



# WEEKLY WEEDER

February 9, 2023

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3. All-Gardeners Meeting and Workday this Saturday
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# Head's Up! Compost is on the Way!

Want healthy vegetable plants? Now that there is hopefully a break in the weather, Sunshine is getting a load of organic super rooster compost on Thursday, February 9th. Because of how close it is to the plant sale, please pick up what you would like as soon as possible.

- 2 dollars a bucket
- 20 bucket limit per full size plot
- Please measure what is taken
- For use at Sunshine by Sunshine gardeners only
- Please pay at purchase with cash, check or PayPal and no coins
- Please return the buckets promptly ( several never did come back from the fall)

— *Submitted by Randy Thompson*

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## New Group at Sunshine Focuses on Helping Fellow Gardeners

The newly-formed team to help new gardeners and/or ones who temporarily need help has formed and is off to work.

That's the good news but we are finding that the demand is exceeding supply and we need more volunteers. Team members will be exempt from garden hours and need to be able provide two hours of work for the typical project. Most projects are scheduled for weekends. The work is rewarding, needed and much appreciated.

If you are interested in joining the team, contact Bill Cason ([wccason@gmail.com](mailto:wccason@gmail.com)) or Bill Gaventa ([bill.gaventa@gmail.com](mailto:bill.gaventa@gmail.com))

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## All Gardeners Meeting and Workday this Saturday

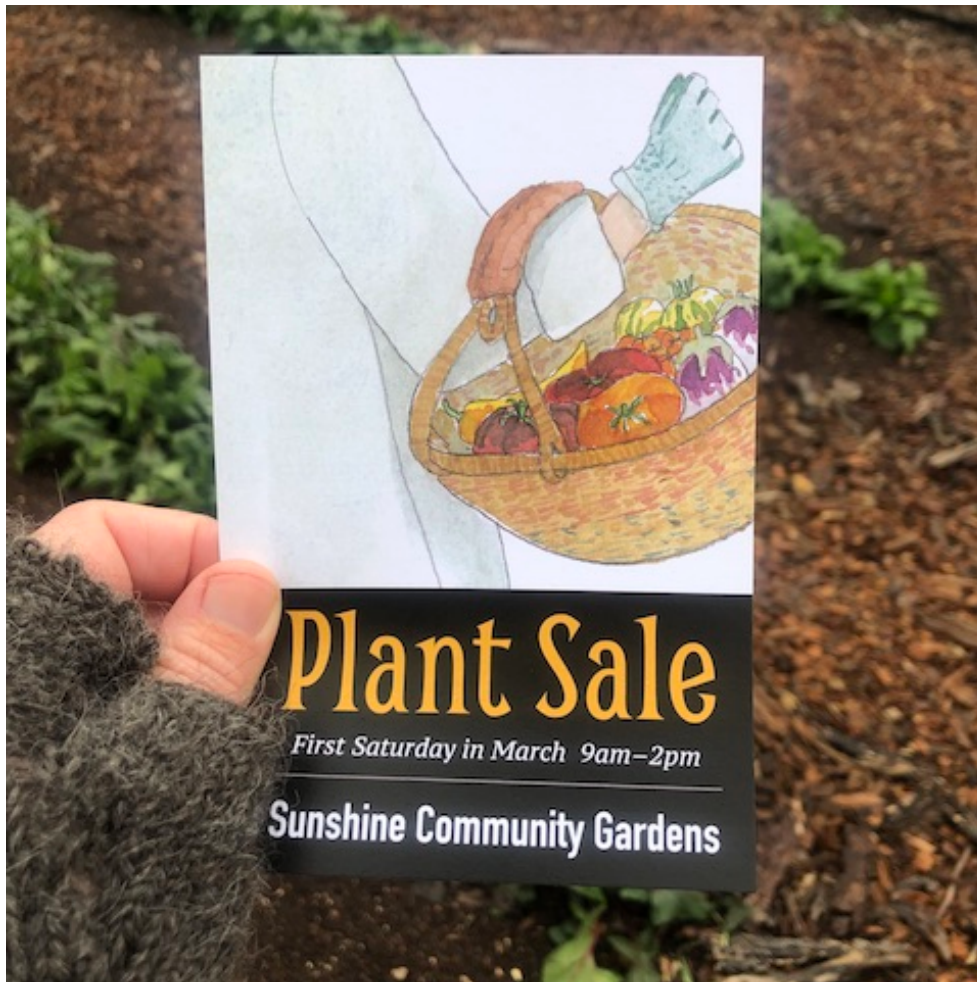
Sunshine's first quarter all-gardener meeting will be this Saturday, February 11 at 10:00 am on trailer lawn. The focus of the meeting will be the 2023 Plant Sale – what is happening, how to get involved, etc., etc.

Plant sale coordinators Marsha Riti and Karl Arcuri will lead much of the meeting. Refreshments will be served. So join your fellow Sunshine gardeners

this Saturday to socialize, enjoy some breakfast tacos, and learn about the 2023 plant sale.

