



WEEKLY WEEDER

Sept 7, 2023

1. Your September Sunshine Garden
 2. Save the Date: Plant Sale and All-Gardener Meeting on September 23
 3. Additional Accessible Beds for Fall Season
 4. Last Load of Compost Coming
 5. Garden Education by Ila Falvey
 6. Sunshine Notes from Marsha Riti
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Your September Sunshine Garden

September is the month that really begins fall gardening. Unfortunately, hotter than normal temperatures are forecast for Austin through at least mid-September, making “fall” gardening seem like a distant prospect or cruel taunt. You might opt only to plant vegetables that need to get into the ground in a hurry now and save the rest of your fall planting until late September and beyond. Irish potatoes really need to be planted immediately, and summer squash, cucumbers, and snap/lima beans very soon after that. Cabbage family crops and radishes and greens can wait a little longer.

Brassicas (cruciferous or cabbage family vegetables) are the unpretentious stars of fall vegetable gardening. Many types of brassicas will be available at our Fall Plant Sale on September 23 (for Sunshine gardeners only). Heading cruciferous

vegetables are best planted as transplants, while leafy brassicas may either be directly sown into the ground or transplanted. Quick growing radishes may be planted around brassica transplants since they will be harvested before the cruciferous vegetables grow too large and shade them out. You can prepare beds for these plants now by weeding then watering the bed and covering it with a good layer of mulch. This will help keep the soil a little cooler and will encourage earthworms to move into the bed. Mulch can be moved aside a bit when the time comes to plant.

Lettuce and spinach need cooler temperatures to germinate and grow without bolting, so you may need to wait until late September or even October to plant or transplant greens this year. You can also start greens indoors this month and transplant the plants outside when the weather is cooler than 75 degrees most of the time. Some greens will simply not germinate if the soil is too warm. When September is as scorching as this one is, patience may be the key to good fall greens.

Like lettuce and spinach, fall herbs do best when the temperatures are cooler. October's edition of this column will highlight fall herbs. It is simply too hot for things like cilantro now.

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.

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.

To see the complete planting guide visit: <https://travis-tx.tamu.edu/files/2020/06/Vegetable-Planting-Calendar-Travis-2015.pdf>

—Submitted by Maria Beach

Save the Date:

Fall Plant Sale and All-Gardener Meeting on Saturday 9/23

The Squeaky Frog Farm (former Sunshine gardeners Jen Woertz and Jeff Monks) fall plant sale for Sunshine gardeners will be Saturday 9/23 from 9 AM to 2 PM in the GardenPort greenhouse. Plants available will be broccoli, cauliflower, cabbage, Brussel sprouts, leafy greens (kale, Swiss chard, etc.), and some herbs and ornamentals. The specific varieties available can be found at:

http://www.squeakyfrogfarm.com/2023_Fall_Plant_List.pdf

The price of plants for Sunshine gardeners will be \$2.00 each and not the \$2.25 shown on the website. Gardeners will select and pay for plants on the day of the sale, there is no pre-ordering. The sale is limited to Sunshine gardeners.

The Sunshine Fall All-Gardener Meeting is also scheduled for 10 am on September 23, so that will be a day for Sunshine gardeners to get their fall plants, socialize with fellow gardeners, and take care of Sunshine business. The plant sale will start at 9:00, close during the all-gardener meeting, and reopen when the meeting adjourns.

—Submitted by Jim Willmann



A view of old and new raised beds. Photo by Jim Willmann

Additional Accessible Beds for Fall Season

Seven new accessible beds will be available for the fall season. Sunshine's accessible bed area (Vernon Barker Memorial Garden) is designed to provide a gardening opportunity to individuals who have not been able to garden because of their need for a more accessible space. The area was recently expanded to increase the number of beds from three to ten beds, and to redesign the area so accessibility for wheelchair bound gardeners is now

possible. Four of the beds are now designed specifically for wheelchair bound gardeners with 5' paths and a water faucet at each bed. Two new water stations were installed for the other six beds so no bed will be more than 10' from a faucet.

The expansion was under the general direction of past and current Sunshine presidents Jim Willmann and Iris Slevin Bachman and made possible because of Sunshine gardeners volunteering their time to do the work. Special thanks go to Robert Jarry and Jimmie Schneider. Robert constructed the seven new beds and relocated the water lines. Jimmie was there whenever needed and spent many hours helping prepare the area for the new beds. Other Sunshine gardeners volunteering their time to help make the expansion a reality were Steve Fenoglio, Bill Cason, Victor Houle, Franco Rotondi, Rachel Lee, Renee Fleishman, Bassam Zeineddine, Joe Ahlquist, Arran Walker, Jen Brown, Bill Gaventa, Mike Phillips, Dawn Friesen, Jack Seaquist, Jing Li, Steve Uecker, Susan Frazier, Piresh, Bob Drake, and Mary Drake. Thanks to all for a job well done.

