



WEEKLY WEEDER

December 1, 2022

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Holiday Potluck on Sunday

EAT, HEAR LIVE MUSIC, AND BE MERRY AT SUNSHINE'S HOLIDAY POTLUCK PARTY

The Holiday Potluck is on 12/4/2022 Sunday at 5:30 -7:30 PM. The gathering will include door prizes, live music, potluck supper, and the company of all of your gardening friends.

See you at Sunshine for this gathering.



Harvest News ...

A giant KOHLRABI grown by my neighbor gardener Mike. Big enough and so delicious roasted that it could feed the entire population of SUNSHINE GARDEN gardeners! — *Submitted by Franco Rotondi*

Micah 6 Donations from November

November was a challenging month in the garden, so it was no surprise that produce donations decreased this past month.

- Produce - 122.5 lbs / 3,106.5 lbs
- Dry Goods - 0 lbs / 202.5 lbs

Hopefully December will be a better month. Brassica vegetables across Sunshine look vigorous and should be productive very soon. Please

consider donating your excess harvest to the Micah 6 Food Pantry. Donations of fresh produce may be left in the cool room (south end of the trailer) and in the trailer refrigerator. At this time of year, one delivery a week (Saturday ~ 9am) is made to the food pantry.

Special Request to Consider Holiday Dry Goods Donations:

Micah 6 Food Pantry is struggling to keep up with demand. The food pantry helps low-income individuals and families meet their most basic need for food and sustenance. Shoppers come from many walks of life: some have mental or physical disabilities, some are struggling financially despite being employed, some are unexpectedly unemployed or have some other crisis and have difficulty providing food for themselves and their families. This is a difficult city to live in for low-income people. Please consider donating non-perishable items in addition to produce this holiday season. Leave your donations in the cool room at the south end of the trailer.

Non-perishable donation suggestions:

- Canned meats such as tuna and stew (pop-up tops preferred)
- Canned vegetables and soup
- Dry beans and rice
- Healthy cereals
- Peanut butter

Thank you and Happy Holidays! — *Submitted by Walter Kuhl*

Gate Operations and News

With the end of daylight saving time, the front gate open and shut times have been changed to **7:00am (open) and 7:00pm (close)**. All vehicles will need to exit Sunshine before the gate is closed at 7:00pm.

A couple of other front gate items. TSBVI does not have a set timeline for switching the gate to automatic opening and closing with card reader access. Work still needs to be done on several gates on the TSBVI campus, and the automatic system will not be activated until that work is completed. TSBVI does not know when the work will be completed. Gardeners may have noticed the “bump” going through the gate. The contractor Sunshine has hired to lay asphalt in the gate area has done some prep work around the gate including digging out driveway at gate, so asphalt will be level with gate. Gardeners should drive very slowly going through the gate. — *Submitted by Jim Willmann*

Women and Fair Trade Sale

Crafts from women's cooperatives across borders will take place one day only, Saturday, Dec. 3, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.

First Unitarian Church, 4700 Grover, just around the corner from SCG —
Submitted by Susan Van Haitsma

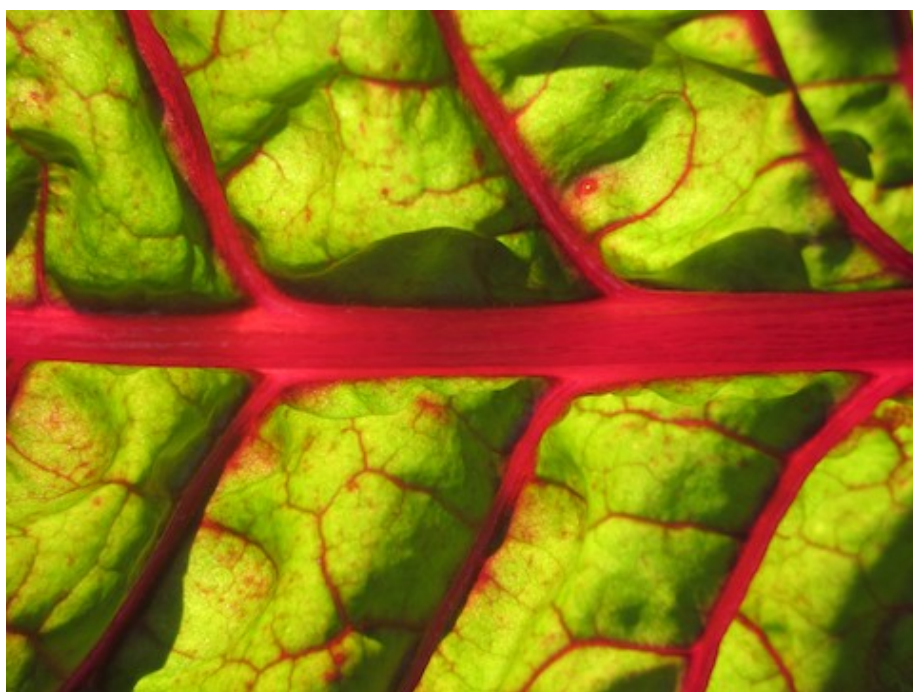


Image by Susan Van Haitsma

Your December Sunshine Garden

The first of December will be a chilly day, but the rest of the week should see high temperatures in the 60s and 70s. Most long-range weather models predict a warmer and drier than normal winter for Central Texas, but as Austin gardeners are well aware, our winters can be anything from balmy to brutal.

Short days mean there are fewer crops that may be planted in December than most months, but radishes and some leafy greens may still go into empty spaces in your winter garden. Cilantro transplants, parsley seeds, and some perennial herbs like oregano and thyme may also be planted now. Edible flowers like pansies and violas may be planted in December, too. Be prepared to cover plants if the temperatures dip below freezing.

While December is not an especially busy time for planting, it can be ideal for tackling other garden tasks that are taxing in hotter months. Mild early December days are a good time out to dig out Bermuda roots and other stubborn weeds, mulch beds to build soil for spring, and put down wood chips in pathways. The first half of the month is also a great time to finish any end of the year service hour tasks before taking a well-deserved

break to enjoy the holidays.

Vegetables to Plant in December

- Asian Greens (Seeds or Transplants; All Month)
- Greens, Cool Season (Seeds; All Month)
- Lettuce (Seeds or Transplants; All Month)
- Radish (Seeds; All Month)
- Spinach (Seeds or Transplants; 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*

Garden Education by Ila Falvey

Now that the heat of summer is over, we can all take a breather and think about how to combat pests next year. Austin Organic Gardeners have an [extensive article on the squash vine borer](#). Or, if you and your soil needs a break this growing season, check out their [information about winter cover crops](#).

Garden Tasks by Steve Camp

Howdy SCG Gardeners! The SCG HOLIDAY POTLUCK/ PARTY - SUNDAY 12/4 5:30 pm

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 - TBD

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.

Someone lost a nice piece of jewelry at the garden. Please text me at 361-215-0122 and describe it to me. It will be returned.

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

- 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 Fenceline and lawn on either side of fence.

Note the North, East and South 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 staff about which vines are best.

- 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 IN COMPOST AREA AND ALONG FENCELINES.
- 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

- 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.
- 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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