

Classroom Garden Update



October
2011



Teacher Training

Thank you for attending our Fall Teacher Training Session in September. We hope you received helpful information to enable you to have a successful garden this fall, and in the future. In an effort help enhance your garden experience, Texas AgriLife Extension and Bexar County Master Gardeners will be sending you a monthly *Garden Update*, with suggestions for timely garden activities and planting suggestions. We are working hard to get our **Classroom Garden Mentor Program** in place. We hope to have a Master Gardener for each school to answer questions and help you solve problems that arise during the year. Our goal that each student have a good gardening experience. At the Teacher Training sessions we suggested some ways in which you can incorporate gardening into your curriculum. These lessons will be enhanced if the garden grows! We hope to help you do that! Meanwhile, look for our newsletter every month....and if you have questions, please don't hesitate to call or email the **HOTLINE (467-6575; info@bexarcountymastergardeners.org)**

Garden Activities for October

- Do not let these **weeds** take over this garden. Make sure that your plot and walkway is free of weeds. Everyone needs to be reminded not to walk in or on any of the beds.
- If you have holes in your cabbage, cauliflower, broccoli or Chinese cabbage then, you need to look on the backside and destroy the **cabbage looper caterpillars**.
- Remove any brown leaves on the cabbage, cauliflower and broccoli plants.
- Apply evenly a granulated **fertilizer** around your established plants.
- Did you know you could grow **kohlrabi** and **beets** from seed? Try some!
- Without damaging any leaves or branches, make sure that ALL the **tomato** plants are growing inside their cages. When you are doing this, keep a watchful eye on any caterpillars that are eating the leaves and dispose of them properly.
- Examine your **cucumber** plants very carefully. The way to tell that the fruit is ready to harvest is when the flower has fallen off the end. Do not damage the vines when the fruit is harvested from the vine.
- Plant **carrot seeds** now. Each seed should be planted barely below the soil surface by lightly pushing it in. Each row of seeds should be a minimum of six inches apart with each individual seed placed 2 to 4 inches apart. Be consistent. Consider laying out all the seeds in the design before planting. Once they have been planted lightly water them in and place an identification tag with the name and date.
- Plant **lettuce seeds** now. Be careful, this is a tiny seed. Dig a two inch wide trench about 1/2" deep. Thoroughly water the trench two or three times. Gently drop the seeds down the trench in a nice, straight line. Space each seed about two inches apart and make sure it has contact with the soil. **DO NOT** cover or bury the seeds with soil.
- Fertilize vegetable transplants and emerging seeds with a gallon of Hasta- Gro starter mix.
- Make sure that your **irrigation system** is running efficiently with proper water flow. If they are not, turn the pressure on high a couple of times to drain the lines. Using a paperclip to unclog the lines works well.
- DO NOT RELY ON THE SYSTEM TO WATER NEWLY PLANTED TRANSPLANTS, water them in well by hand**
- If you have **cabbage, cauliflower, broccoli plants, Chinese cabbage and squash plants**, mix liquid Dipel (at the rate of two ounces per-half-a-water can with water) and lightly drench all the leaves. Hopefully, this will help prevent damage from cabbage loopers and squash vine borers.