



# WEEKLY WEEDER

Sept. 21, 2023

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## Meet New Two Gardeners: Ah'Shah and Melissa



Selfie of Ah'Shah and Melissa in the garden

Peace, Sunshine Fam! Melissa & I (Ah'Shah) are happy to join this season - after countless visits to see chickens, sing to plants and spot butterflies! Lucky to now be Life Partners & Garden Partners in Zone 8. We've lived in these First Nations Homelands for 30 years combined. Both of us practice Buddhism with SGI-USA, play with expressive artforms and look forward to the mental health benefits of growing food. To garden is to be in right-relationship with Source Itself, a welcome comfort. Sawubona & Dia duit. ❤️

—Submitted by Ah'Shah

[NB: Sawubona & Dia duit are global ways to say hello. The first is Zulu and means we see you, and the latter is Irish and literally means God to you.--Editor]

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*Photo taken today of plants grown for the upcoming plant sale.*

*Submitted by Jeff Monks of Squeaky Frog Farm.*

### **Fall Plant Sale This Saturday 9/23 (9am-2pm)**

The fall plant sale for Sunshine gardeners will be this Saturday 9/23 in the GardenPort greenhouse. Sunshine's All-Gardener meeting is also scheduled (10-11am), so Saturday will be a day for Sunshine gardeners to get their fall plants, socialize with fellow gardeners, and take care of Sunshine business.

Plants available will be broccoli, cauliflower, cabbage, Brussel sprouts, leafy greens (kale, Swiss chard, etc.), and some herbs and ornamentals. The specific varieties available can be found at:

[http://www.squeakyfrogfarm.com/2023\\_Fall\\_Plant\\_List.pdf](http://www.squeakyfrogfarm.com/2023_Fall_Plant_List.pdf)

The sale will be from 9am to 2pm but suspended from 10-11 during the All-Gardener meeting. The sale is limited to Sunshine gardeners.

—Submitted by Jim Willmann

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## Garden Education by Ila Falvey

Backbone Nursery in Marble Falls has lots of good information in their newsletters. One of their articles this week provided a link to an excellent article on Vegetable Rotations from Texas A&M's Agrilife Research and Extension Center in Lubbock. You can read the article here:

<https://lubbock.tamu.edu/programs/crops/vegetables/vegetable-rotations-successions-and-intercropping/>

If you are interested in subscribing to the nursery's weekly newsletter you can do so here:

<https://backbonevalleynursery.com>

**Weeds:** This week Backbone's newsletter also talked about getting ahead of fall weeds, but recommend using pre-emergents. Don't bother with "pre-emergents" [herbicides that are generally not organic]. Most weeds are easily removed. Bermuda grass and its encroaching nature is one of our weed problems. Removing it and all of its runners is an effective means of attempting control but it will be a constant battle. **DO NOT USE WEED CLOTH.** Bermuda grass grows right through it making it a mess to remove. Instead use cardboard or wads of newspaper to keep it at bay. Cover the newspaper or cardboard with wood chips.

**Fire Ants:** The fire ants have emerged from their summer hideaways deep in the ground. Be careful.

**Transplants and Seeds:** If you plant transplants while it is this hot, they need to be watered daily, as is the situation with beets and carrot seeds. Remember to buy your transplants from Squeaky Frog Farm this Saturday at the garden. They have great plants—Check out the Micah 6 garden to see how healthy they are.

**Compost tea:** I have started brewing compost tea for your planting use. Please limit your use to a gallon/plot and if there is more left Sunday evening, you are welcome to use it up. I will hang an orange sign that reads Compost Tea today. If you use the last of it, please take down the sign and put it on the shelf next to the compost tea brewer. The compost tea brewer is in the hoop house. You can hear it.

**Happy Gardening!**

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## 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/heatrelillness.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](mailto:marsha@marshariti.com)
- An Entertainment Volunteer for the 2024 spring sale. If interested contact [marsha@marshariti.com](mailto: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](mailto:bill.gaventa@gmail.com) and Bill Cason: [Wccason@gmail.com](mailto:Wccason@gmail.com)

Volunteering for these roles counts towards your SCG service hours in the [Green Binder](#).



### General Workday

Another General Workday will be announced soon.



### 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.

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

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