDEN@GOOGLEGROUPS.COM](mailto:NOHO-GARDEN@GOOGLEGROUPS.COM) 🐦

### 27TH ANNUAL NORTHAMPTON GARDEN TOUR

**SATURDAY, JULY 17,  
10:00 – 3:00,  
RAIN OR SHINE**

#### Our Garden Tour is happening!

— a bit later in the summer, a bit warmer, with different timing of the flora on view. Seven exceptional home gardens are featured this year for the 27th Annual Northampton Garden Tour.

Join us along a scenic 10-mile route — by car, or on a pleasant bicycle ride for the recreational

peddler. Tickets provide driving (or biking) directions to this self-guided tour.

The tour raises funds for the Friends of Forbes Library, Inc., to support programming, events, and projects at Northampton’s historic public library. In addition, the Garden Tour aims to inspire and educate interested gardeners with a variety of appealing landscape styles, collections of garden plantings, and approaches to garden design.

At each garden, you’ll find descriptions of the plantings, and volunteer garden guides will be on hand to answer questions.

We hope that Northampton Community Garden gardeners will be interested in volunteering at one of the gardens on the day of the tour. Volunteers serve either as greeters at the entrance of the garden or as garden guides, if they are knowledgeable about perennials and other plants in the gardens. They volunteer either from 10 to 12:30, or from 12:30 to 3; they receive a free tour ticket to use during the other half of the day. If you wish to volunteer, please contact Deena Sarvet at [DSARVET@GMAIL.COM](mailto:DSARVET@GMAIL.COM)

Buy tour tickets **in advance** for \$15, from June 15 to July 16 at Bay State Perennial Farm in Whately, Cooper’s Corner, State Street Fruit Store, Gardener’s Supply Company at Hadley Garden Center, or Forbes Library. On the **day of the tour**, tickets cost \$20 and are available only at the Library. We hope to see you at this wonderful community event.

— Julie S. Abramson 🐦  
[jabramson@albany.edu](mailto:jabramson@albany.edu)

### SUSAN FINK AND BARBARA TYTELL MEMORIAL GARDEN

Welcome to K24/25, our memorial garden cared for by friends of former Community Garden members Susan Fink (who died of cancer in 2007) and Barbara Tytell (who passed away 4 years ago of Creutzfeldt-Jacob disease, a fatal brain disease.)



Barbara and Susan were friends who met at Jackson Street Elementary School, where Susan was Barbara’s son Simon’s teacher. Barbara was an adjustment counselor in the Westfield schools.

We inherited a beautiful garden with brick pathways and tulip and iris blossoms galore.

We came together each wanting to keep the garden alive, knowing Barbara’s passion for it and dedication to it, a way to keep her memory alive. It has grown into a lovely connection with women, some of whom did not know each other before.

Our artistic sign and bench were created by one of our members, Jan Ruby Crystal. We wanted it to feel like a peaceful and joyful place.

Some of us knew Barbara through gardening, through her political activism, from Women's Poker Night, Mah Jongg, Book Group, our annual Xmas cookie baking event, from our connection to Judaism, or from Women in the Outdoors. Barbara was fully engaged in life.



We donate vegetables we grow to the Survival Center, a tradition Barbara started when she tended the garden. Barbara also made incredibly creative and playful statues with her veggies, which she would display on her front porch before they became part of one of her very tasty dishes.

We send photos and updates to her son Simon, now living on the West Coast.

It has been an honor to work in the garden in cooperation with a group of heartfelt hardworking women: Jori, Mindy, Caryl, Jan, Sandy, and Debra. We all await the day when it is safe to work side by side again.

Please come by to say hello. If you have a perennial that needs thinning out and want us to plant it in our Memorial Garden so you can feel a part of it too, please contact:

—Jori Ross / [joriross@yahoo.com](mailto:joriross@yahoo.com) 

### COMPANION PLANTING FOR THE NORTHAMPTON COMMUNITY GARDENER

When I attended Cornell University in the early '70's, I needed to fulfill a science distribution requirement. I had a heavy course load and was looking for a "gut" course to ease my schedule. I took Organic Gardening in the Agriculture School. It was probably the most relevant, useful class during my time at college. I continue to benefit from those lessons. Here is what I learned about companion planting. I hope you find it useful as well.

Companion Planting is the practice of pairing and planting in close proximity different plants that enhance each other. (Wikipedia)

Just like people, our plants have friends too! Planting veggies with other veggies, flowers, and herbs who they like or don't like growing with, have many benefits:

- enhance growth
- help increase yield productivity
- decrease disease



- limit and control pests
- provide habitat for beneficial insects
- support pollination

Some say it can even enhance the flavor!

