



WEEKLY WEEDER

Sept. 28, 2023

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Request for Volunteers for Plot Helpers

The garden is looking for 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

Workday October 7th

The next workday will be Saturday, October 7th from 8 am to 10 am. Marsha Riti and Marilyn Landberg's workday will be removing the greenhouse plastic and helping the Plot Helpers Team.

Locking Up



Power tool section of tool shed left open. Photo submitted by Debra Mariano.

Recently, the tool shed was left unlocked overnight. All gardeners can help keep Sunshine safe and prevent our tools from disappearing by locking up. If you need to know the combination/codes for the Tool Shed, the Trailer, or the Front Gate please speak to your Zone Coordinator or email Sunshine's President, Iris, at irisslevin861@gmail.com. Different parts of the garden have different locking procedures:

The Power Tool Section of the Tool Shed should *never* be left unlocked and unattended. If you get out a lawn mower or electric weed trimmer please lock the shed as soon as you remove the tool and again when you return the item.

The Tool Shed itself may be left unlocked during daylight hours, but please lock up when sundown approaches or if you are the last person in the garden.

The Trailer may be unlocked from 8am-8pm (or daylight hours during shorter days). Please lock up similarly to the Tool Shed, especially if sundown approaches or you are the last person in the garden in the evening. Please check to make sure no one is in the trailer/restrooms before you lock it. Enter code, then unlatch box at top by sliding latch down. Remove key and unlock the lock. Replace key in lockbox -- you must enter code again to close the lockbox.

The Front Gate should be locked by the last person to leave the garden. Enter the code on the lockbox. Slide the top of the latch down to open the box. Remove the key and unlock the gate. Replace key immediately in the lock box by entering the code again to allow the latch to be closed.

Thank you for doing your part to help keep the tools and garden secure.

Thank you from Squeaky Frog Farm

We would like to thank everyone at Sunshine who supported us at the plant sale last Saturday. We had a great turnout despite the unseasonable heat. We'd like to wish everyone luck with their plants this fall! Your support has been invaluable to us in getting our nursery business off the ground.

If you'd like us to recycle the pots and trays, please leave them in the GardenPort hoop house, and we will collect them over the coming weeks.

Thanks again, Sunshine!

- Submitted by Jen Woertz and Jeff Monks, Squeaky Frog Farm

Meet New Zone 10 Coordinator Su Vonteri



Photo of Su and her dog, submitted by Su Vonteri.

I joined the garden in 2011-2012. My grandparents were farmers and always grew varieties of lentils, sugar cane, basmati rice, corn and varieties of hot chiles as well as acres of mango trees, orange trees and coconut trees. I always enjoyed visiting and watching plants grow. Joining the garden is one of my greatest experiences. It

feels like I am sharing a little bit of my culture. I try to grow some Asian vegetables and other gardeners always want to know what they are and how to cook them. Some gardeners grow the seeds I shared with them, like bitter melon and holy basil. I enjoy gardening, walking and sharing recipes with others.

—Submitted by Su Vonteri

Photo: Coral Vine and Carpenter Bee



Photo by Susan Van Haitsma

As I'm sure many gardeners are seeing, the Coral Vine arbor is a bee magnet. Here is a Carpenter Bee joining the bounty of blossoms today.

- Submitted by Susan Van Haitsma

Garden Education by Ila Falvey

Now is the time to plant carrots. Backbone Nursery has good planting information. Several things to things to remember:

1. Plant 1/4 to 1/2 inch deep. Broadcasting does not work.
2. Do not let the seeds dry out. Water the soil several days before planting.
3. Water with a fine spray.

If you are interested in learning more about growing carrots, Backbone Nursery provides more information at the following link:

<https://backbonevalleynursery.com/growing-carrots-in-central-texas/>

Happy Gardening!

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/heatreillness.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

The next workday is October 7, from 8 am to 10 am. The focus will be removing the greenhouse plastic and helping the Plot Helpers Team.



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 fallowing 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.

Garden news, seasonal recipes, photos of Sunshine and other content

welcome! Contact all three Co-Editors: [Maria](#), [Maggie](#), & [Marianne](#) to contribute the *Weekly Weeder*. Please submit items at or before 5 p.m. on Wednesdays to be included in the current week.



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