



WEEKLY WEEDER

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Beautiful blooms from barometer bush thanks to rain (J. Willmann)

Fall Plant Sale for Sunshiners

As previously reported, Squeaky Frog Farm (former Sunshine gardeners Jen Woertz and Jeff Monks) will again be selling fall plants to Sunshine gardeners. The sale will most likely be Saturday, September 24 ... the same day as the All-Gardener Meeting (see below).

Unlike last year, preordering will not be required. Gardeners will select and pay for plants at Sunshine on the day of the sale. A list of plants expected to be available can be found on the [Squeaky Frog Farm website](#). The price of plants for Sunshine gardeners will be \$2.00 and not the \$2.25 shown on the website. The sale is limited to Sunshine gardeners. — *Submitted by Jim Willmann*



Mark Your Calendars

Sunshine All-Gardener Meeting Saturday, 9/24. 10:00am

The board has set the next Sunshine All-Gardener Meeting for Saturday, 9/24 at 10:00am. Likely topics for discussion (and possible action) include spring plant sale, vines on fence, Sunshine hours, update on front gate, and late recording of service hours worked. Look for more details about these topics and more in future Weekly Weeders. If there is any item you would like to see

discussed at the meeting, please let [Jim Willmann](#) know. — *Submitted by Jim Willmann*



Take Survey on Fence Vines and Garden Hours

All Sunshine members/gardeners should have received an email Wednesday morning providing a link to a survey seeking feedback on two issues the board is considering

1. Whether or not to have vines on the new fence; and
2. Whether or not the garden should be closed to gardeners during the darkest night/morning hours

The survey is multiple choice and should take only 5 minutes. The survey is open until noon Monday, September 5, but members/gardeners are urged to complete by midnight Friday, September 2nd, so the results can be analyzed and reviewed before the board meets on Tuesday, September 6th.

If you are a Sunshine member/gardener and did not receive the email with link to survey, please contact [Kerry Drake](#) — *Submitted by Jim Willmann*



Your September Sunshine Garden

The recent rains have made the ground easier to work and temperatures more moderate. Unlike some recent blistering early Septembers, this one hints of fall. As many Sunshine gardeners know, Fall Gardening can be the best gardening of the year, with pleasant conditions and crops that (in most years) may be harvested all through the winter. September is the gateway to a marvelous fall garden season. Getting your garden ready for fall planting now and planting your fall crops later in the month should yield many months of enjoyable and productive gardening.

While most fall crops do well planted later in September, there are a few that need to get into the ground in a hurry. Irish potatoes really need to be planted by the end of the first week of the month, and summer squash, cucumbers, and snap/lima beans very soon after that.

While tomatoes may be the celebrities of spring gardening, brassicas (cruciferous vegetables) are the understated stars of fall gardening. Generally speaking it is best to transplant heading cruciferous vegetables like broccoli, cauliflower, and Brussels sprouts, while leafy brassicas like collard greens, mustard, and kale may either be directly sown into the ground or transplanted. Quick growing radishes (varieties like Easter Egg and French Breakfast mature in about a month) may be planted around brassica transplants since they will be harvested before the cruciferous vegetables grow too large and shade them out.

The salad days of Central Texas gardening are definitely in the fall. Lettuce and spinach need cooler temperatures to germinate and grow without bolting, so wait until at least mid or late September to plant or transplant. Since lettuce seeds require light and plenty of water Sunshine gardener and Board Member Kay McMurray advises sprinkling a scant amount of dirt or compost over lettuce seeds and topping with lightweight white row cover. Water the seeds through the row cover, ideally twice daily for about a week. You can also start lettuce and spinach seeds indoors in September and transplant the plants outside when the weather is cooler than 75 degrees most of the time. Spinach

will simply not germinate if the soil is too warm. A former Sunshine gardener who had fantastic spinach crops every year advised me to soak spinach seeds in cold water for for 24 hours (a small jar of water in the refrigerator works well) before planting to help with germination. Swiss chard is another excellent leafy vegetable that may be planted in the fall, and it stands a good chance of surviving the winter and continuing to grow in the spring and summer, too. Plant chard in a place where it can stay put for a year or more.

Some herbs like basil are very cold sensitive and will not have time to mature if seeds are planted now. If you still have basil from your spring garden, now would be an ideal time to either harvest the plants to make way for cool season herbs or prune them heavily and allow the bushier plants to continue growing until the cold weather comes. Make and freeze pesto if you have an abundance of basil.

Other herbs like cilantro do not do well in the spring garden but absolutely thrive in the fall garden. Cilantro may be planted in late September or when temperatures start staying below 85 degrees consistently. Cilantro may be planted every two weeks or so through the fall if you want to harvest it frequently. Parsley, chervil, chives, and dill are other herbs that do well planted in the fall, although be advised that dill may die if it dips below 25 degrees or so.

