



WEEKLY WEEDER

March 7, 2024

1. Thank you to Plant Sale Volunteers and Participants
 2. Post Plant Sale Extended to Sunday
 3. Photos: Plant Sale
 4. Garden Education by Ila Falvey
 5. Sunshine Notes from Marsha Riti
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Thank you to Plant Sale Volunteers and Participants

A huge Thank You to all the volunteers and especially Marsha for organizing our 2024 Plant Sale!

Thank you to Gabriel Valley Farms for partnering with us again this year.

Thank you to everyone for their donations to Plants for Schools and to Jim Willmann for all his effort to coordinate this outreach. With the additional contributions we were able to offer 3x the number we had budgeted!

Post Plant Sale Extended to Sunday

The post plant sale has been extended to Sunday. There are still tomato plants left

for gardeners who want them in the greenhouse. Payments can be made via paypal or cash.

Photos: The Plant Sale



Partners for Education, Agriculture and Sustainability (PEAS) at their stand at the plant sale.. Photo by Susan Van Hatisma.



"Jack's Garage" performing at the plant sale. Photo by Susan Van Hatisma.



Mom & Pops selling frozen paleta pops at the plant sale. Photo by Susan Van Hatisma.

More Plant Sale Photos and Post-Sale Information Next Week!

Garden Education by Ila Falvey

Tomato Cages and Tomato Planting

Tomato cages are difficult to store so it might seem that they do not belong to anyone but if they are in or around someone's plot they do belong to someone. Please **DO NOT** take tomato cages that aren't yours **UNLESS** they are in front of the tool shed. In front of the tool shed is the "depot" for garden items that can be reused. Feel free to take whatever is left there.

Tomatoes should be planted deeply, especially if they are tall. You can dig a deep hole or plant them sideways in a trench. Tomatoes can form additional

roots along the stem creating a larger surface area to absorb nutrients and anchor the plant. You should remove several sets of bottom leaves. It was suggested that you allow the removed leaf area to scab over for a couple of days before planting.

Austin Organic Gardeners Demonstration and Talk

Austin Organic Gardeners will meet on Monday, March 11 with work on a Three Sisters planting demonstration and a talk on Three Sisters Agriculture by Doug Martin from Central Texas Cherokee Township. For details visit:

https://www.austinorganicgardeners.org/nextevent.html?mc_cid=aa8ec2cf9a&mc_eid=e9768a5fd3

March Gardening and Soil Preparation

This article contains good information about March gardening and preparing the soil for your spring planting. Keep in mind that at Sunshine, we use organic fertilizers--primarily fish emulsion and seaweed. Even though Sunshine has good soil (created over 30 years by gardeners), it still needs to be amended. Usually gardeners add compost at the beginning of the spring and fall growing seasons. Compost adds some nutrients and improves the texture of the soil. Read more about soil prep and a March Gardening checklist in this article by Travis County Master Gardener Paula Wolfel:

<https://travis-tx.tamu.edu/2024/03/04/whats-happening-in-the-austin-march-vegetable-garden/>

-- Submitted by Ila Falvey

Happy Gardening!

Garden Notes from Marsha Riti

The lovely icons for this section were created by Marsha Riti



About Hoses

The garden replaces the water pipes and brass taps but not any splitters or hoses. Those are the responsibility of the gardeners, not SCG the governing body over the garden. See the [SCG Site Rules](#) page 19; "SCG maintains plumbing at the water stations, but the

members must supply hoses. Be sure to keep hoses out of the paths to prevent tripping hazards. When hoses are not being used, they should be rolled in the plots or hung on the racks."

When purchasing new hoses and splitters, please, only buy hoses and splitters with brass fittings. If you use a hose or splitter with aluminum fittings it will fuse to our brass taps. Please read [this article](#) about brass and aluminum incompatibility. When attaching the hoses and splitters I recommend using a bit of [teflon tape](#) between all the threaded fittings for a leak-proof connection.



Slack

Are you looking for a Sunshine Community Gardens social media space to chat with fellow gardeners? Look no further, we have Slack! 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:

- 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

Check back for future workday times and dates.



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.



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 whackers)

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 by or before 5 p.m. on Wednesdays to be included in the current week.

Follow Sunshine Community Garden on Social Media!

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