The meeting will be followed by a 2-hour workday led by Ila Falvey. Forecast is low to mid 40's and sunny.— *Submitted by Jim Willmann*

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*Image for promoting Plant Sale was created by Amy Farrier*

## Advertise the Plant Sale with Postcards!

Postcards are available in Sunshine's trailer for people to pick up and distribute to their local library, grocery store and coffee shop. Thank you so much! It would also help promote the Plant Sale by Help promote the Spring Plant Sale by re-post Sunshine Community Gardens social media posts about the Plant Sale. We're on Facebook and Instagram.— *Submitted by Marsha Riti*

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## Volunteers Needed for Plant Sale Three Weeks Away!

1. [Sign up to volunteer](#) for the Spring Plant Sale! This is the biggest fundraiser of the year for the garden and **keeps your garden dues low**. Help the garden out by signing up for a volunteer position today. Don't forget that this counts for your hours worked at the garden.
2. So far, **only four people have signed up to bring food**. Please join in this lovely tradition and bring a breakfast or lunch item!  
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0C45ACAD2FA1FA7-sunshine>
3. If you would like to be a **cashier on Friday, Saturday or Sunday**, please also contact Susan Wallar for training: [swallar@gmail.com](mailto:swallar@gmail.com) or 512-791-3683
4. Reach out to Karl Arcuri ([karl.w.arcuri@gmail.com](mailto:karl.w.arcuri@gmail.com)) if you have anything to **donate to the Silent Auction**
5. Continue to collect **boxes** and black flat trays for the sale. Thank you!
6. Susan Prosperie is looking for **passalongs** to sell during the Plant Sale. If you have questions email [dzane@austin.rr.com](mailto:dzane@austin.rr.com) or text 512.762.2587
7. If you cannot volunteer on March 4th, there are many opportunities to help your fellow gardeners. **Label writers are needed** -- contact Susan Hoberman at [susanhoberman@gmail.com](mailto:susanhoberman@gmail.com)—*Submitted by Karl Arcuri and others*



Reminder: No Alcohol at Sunshine

A reminder that there is no alcohol permitted at Sunshine. This is from trash can on the deck and a few weeks ago Pearl Snap was also in the refrigerator. Anyway things that recycle should be taken home.—

*Submitted by Randy Thompson*

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## Garden Education by Ila Falvey

- Hoss Tools states the best soil amendment is compost and recommends that it be added twice a year (beginning of the spring and fall growing season).

Why add compost? To increase the productivity, growth, and healthier plants in the vegetable garden adding the best soil amendment will leave your soil structure with so many benefits for many growing seasons. Using great compost contains four key components — organic matter, moisture, bacteria, and oxygen.

In the garden, using good compost has many soil benefits such as providing plenty of nutrients into the soil so we don't have to use as many fertilizers in the vegetable garden.

Another advantage is it will amend the soil perfectly to make the soil more workable by adding organic matter. A good quantity of compost has an adequate ratio of nitrogen and carbon. The nitrogen source comes from things like manure and the carbon source comes from decayed plant matter.

We recommend using manure-based compost because it is overall rich in nitrogen and we can avoid using so much fertilizer in the vegetable garden.

- From Texas A&M Extension in Travis County: What's Happening in the February Vegetable Garden
- Are you interested in joining a new gardening club? Here is information about Tejas Garden Stars:

Tejas Garden Stars is an Austin-area garden club with the primary mission of serving Zilker Botanical Garden. We aim to further our work within the greater Austin Community in education, volunteering, and spreading the joy of gardening to all. Our next meeting will be Wed, Feb. 15, 2:00 pm in the Garden Center auditorium. Matt Morris, Zilker Botanical gardener, will give the program about volunteering in the butterfly garden, including photos and information about his favorite pollinator-attracting plants. We meet once a month on alternating 3rd Monday mornings and 3rd Wednesday afternoons of the month. Our dues are \$25 per year. There's no requirement to volunteer! If this is a busy time for you, we still want to see you! We would LOVE for you to join us! And bring a friend!

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## Garden Tasks by Steve Camp

Howdy SCG Gardeners!

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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.

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### NEXT SCHEDULED WORKDAY - Saturday!

February 11th after All Gardener meeting at 10:00. Contact on that day will be Ila Falvey [Ila.falvey@gmail.com](mailto:Ila.falvey@gmail.com). Volunteers will be prepping garden facilities for the Annual Plant Sale on March 4th. Saturdays in February will each have a workday to support the upcoming Plant Sale.

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.

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### NOTE

The North & East 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 1 or more 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 will perform the best. Contact Jim Willmann [jhwillmann@gmail.com](mailto:jhwillmann@gmail.com) for assignment options.

Thanks!

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### 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.

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### 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.

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## PRIORITY TASKS

- Mowing and Trimming everywhere but especially Fenceline and lawn on either side of fence. With the recent rains and more to come, mowing has become a primary task.
  - 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.
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## 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 wherever you see it.
- 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

- 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](mailto: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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