



# WEEKLY WEEDER

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Oct. 12, 2023

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## **Reminder: Workday October 14th**

There is a workday this Saturday the 14th (8-10am)!

We will be weeding the greenhouse so bring your gloves and garden hand tools. The workday will be hosted by Marsha Riti.

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## **Your October Sunshine Garden**

Fall has finally arrived! Despite Friday's forecast of another day over 90 degrees, most of the month should be much more moderate. It may still be too warm to plant spinach this October since it needs cooler soil to germinate, but many other fall crops may be planted now. Since not much rain is currently forecast, be sure to plant seeds like carrots and lettuce that require damp

conditions for germination when you can come and water or mist the seeds frequently. If you bought rooster compost you might plant seeds first and wait to side dress the new plants with the compost when they are a few inches tall, since several Sunshine gardeners have reported that the rooster compost seems to form a slight crust that makes it a little harder for water to soak into the ground.

If you enjoy cabbage-family vegetables and have not planted any yet, then try to do so in October. Alliums like garlic, shallots, and bunching onions may all go in the ground now, and October 15 is the namesake date for planting Texas 1015 sweet onion seeds. To learn more about growing alliums, consider attending the event on October 17, described in Ila's Garden Education feature, below.

Herbs that tolerate winter temperatures, like parsley, sage, thyme, oregano, lavender, and salad burnet can be planted this month, too. Cilantro seed may be planted once the temperatures are likely to stay below 80 degrees, probably in late October.

Basil will not tolerate cold temperatures, so any that you have left in your garden should probably be harvested in the next few weeks. If you have a lot of basil, you may make it into pesto and freeze it. (A recipe for Lemon Almond Pesto was printed in the *Weeder* last year and may accessed here: <https://sunshinecommunitygarden.org/newsletter/20220908.pdf>.) You can also put basil in a blender or food processor with some olive oil or water, freeze the mixture in ice cube trays, and store the cubes in the freezer in storage bags. Take one out to add a pop of summer to sauces and soups this winter.

Irises and daylilies may be divided now, and there is still time to spread wildflower seeds to insure a colorful spring. The cooler temperatures will also make much of October an ideal time for heavier tasks like weeding and restoring pathways with wood chips. After a particularly scorching summer this year, now is a glorious time to enjoy being in your garden.

### **Vegetables to Plant in October:**

Artichoke (Transplants; All Month)

Asian Greens (Seeds or Transplants; All Month)

Beets (Seeds; All Month)

Broccoli (Transplants; All Month)  
Brussels Sprouts (Transplants; All Month)  
Cabbage (Transplants; All Month)  
Carrots (Seeds; All Month)  
Cauliflower (Transplants; All Month)  
Chard (Seeds or Transplants; All Month)  
Collards (Seeds or Transplants; All Month)  
Fava Beans (Seeds; All Month)  
Garlic (Cloves; All Month)  
Greens, Cool Season (Seeds; All Month)  
Kale (Seeds or Transplants; All Month)  
Kohlrabi (Seeds or Transplants; All Month)  
Leeks (Seeds only, Through mid-October)  
Lettuce (Seeds or Transplants; All Month)  
Mustard (Seeds or Transplants; All Month)  
Onions, Bulbing (Seeds, Mid-October)  
Onions, Bunching or Multiplying (Seeds [or Divide Existing Clumps]; All Month)  
Peas, English, Snap, or Snow (Seeds; First Week of October only)  
Radish (Seeds; All Month)  
Shallots (Cloves; All Month)  
Spinach (Seeds or Transplants; All Month)  
Turnip (Seeds; 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

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*Photo of Bee Burrowing in Basil Blossom by Susan Van Haitsma*

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### **Please Help Find a Missing Cap**

A Sunshine gardener needs your help finding a lost hat that has great sentimental value. The cap was left hanging on a fence post near the quarter plots and tool shed. It is royal blue and has the word "CREW" stitched on the front in gold letters. It is a treasured souvenir from a trip to California and means a lot to the gardener who is missing it.

If you find the cap please contact the *Weeder* editors and they will put you in touch with the gardener searching for the lost "CREW" cap. (See contact link at the end of the newsletter.) Thank you!

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### **Volunteer Needed**

Sunshine Vice President Marsha Rita writes that she needs a volunteer to lead a Gardener Success Team. The role entails introducing new gardeners to Sunshine Community Gardens community, helping them learn the importance of volunteering within the garden, assisting them develop a plan for their garden, and teaching them how to keep on top of weed control.

If you are interested please contact Marsha Riti: [marsha@marshariti.com](mailto:marsha@marshariti.com)

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## Garden Education by Ila Falvey

### Free Workshop: Learn About Growing Alliums

As part of Austin Public Library's series "Dig It: Gardening in Texas," a workshop on "Everything Onions, Garlic, And All the Rest" will be held at the Howson Branch Library, 2500 Exposition Boulevard, from 6:00-7:45 pm on Tuesday, October 17.

Austin Davenport will be teaching workshop participants all about alliums. Learn to grow this culinary genus of plants. Each attendee will leave with some garlic to grow.

The workshop is free but tickets need to be reserved. To save your spot please visit: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/dig-it-gardening-in-texas-tickets-716573499627?aff=oddtcreator>

**Happy Gardening!**

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## Garden Notes from Marsha Riti

*The lovely icons for this section were created by Marsha Riti*



### 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 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**

The next workday is October 7, from 8 am to 10 am. The focus will be removing the greenhouse plastic and helping the Plot Helpers Team.



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

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