



WEEKLY WEEDER

Sept. 14, 2023

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Plants grown for the upcoming plant sale by Jen Woertz and Jeff Monks at Squeaky Frog Farm.

Save the Date:
Fall Plant Sale and All-Gardener Meeting on Saturday 9/23

Just a brief reminder that the fall plant sale for Sunshine gardeners will be Saturday 9/23 from 9am to 2pm in the GardenPort greenhouse. Plants available will be broccoli, cauliflower, cabbage, Brussel sprouts, leafy greens (kale, Swiss chard, etc.), and some herbs and ornamentals. The Sunshine fall All-Gardener meeting is also scheduled 10-11am for the same day and the sale will be suspended during the meeting.

http://www.squeakyfrogfarm.com/2023_Fall_Plant_List.pdf

—Submitted by Jim Willmann

Leaf Talk: Where are the leaves?

Sunshine gardeners have recently noticed that there are a lack of leaves in the usual leaf pile. There are a few possible reasons for the current lack of available leaves.

Last year there were complaints from the members in the area that there were too many leaves blowing into their plots, so signs were put up temporarily asking landscapers to stop bringing leaves. Climate has also had an impact on leaf production, freezes, drought, ice storms, all of which we have had over the last few years. Leaf usage is up partly due to Texas A&M touting the value of leaf compost over manure compost. We also use more leaves now because of clearing and mulching plots when vacant. Leaves also must be used in the food drop off pile in order to manage odors and aid in decomposition. And last, but certainly not least, until very recently most of the leaves in Austin were still on the trees. They needed them more that we do.

Leaves in the compost area are a common resource so need to be shared. Just like our other resources, compost, water, and tools, to be used responsibly and with consideration of other members.

Be patient, they will return. Landscapers have been notified and some leaf deliveries are already being made. We do have some requirements that not all landscapers wish to follow but we provide a service to them as much as they provide to us.

This topic is on the agenda for the All Gardeners meeting on the 23rd to provide open forum for feedback from the garden community. If anyone has

any ideas, we look forward to hearing those at that time.

—Submitted by Randy Thompson and Janet Adams. Thanks to Iris Bachman for additional information and Alison Tartt for suggesting we cover the leaves in this week's Weeder.



A view of old and new raised beds. Photo by Jim Willmann

Additional Accessible Beds for Fall Season

Seven new accessible beds will be available for the fall season. Sunshine's accessible bed area (Vernon Barker Memorial Garden) is designed to provide a gardening opportunity to individuals who have not been able to garden because of their need for a more accessible space. The area was recently expanded to increase the number of beds from three to ten beds, and to redesign the area so accessibility for wheelchair bound gardeners is now possible. Four of the beds are now designed specifically for wheelchair bound gardeners with 5' paths and a water faucet at each bed. Two new water stations were installed for the other six beds so no bed will be more than 10' from a faucet.

The expansion was under the general direction of past and current Sunshine presidents Jim Willmann and Iris Slevin Bachman and made possible because of Sunshine gardeners volunteering their time to do the work. Special thanks go to Robert Jarry and Jimmie Schneider. Robert constructed the seven new

beds and relocated the water lines. Jimmie was there whenever needed and spent many hours helping prepare the area for the new beds. Other Sunshine gardeners volunteering their time to help make the expansion a reality were Steve Fenoglio, Bill Cason, Victor Houle, Franco Rotondi, Rachel Lee, Renee Fleishman, Bassam Zeineddine, Joe Ahlquist, Arran Walker, Jen Brown, Bill Gaventa, Mike Phillips, Dawn Friesen, Jack Seaquist, Jing Li, Steve Uecker, Susan Frazier, Piresh, Bob Drake, and Mary Drake. Thanks to all for a job well done.

Anyone who would like to be considered for one of the accessible beds should contact Ila Falvey to see about getting on the waiting list.

—Submitted by Jim Willmann

Last Load of Compost Delivered

The final load of compost was delivered last week and garden beds across the Community are prepped for the fall veggies.

Please remember to pay for your compost as you harvest it into your bed. Keeping track of consumption helps our Community by ensuring we order enough each season.



Super rooster compost is ready to harvest at the garden. Photo by Maggie Clapp Sullivan.

Garden Education by Ila Falvey

Thank you to Susan Hoberman for this informative article. Notice the ideal temperature for spinach germination. That is why it is difficult to have good germination.

[Quick Guide to Summer Veggie Soil and Temperature Preferences | The Green Bean Connection](#)

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

Saturday the 16th, 8-11am there will be a workday led by Steve Uecker.

Things to do: Clear paths, Lay mulch on paths, Uproot khacki weed (counts as TSVBI work), Mow the Zone, etc.



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.

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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