Anyone who would like to be considered for one of the accessible beds should contact Ila Falvey to see about getting on the waiting list.

—*Submitted by Jim Willmann*



New plumbing at the raised beds. Photo by Jim Willmann

Last Load of Compost Coming

The last load of compost has been ordered today and will be arriving soon.

Garden Education by Ila Falvey

This interesting article about Compost Use and Soil Fertility was brought to my attention by Debra Mariano. It is very informative.

[Vegetable: Compost Use and Soil Fertility | Center for Agriculture, Food, and the Environment at UMass Amherst](#)

Garden Notes from Marsha Riti

The lovely icons for this section were created by Marsha Riti



Stay Hydrated

With temperatures in the hundreds it is of great importance to stay hydrated. There are electrolyte packets in the cool room. Also, it would be best to not work during the heat of the day.

Here's a link to the CDC heat related illness guide:

illness <https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/heatstress/heatrelillness.html>.



Slack

Are you looking for a Sunshine Community Gardens social media space to chat with fellow gardeners? Look no further, we have Slack! This is not a new account for our garden.

What is new is that we have a Slack "Pro" account for non-profits as of this week. This means we are able to retain our message history past 90 days and we have other cool new features. Check out [this link](#) to see what the pro account gets us. If you would like to [be on our Slack account](#), please join! Only Sunshine Community Gardeners are allowed on our account, so I'll be checking new Slack members against our database. Just call me your friendly Slack Bouncer.



Help Needed!!!

Our community garden needs help with:

- A social media volunteer to start and create content for a SCG TikTok account and also help post to Facebook, and Instagram. If interested contact marsha@marshariti.com
- An Entertainment Volunteer for the 2024 spring sale. If interested contact marsha@marshariti.com
- Volunteers for the Plot Helpers crew. This team of people help gardeners who are sick or are caretaking. The work is rewarding and fun! If interested please contact [both](#) Bill Gaventa: bill.gaventa@gmail.com and Bill Cason: Wccason@gmail.com

Volunteering for these roles counts towards your SCG service hours in the [Green Binder](#).



General Workday

Saturday the 16th, 8-11am there will be a workday led by Steve Uecker.

Things to do: Clear paths, Lay mulch on paths, Uproot khacki weed (counts as TSVBI work), Mow the Zone, etc.



Beautification Committee Workday

Need service hours? There is always a workday every Sunday (9-12pm) in the flower beds around the trailer. Hosted by Matthew Johnston.



Kid's Garden!

Thanks to the volunteerism of Sunshine gardeners, Sunshine is ready to get young members of the community gardening.

While there is more to come, in terms of tools for the kids and shade areas, the beds are ready for the kids to start planting!

Gardeners who made contact about sponsoring a child aged 5-11 will be contacted soon by the Children's Garden Zone Coordinator, Pam Kirby. We still have some available beds for children. If you are a garden member in good standing and wish to sponsor a child who would enjoy gardening in his or her own 3x3 bed, contact [Pam](#) for further information.

OMG, Cars, slow down!



Please drive slowly (3 MPH) in the garden. There are cats, kids, and gardeners who use this space, and we need it to be safe for everyone.



Mowers and Weed Whackers

Don't know how to use the gas or electric grass cutting equipment? Please contact:

[Steve Camp](#) (electric mowers / weed wackers)

[Ray Porter](#) (gas mowers)



More grass than garden?

Please clean up your plot. If you have health issues that are keeping you from working on your plot contact your Zone Coordinator or the Vice President for assistance. Also, if you'd like to fallow your plot for the rest of the summer, posted below is

how to do that (taken from page 28 of the Handbook). Please make sure your Zone Coordinator or Vice President knows you are following your plot.

Fallow Season or Cover Crop

Occasionally, members may choose to leave a plot fallow for a season. This is a good practice to provide the soil a break. Fallow plots should be cleared of plants and weeds, then covered completely with compost and then cardboard, a thick layer of leaves, or other material that allows water to permeate. Avoid using plastic as it creates a good environment for fire ants underneath, and water pools on top. An alternative to a fallow season is to plant a cover crop to serve as green manure; this can be turned under at the end of the season to condition the soil. Consult the literature or local garden center for details on this technique for soil improvement.

Contact all three Co-Editors: [Maria](#), [Maggie](#), & [Marianne](#) to contribute the *Weekly Weeder*.



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