



WEEKLY WEEDER

December 29, 2022

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Before the Freeze: Parsley headed to dehydrator by gardener Susan Hoberman

Sunshine Survives Freeze

Sunshine sustained only minor pipe damage during the recent freeze. The other really good news is that the newly-started herbs in the greenhouse survived.

The only identified damage is pipe breaks at two water stations. We believe that part of the reason the damage was minor is that hoses were disconnected from all faucets. The only exceptions were hoses with aluminum fittings which had chemically bonded to the faucet and impossible to remove. When a hose is connected, the water may not drain away from faucet and then freezes causing the pipe to break. The two water stations suffering freeze damage were ones at which a hose could not be disconnected. Special thanks to Ray Porter, Jimmie Schneider and Steve Camp for turning the water off/on and draining pipes in trailer and garden. — *Submitted by Jim Willmann*

Greetings from the Chicken Coop

We hope that the flock did well in the frigid temperatures; Chicken Coop members always prepare for winter so carefully and keep water unfrozen in the cold.

A lovely photo (and close-up) by Patrick Hagenow has one chicken looking at us from a sunnier day.



Reminder: Saturday Deadline To Complete Fall Service Hours

Fall service hours must be completed by this Saturday (12/31) and recorded in the Green Binder by January 7th. Gardeners joining Sunshine prior to July 1, 2022, will be billed for unworked hours. New gardeners joining July 1, 2022, or later, must work all of their service hours and may not pay for unworked hours. Gardeners are encouraged to check the Green Binder and verify that their service hours for the fall season are correctly recorded. This is the best way to avoid surprises when bills are sent out in mid-January. Gardeners who believe they may qualify for a waiver for all or part of their fall service hours should contact their zone coordinator to discuss (e.g., because of a health condition.) Thank you for helping us keep the community running smoothly at Sunshine Community Garden! — *Submitted by Jim Willmann*

Front Gate on New Year's Eve and New Year's Day

Opening (8am) and Closing (6:00pm)

On New Year's Eve and New Year's Day, the front gate will be opened at 8 am and closed at 6 pm. Gardeners needing to be in the garden before 8 am or after 6 pm can park on street and use the pedestrian gate. —

Submitted by Jim Willmann

Garden Education by Ila Falvey

After the Artic Blast that struck the death blow to our summer vegetables and damaged/killed (sadly) most of our winter crops, please take advantage of the predicted mild weather to tend to your garden.

For the health of the garden soil, to reduce disease, to reduce rat breeding habitat, please remove all dead and decaying plants, sticks, piles of decaying vegetation and haul them off to the designated spot in the compost area. Your dead tomatoes and pepper plants should not remain in your garden to harbor disease. If you are an optimist, leave your somewhat damaged winter crops as they might be sort of OK.

Check the planting calendar for what can be planted now: <https://travis-tx.tamu.edu/files/2020/06/Vegetable-Planting-Calendar-Travis-2015.pdf> or just weed and prepare your garden for spring by adding compost and covering with leaves.

Gardening in Texas is not for the faint of heart.

Garden Tasks by Steve Camp

Howdy SCG Gardeners! HAPPY HOLIDAYS!!!!

I want to sincerely thank all of those who took, and are taking care of things that I should be taking care of at the garden. We had a great trip to Montreal—Québec. Unfortunately I picked up a bug somewhere on the way back and have been laid up ever since, gradually on the mend.

ATTENTION!! - If you believe that you are the last person leaving the garden in evening, please CLOSE AND LOCK THE TRAILER! Any SCG

garden member knows the combination and can let themselves in should the need arise.

NEXT SCHEDULED WORKDAY - in January, day to to be determined.

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.

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.

At some point soon the entrance will be closed for 3-5 hours while asphalt operations are performed. We will send out an email blast when that happens.

PRIORITY TASKS

- Mowing and Trimming everywhere but especially Fenceline and lawn on either side of fence. With the recent rains and more to come, mowing has become a primary task.

Note the North and East fenceline now have a number assigned to each panel. It is on a brass ring hanging on the panel. Please, either you or a small group please sign up for a panel that you will work to keep clean and neat looking. It may have certain vines on it if you wish. Check with leaders about which vines are best. Thanks!

- Khaki Weed Season is Upon Us! For the uninitiated, Khaki weed is an invasive plant that infects the garden in late spring, summer, and fall. We are determined every year to eradicate it as much as possible. To this end, we are allowing digging up khaki weed to be counted as TSVBI hours until further notice.
- Maintaining common paths and common areas. If you have plants extending into common paths, trim them. The common paths are designed to allow the biggest wheelbarrows that we own to traverse them unimpeded.

TSVBI

- Weeding paths in TSBVI 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 TSBVI students moving around garden). Mowing between fence and street along 49th St. and Sunshine Dr. along and 10' inside fence.
- Picking up trash wherever you see it.
- 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

- 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 campinthegarden@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.



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