



Weekly Weeder

June 23, 2022

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Pick Tomatoes at Color Break

Home gardeners should pick tomatoes sooner than later according to a [Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service](#) expert Adam Russell.

There is a common misconception among the public and home gardeners that vine-ripened tomatoes taste better. But picking tomatoes at color break does not hurt quality, reduces fruits' exposure to damage and can extend their shelf-life.

[Read the full article here.](#) — *Submitted by Ila Falvey*

Vegetable Data Request: What's Producing This Year?

While it is still fresh in everyone's mind, please let Randy Thompson know which varieties of tomatoes, peppers and eggplants produced either well or poorly in our summer of heat and drought.

Submit your insights to: jartdaht@gmail.com

Time to Finish Volunteer Hours for Sunshine

There are only a few more days this month in order to finish volunteering hours at Sunshine (and avoid paying extra in dues). Steve Camp lists many garden needs in his section in blue below — please feel free to pick a chore and submit your hours to the [Green Binder](#).

If you are looking for a social way to complete your hours, join other gardeners for the last Workday of this first half of the year. You can earn 1.5 hours for every hour that you work during this time!

WorkDay: Saturday June 25 from 8 am to 10 am.



Study in Yellow for the Solstice

Thanks to gardener Susan Van Haitzma, we can all celebrate this year's solstice with a study in yellow. As she noted, "yellow seems to be the dominant color at the gardens right now. Amidst the drought and heat, the sunflowers, cowpen daisies, cosmos and other yellow blooms keep reaching for the sun."



GARDEN TASKS - By Steve Camp

Greetings!

I hope everyone is having a great June! Please take care of yourselves during this record breaking weather. Stay hydrated and know the signs of heat exhaustion/stroke. Stay safe!

I think that by now all have heard or read the new directives involving plant waste and trash. Just in case ... absolutely no plant waste is to go into the dumpster. No trash from home is to go into the dumpster. Plant waste should be taken down the hill close to the compost pile. There is a new marked area for all plant waste. Please do not put anything that is not plant waste into that pile.

NEXT SCHEDULED WORKDAY JUNE 25, 2022 from 0:800 till 10:00

Please contact Steve Camp campinthegarden@yahoo.com on that Saturday morning for instructions just show up and look for me. This will be the last chance of the season to earn hours, TSVBI or otherwise.

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

- A. Speed limit is 3 MPH. (Primarily for safety, but also to keep the dust down.)
- B. 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.
- C. Cars may not be left idling while at the garden.
- D. 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

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 (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:

- 1.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.
2. Maintaining common paths. (Gardeners are required to maintain a 2' strip of common paths adjacent to their plot.)
3. Mowing and cleaning up overgrown/messy places in common areas.

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

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

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