Other advantages include:

**CROP PROTECTION:** Companion planting can offer a more delicate and natural plant shelter from weather such as wind or sun by growing beside another plant which can shield and protect while itself having a natural defense against the harsher conditions.

**TRAP CROPPING:** Companion planting is the ultimate organic pest management system. Some plants help repel unwanted pests, and can be used to lure pests away from the garden. This is referred to as trap cropping.

**POSITIVE HOSTING:** Planting in proximity to plants which produce a surplus of nectar and pollen can increase the population by attracting beneficial insects that will manage harmful pests or by confusing and repelling insects in search of a host plant. (from [www.westcoastseed.com](http://www.westcoastseed.com))

Plants need good companions to thrive. An important concept behind companion planting is

building good plant communities when planning your garden. Garden wisdom holds that certain plants grown close together become helpmates. However, relationships between plants are varied - similar to relationships between people. In plant communities, certain plants complement and support each other while others, well, just don't get along because plants like people compete for resources, space, and nutrients. Certain plants grow rapidly, crowd others and take more than their fair share of water, sun and nutrients. Some exclude toxins that retard plant growth or kill plants.

According to companion planting guides, the way you lay out your vegetable garden is crucial. Avoid planting vegetables in large patches or long rows and interplant with flowers and herbs. Large groupings of one type of vegetable serve as a beacon to problematic pests. If you mix in flowers and herbs, it becomes more difficult for pests to find your veggies. The scent of flowers and herbs, as well as the change up in color, is thought to confuse pests. Moreover, certain flowers and herbs attract beneficial insects to your garden.

Here are examples of some of the best companion planting combinations for your garden.

(From the Old Farmer's Almanac, [WWW.ALMANAC.COM](http://WWW.ALMANAC.COM)):

**Basil** pairs well with tomatoes, repelling whiteflies, mosquitoes, spider mites, aphids; basil also attracts bees, which improves pollination, tomato health, and flavor.

**Parsley** also draws insects away from tomatoes. Plant these herbs between tomatoes.

**Borage** pairs well with tomatoes, attracting pollinating bees and tiny pest-eating wasps. Borage also pairs well with strawberries, enhancing their flavor and vigor.

**Sage** is a useful herb that repels carrot fly. Also plant it around a cabbage patch to reduce injury from cabbage moths.

**Mint** deters aphids, ants, and flea beetles. Just be careful to plant mint nearby in its own pot or bed, as it is a very aggressive grower!

**Garlic** and garlic spray has a strong scent deters aphids, onion flies, ermine moths, and Japanese beetles. Useful with many plants including cabbage, cane fruits, fruit trees (especially peaches), roses, tomatoes. A garlic tea helps repel late potato blight.

**Poached egg plants** (a wildflower) draws in hoverflies, which control aphids on nearby lettuce.

**Crimson clover** grown with broccoli was shown to expand the local spider population, which in turn controlled pests.

**Tansy** discourages cutworm, which attacks asparagus, bean, cabbage, carrot, celery, corn, lettuce, pea, pepper, potato, and tomato plants. (As with mint, plant tansy in containers, since it is considered invasive in some areas.)

**Nasturtiums** attract hungry caterpillars away from brassicas like cabbage and broccoli, and also lure blackfly away from fava beans.

**Sunflowers** pair well with cucumbers and pole beans: Sunflowers help provide support for climbing plants, as well as shade for crops which, in hotter climates, can become sun-stressed.

If you are looking for ways to

reduce or eliminate chemicals in your garden, consider checking out companion planting as an alternative. Your plants, other gardeners and our planet will say thank you.

On the following page you'll find a vegetable companion planting chart from [WWW.BURPEE.COM](http://WWW.BURPEE.COM).

You can also look at the following sites for other planting guides.

[WWW.ALMANAC.COM](http://WWW.ALMANAC.COM)

[WWW.BURPEE.COM](http://WWW.BURPEE.COM)

[WWW.FARMERSALMANAC.COM](http://WWW.FARMERSALMANAC.COM)

[WWW.THE SPRUCE.COM](http://WWW.THE SPRUCE.COM)

[WWW.WESTCOASTSEEDS.COM](http://WWW.WESTCOASTSEEDS.COM)

