



Community Gardens

Community Gardens Registration

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Moses Lake Community Gardens registration will begin on February 2, 2009 for returning gardeners and February 17, 2009 for new gardeners.

Please remember to get registered if you want to continue gardening in the same plot.

The Moses Lake Community Gardens provides an opportunity to gather, garden, grow and glean food, flowers and fun. You can enjoy healthy leisure activity, learn about gardening nutrition and preparing food. You have the opportunity to eat more fruits and vegetables and meet new friends.

All ages are encouraged to participate as individuals or as a group.

The 2009 Garden season starts March 6th and ends October 31st.

Cost for plots:

16 sq ft to 80 sq ft	\$5.00
81 sq ft to 160 sq ft	\$15.00
161 sq ft to 280 sq ft	\$20.00
281 sq ft to 512 sq ft	\$25.00

For questions regarding registration or general information about the gardens, please call Moses Lake Parks and Recreation at 766-3603 or visit our website at www.mlrec.com.

To register for Moses Lake Community Gardens, please come by our office at 401 S Balsam, Moses Lake WA 98837. Our office hours are Monday-Friday from 8:00 am - 5:00 pm.



Sunflower from the Community Gardens

Special points of interest:

- Garden Newsletter
- Drought Tolerant Gardening
- Free Compost Class
- Garden Registration
- www.mlrec.com
- Seed Starting
- Rototilling

Rototilling Available for Gardens

Rototilling will be available for each plot. Please let us know if you are interested when you sign up for your plot. Rototilling costs:

16 sq ft to 80 sq ft	\$10.00
81 sq ft to 160 sq ft	\$15.00
161 sq ft to 280 sq ft	\$20.00
281 sq ft to 512 sq ft	\$25.00

All rototilling will be done by March 6, 2009. No rototilling will be provided after this date.

For questions regarding rototilling or general information about the gardens, please call Moses Lake Parks and Recreation at 766-3603 or visit our website at www.mlrec.com

Plant Care Practices



Flowers at Moses Lake
Community Gardens.

"There are many things to do between planting time and harvest."

As the garden grows a lot of effort goes into producing a successful garden. There are many things to do between planting time and harvest.

Consider each of the following cultural practices.

Thinning: Many small seeded crops need to be thinned. For crops such as beets, carrots, radishes, turnips, and direct-seeded tomatoes or onions, it is necessary to thin some young plants from the thickly seeded row. An advantage of this process is that you can select the best of several plants and remove the poorer ones. This should be done 1-2 weeks after emergence of the seedlings.

Weeding and cultivating: Weeds are natural garden competitors. They compete with vegetable plants for water, nutrients, and space. The use of mulches and cultivation will help control weeds. Don't allow weeds to get a start. Control them when they are small. Mulching can reduce the time spent in cultivating. Loosening the soil with a tiller or hoe accomplishes several things: it provides for air penetration, it

promotes better water retention and it kills weeds, which compete for water and nutrients. Because most vegetables have roots near the soil surface, use care when cultivating around or near plants. A light surface scraping is sufficient around plants. Deeper tilling should be reserved for areas between rows. A tiller, garden tractor, or high wheel cultivator may be used, but most people rely on the gardener's best friend - the hoe.

Flower removal: Removing some of the flowers that form on certain vegetable plants can increase the size of the fruit that develops. This is a standard practice for gardeners who grow vegetables for exhibit. You may want to try it with tomatoes, squash, melons, and pumpkins. Check with your local Extension agriculture agent for information on how to enter garden vegetables in a county or state fair.

Pruning: Removing some of the vegetative growth on certain plants will admit more light to the plant, improve plant growth habit, and promote early fruit ripening. With tomatoes grown on stakes, it is

a common practice to prune suckers or shoots that develop in the angle between the stem and branch. Remove suckers as they form and before they are 1-2 inches long.

Staking and tying: Most home gardeners have limited garden space. Training plants on stakes or trellises makes more efficient use of that space. Tomatoes are generally staked. Cucumbers and cantaloupe can be trained to a trellis or wire frame. Pole lima beans and pole snap beans also can be trained to a stake or trellis. Drive the stakes soon after plants have been set rather than waiting until they are established. An effective trellis for home gardens can be made from hoops of concrete reinforcement wire or hog wire. Use hoops about 2 feet in diameter for tomatoes and 1-1½ feet in diameter for cucumbers and cantaloupe. You may need to put a stake or rod alongside the hoop to prevent it from turning over in strong winds.

- Reprinted from: K-State University Agricultural Experiment Station and Cooperative Extension Service

Indoor Gardener

A February wind blows dismally,
The sky is full of dark clouds hanging low,
The garden lies in numbed frigidity
And waits the falling of another snow

Today, I planted seeds despite the cold,
For my tomato plants will mind it not
Their tiny leaves will presently unfold
At my south window: in a flower pot!
-Helen Bath Swanson



2008 Community Gardens

The Garden

For the garden of your daily living,

Plant three rows of peas:

Peace of mind, peace of heart and peace of soul.