If your garden includes flowers as well as food crops then it is almost time to divide or plant spring flowering bulbs. Bearded irises and daylilies should be divided in late September or October, and most bulbs like cannas may also be planted then. Sow wildflower seed now through November. — *Submitted by Maria Beach*

Vegetables to Plant in September

Artichoke (Transplants, starting second week of September)
Asian Greens (Seeds or Transplants; All Month)
Beans, Snap and Lima (Seeds; Through mid-September)
Beets (Seeds; All Month)
Broccoli (Transplants; All Month)
Brussels Sprouts (Transplants; All Month)
Cabbage (Transplants; All Month)
Carrots (Seeds; All Month)
Cauliflower (Transplants; All Month)
Chard (Seeds or Transplants; All Month)
Collards (Seeds or Transplants; All Month)
Cucumber (Seeds; Through mid-September)
Garlic (Cloves; Starting mid-September)
Greens, Cool Season (Seeds; Starting last week of September)
Kale (Seeds or Transplants; All Month)
Kohlrabi (Seeds or Transplants; All Month)
Leeks (Seeds only, Starting mid-September)
Lettuce (Seeds or Transplants; Starting mid-September)
Mustard (Seeds or Transplants; All Month)
Onions, Bunching or Multiplying (Seeds; All Month)
Peas, English, Snap, or Snow (Seeds; All Month)
Potato, Irish (Potato Pieces; First week of September only)
Radish (Seeds; All Month)
Shallots (Cloves; Starting last week of September)

Spinach (Seeds or Transplants; Starting late September)
Squash, Summer (Seeds; Through mid-September)
Turnip (Seeds; All Month)

Planting calendar adapted by Maria Beach from the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Vegetable Planting Guide for Travis County, compiled by Patty G. Leander, Master Gardener Vegetable Specialist and used with permission. [complete planting guide](#) —
Submitted by Maria Beach

Garden Education by Ila Falvey

Austin Organic Gardeners has announced: [The Organic Guide to Fertilizers](#) which will take place on September 12 from 6 to 9 pm.

Resources for Sunshiners

- [ACGA's most recent Cultivator newsletter](#)
- [Austin Sustainable Food Center](#)

Garden Tasks by Steve Camp

Greetings SCG Gardeners!

Some things have changed! We had almost 4 inches of rain in the last few days and the temperature is 10 degrees cooler. It's time to rejoin the garden community! The rain is increasing the need for mowing, trimming around the entire garden. I would like every member of this COMMUNITY GARDEN to at least come out and take a look at their plot. I'm not saying do anything if you don't feel like it but look at it and make future plans. If you feel like you can't manage it anymore, please let us know. We do have a waiting list.

I think that by now all have heard or read the new directives involving plant waste. I want to thank all of you that are participating for not putting anything but plant waste in our compost pile. While loading the container we found virtually no trash.

There will be no more IOUs accepted as payment in the lockbox. Checks or Cash in an envelope would be great.

If you can't remember the last time that you had a Tetanus shot, it's time to get one! There are plenty of opportunities to be exposed to it at the garden. My doctor has recommended once every 7 years.

NEXT SCHEDULED WORKDAY

TBD

Workdays often evolve into social events! SCG is a fantastic place to meet new friends and learn both new and old gardening techniques. There's a wealth of knowledge here and experienced people that love to share it.

NEW GARDENERS

There are several new gardeners at SCG! Please don't hesitate to introduce yourself and y'all get to know each other a little and share garden knowledge and tips. Let's emphasize the COMMUNITY in Community Garden.

Please read handbook and site rules. Any hardware (hoses, sprayers, nozzles, splitters etc.) attached to garden faucets and maintenance of said items are the responsibility of individual gardeners.

ROADS AND PARKING

- Speed limit is 3 MPH. (Primarily for safety, but also to keep the dust down.)
- Sunshine's roads provide access to plots and common areas. Gardeners should not 1) park on roads except to unload a heavy load from vehicle, 2) drive on roads when wet, 3) drive around barriers, 4) drive into another gardener's plot, or 5) put plants or other items in the road.
- Cars may not be left idling while at the garden.
- Park only in the front parking area or your common area. On weekends there are parking spaces on Sunshine and 49th Street.

Handbook and Site rules specifically state that **PARKING ON GARDEN ROADS IS STRICTLY PROHIBITED**. Park in the parking lot or common areas only. When the emergency vehicle enters SCG, they may (I hope not) be coming to assist YOU. How inconvenient it would be for them to have to wait for folks to move cars.

PRIORITY TASKS

- Mowing/Edging/trimming fence line inside and out to the curb on Sunshine AND 49th Street.
- Khaki weed

TSVBI

- Weeding paths in TSVBI garden and wood chip areas on west side. (This is normally needed. Try to get out roots. Be sure to smooth out paths after weeding to facilitate TSVBI students (who are blind) moving around garden). Mowing between fence and street along 49th St. and Sunshine Dr. along and 10' inside fence.
- Khaki weed removal.
- Cleaning the street curb gutters of dirt and debris buildup. (At places in the curb gutter along Sunshine Dr. And 49th St. soil has built up and grass is beginning to grow. Scrape off with shovel and put in wheelbarrow. If debris is gravel it can be put in low places in the parking lot, otherwise, destination is dumpster.

Note: TSVBI hours can also count as regular hours.

REGULAR

- Mowing, edging (Please check area around trailer and greenhouses). The mowing season is picking up (if it ever rains, it will pick up exponentially.) It's way easier to keep it mowed than try to catch up when it gets overgrown.
- Maintaining common paths. (Gardeners are required to maintain a 2' strip of common paths adjacent to their plot.)
- Mowing and cleaning up overgrown/messy places in common areas.

Your Zone Coordinator may have more tasks than are listed here. Contact them or campinthefarden@yahoo.com if you feel that you have run out of things to do.

Slow Down (3 MPH!) You're on Garden Time! Enjoy!

Contact both [Kristin Phillips](#) & [Maria Beach](#) to contribute the Weekly Weeder.