—Jori Ross / [joriross@yahoo.com](mailto:joriross@yahoo.com) 🐦



Plant	Plant Companions	Plant Allies	Plant Enemies
<b>Asparagus</b>	Basil, parsley, tomato	Pot marigold deters beetles.	
<b>Beans</b>	Beet (to bush beans only), cabbage family, carrot, celery, chard, corn, cucumber, eggplant, pea, potatoes, radish, strawberry.	Marigold deters Mexican bean beetles. Nasturtium and rosemary deter bean beetles. Summer savory deters bean beetles, improves growth and flavor.	Garlic, onion and shallot stunt the growth of beans.
<b>Beets</b>	Bush beans, cabbage family, lettuce, onion.	Garlic improves growth and flavor.	Pole beans and beets stunt each other's growth.
<b>Carrots</b>	Bean, lettuce, onion, pea, pepper, radish, tomato.	Chives improve growth and flavor. Rosemary and sage deter carrot fly.	Dill retards growth.
<b>Celery</b>	Bean, cabbage family and tomato.	Chives and garlic deter aphids. Nasturtium deters bugs and aphids.	
<b>Chard</b>	Bean, cabbage family and onion		
<b>Corn</b>	Bean, cucumber, melon, parsley, pea, potato, pumpkin, squash.	Odorless marigold and white geranium deter Japanese beetles. Pigweed raises nutrients from the subsoil to where the corn can reach them.	Tomatoes and corn are attacked by the same worm.
<b>Cucumber</b>	Bean, cabbage family, corn, pea, radish, tomato	Marigold deters beetles. Nasturtium deters aphids, beetles and bugs, improves growth and flavor. Oregano deters pests in general. Tansy deters ants, beetles, bugs, flying insects.	Sage is generally injurious to cucumber.
<b>Eggplant</b>	Bean, pepper.	Marigold deters nematodes.	
<b>Lettuce</b>	Beet, cabbage family, carrot, onion, radish, strawberry.	Chives and garlic deter aphids.	
<b>Melons</b>	Corn, pumpkin, radish, squash.	Marigold deters beetles. Nasturtium deters bugs and beetles. Oregano provides general pest protection.	
<b>Onions</b>	Beet, cabbage family, carrot, chard, lettuce, pepper, strawberry, tomato.	Chamomile and summer savory improve growth and flavor. Pigweed raises nutrients from subsoil and makes them available to the onions. Sow thistle improves growth and health.	Onions stunt bean, pea.
<b>Parsley</b>	Asparagus, corn, tomato		
<b>Peas</b>	Bean, carrot, corn, cucumber, radish, turnip.	Chives deter aphids. Mint improves health and flavor.	Garlic and onion stunt the growth of peas.
<b>Peppers</b>	Carrot, eggplant, onion and tomato		

<b>Potatoes</b>	Beans, cabbage family, corn, eggplant, pea.	Horseradish, planted at the corners of the potato patch, provides general protection. Marigold deters beetles.	Tomatoes and potatoes are attacked by the same blight.
<b>Pumpkins</b>	Corn, melon, squash.	Marigold deters beetles. Nasturtium deters bugs, beetles. Oregano provides general pest protection.	
<b>Radishes</b>	Bean, carrot, cucumber, lettuce, melon, pea.	Chervil and nasturtium improve growth and flavor.	Hyssop
<b>Spinach</b>	Cabbage family, strawberry		
<b>Squash</b>	Corn, melon, pumpkin.	Borage deters worms, improves growth and flavor. Marigold deters beetles. Nasturtium deters squash bugs and beetles. Oregano provides general pest protection.	
<b>Strawberry</b>	Bean, lettuce, onion, spinach, thyme.	Cabbage.	Borage strengthens resistance to insects and disease. Thyme, as a border, deters worms.
<b>Tomatoes</b>	Asparagus, carrot, celery, cucumber, onion, parsley, pepper.	Basil repels flies and mosquitoes, improves growth and flavor. Bee balm, chives and mint improve health and flavor. Borage deters tomato worm, improves growth and flavor. Dill, until mature, improves growth and health. Once mature, it stunts tomato growth. Marigold deters nematodes. Pot marigold deters tomato worm and general garden pests.	Corn and tomato are attacked by the same worm. Mature dill retards tomato growth. Kohlrabi stunts tomato growth. Potatoes and tomatoes are attacked by the same blight.
<b>Turnips</b>	Pea		
<b>Cabbage Family (Broccoli, Brussels Sprouts, Cabbage, Cauliflower, Chinese Cabbage, Kale, and Kohlrabi)</b>	Beet, celery, chard, cucumber, lettuce, onion, potato, spinach.	Chamomile and garlic improve growth and flavor. Catnip, hyssop, rosemary and sage deter cabbage moth. Dill improves growth and health. Mint deters cabbage moth and ants, improves health and flavor. Nasturtium deters bugs, beetles, aphids. Southernwood deters cabbage moth, improves growth and flavor. Tansy deters cabbageworm and cutworm. Thyme deters cabbageworm.	Kohlrabi and tomato stunt each other's growth.

**NORTHAMPTON COMMUNITY GARDEN**

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