Plant four rows of squash:

Squash gossip, squash indifference, squash grumbling and squash selfishness.

Plant four rows of lettuce:

Lettuce be faithful, lettuce be kind, lettuce be happy, lettuce really love one another.

No garden should be without turnips:

Turnip for service when needed, turnip to help one another, turnip the music and dance.

To conclude our garden we must have thyme:

Thyme for fun, thyme for rest, thyme for others, thyme for ourselves.

Water freely with patience and cultivate with love.

Your garden is abundant because you reap what you sow.

- Author Unknown



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Seed Starting

Materials for Starting Seeds Indoors

There are two methods for starting seeds indoors. In the one-step method, seeds are sown directly into individual containers. This method is best for large seed and plants that do not transplant well. In the two-step method, seeds are first sown in a seed tray or flat. When the second set of true leaves appear, seedlings are transplanted into individual containers.

Disease Free Soil or Soil-Less Mix

For the two-step method, first sow seeds in a purchased sterilized seed starting mixture. Or, make your own mix by combining one part peat moss with one part vermiculite. For the one-step method, or when ready to transplant to individual pots in the two-step method, purchase sterilized potting soil. You can make your own by mixing together one quart vermiculite, one quart peat moss, one tablespoon dolomite lime and two tablespoons of 5-10-5 or 5-10-10 fertilizer

Containers

For the two-step method, start

seed in purchased plastic or peat seed trays or use disposable household containers such as milk cartons. Sterilize containers with a diluted bleach solution (one part bleach to nine parts water). Make several drainage holes. There are many choices for individual containers. Peat pots, peat pellets, fiber blocks and cubes all allow transplanting without root disturbance. Plastic cell packs work well for small-seeded annuals. Paper cups and foam cups make economical containers.

Proper Lighting

Inadequate lighting is the most common cause of poor-quality transplants. Artificial lighting is necessary to produce healthy, stocky plants. Fluorescent lights are recommended. Standard cool white fluorescent tubes are fine.

Procedures for Starting Seeds Indoors

1. Thoroughly moisten the potting soil before planting. This is the easiest to do when the soil is still in the bag.
2. Fill the containers to 1/4 inch of the brim. Pat down top of soil lightly.
3. Sow seeds at the depth and spacing in the package directions. Vermiculite is a good material for covering the seeds. Some seeds need to be covered to twice their thickness. Some seeds need light to germinate and should not be covered.
4. Cover the containers with a sheet of clear plastic wrap or enclose them in a clear plastic bag. Be sure that you remove the plastic a few minutes each day to provide ventilation.
5. Check the package directions for temperature germination requirements. Most seed germinates at 70 to 75 F. Some seeds like to be kept warmer. The top of a refrigerator or 4 to 6 inches under lights is good for these. Some seeds require an initial chilling, freezing or soaking.
6. Once the seed germinates, remove the plastic wrap or bag. Place the containers 6 to 8 inches under fluorescent lights for 14 to 16 hours a day. Most plants grow best with a

6. a temperature of about 70 F during the day and about 60 F at night.
7. If seed was started in a seed tray, transplant to individual containers when the plants have developed their first set of true leaves.
8. Check moisture daily. Keep soil moist but not soggy. Sprinkle the top gently, or better yet, water from the bottom.
9. Transplants must be "hardened off" gradually before planting out in the garden. This can be accomplished by exposing plants to increasing amounts of cold, sunlight and wind. At first, place them outside in a sheltered, shady area. Bring them back inside at night. Gradually increase exposure.

- Reprinted from: Washington State University Mater Gardens—Spokane County Extension

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We're on the Web!

www.mlrec.com



**Let my words, like vegetable,
be tender and sweet,
For tomorrow I may have
to eat them.
- Author Unknown**

Information/Upcoming Events/Programs



Beautiful flowers from one of the plots at Moses Lake Community Gardens.

- I hope you have enjoyed this first issue of the Community Gardens. We will be looking for additional articles or input from you the gardeners. Please submit articles or input to Moses Lake Parks & Recreation or email me at sschwieson@ci.moses-lake.wa.us.
- Please review the rules, as there are new rules that are going to be implemented this year. Make sure you know what needs to be done so you don't lose your garden plot.
- Please remember to visit our website at www.mlrec.com, go to programs and click on Community Gardens for all the up-to-date information on the gardens, events or programs. Please let us know if you have any suggestion on content for the web page.
- There will be a Compost Class on April 25, 2009 from 10:00 - 11:30 am at The Learning Center. This class is free and open to all who are interested. Any gardeners wanting to compost need to take this class, so that you can work on the composting at the gardens.
- Drought Tolerant Gardening will be offered March 25, 2009 from 6:00 - 8:30 pm and March 28, 2009 from 9:00 - 11:00 am at The Learning Center. The cost will be \$35.00 per person and Cynthia Calbick will be the instructor. Learn the principles to follow in order to grow a beautiful garden compatible with our hot, dry, drought climate in the Columbia Basin. Register at the Parks & Recreation office.