The Garden Connection

A newsletter for the gardeners at the Waukesha County Rental Gardens

Annual Garden Harvest Breakfast Celebration – Saturday, August 13th

I hope to see you Saturday, August 13th at 9 a.m. for our 23rd Annual Harvest Breakfast Celebration. Come and meet some of the other gardeners and enjoy a delicious pot luck style breakfast. Here are the details:

- We gather from approximately 9 to 10 a.m. at the garden entrance near the picnic tables. You can't miss us. (Come for as long as you can.)
- No cost to participate but we do ask you to bring a food item to share with everyone. Items brought in the past include: bakery, hot breakfast casseroles, fresh fruit, fresh veggies, etc.
- Paper plates, napkins, plastic ware, and coffee are provided.
- We hold a short garden meeting around 9:45 a.m. Let's talk about what is working and what can be improved. We welcome your suggestions.
- **If the weather seems questionable on Saturday morning**, call 262-548-7788 and listen to the outgoing voice mail message. If weather is poor or rain is predicted during that time period, we will cancel.

We keep our gathering brief as we know you may have other things going on a Saturday in summer.

Environmental Factors Can Affect Developing Tomatoes

Do you have tomatoes with brown to black leathery bottoms, misshapen fruit, growth cracks, and/or blotchy ripening? The problem might be environmental and not a disease or insects. High temperatures, irregular watering, and heavy rainfall can all cause unexpected things to happen to your tomatoes. The photo on the right shows blossom end rot. Notice the black leathery bottoms on the fruits. It is caused by uneven distribution of calcium, but fertilizing is not the answer. Water is needed to transport the nutrients to the tomato plant. Water regularly, avoid drenching and drought and, if possible, mulch to conserve moisture.

Before using any chemical treatments in your garden, get a proper diagnosis of the problem by reaching out to the Extension Waukesha County Horticulture Helpline. See "Gardening/Horticulture Assistant is Available" on page two for details about the Horticulture Helpline and contact information.

Plant Waste Piles

There are several plant waste piles located at the garden. Please place plant waste in the established plant waste pile areas. Do NOT start new piles.

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Bulletin Board Garden Entrance

Please watch the bulletin board at the entrance to the garden for new messages or updates. It is the easiest way for us to get a timely message to the gardeners! If there is something that you feel we need to include on it, please let us know!

Did you Know????

Did you know the Waukesha County Rental Gardens are coordinated by Extension, a division of the University of Wisconsin Madison? Did you know about all of the science-based information you can find on the Wisconsin |Horticulture Division of Extension website at https://hort.extension.wisc.edu/? Did you know that they also have a Horticulture Facebook page which you can find at https://www.facebook.com/WisconsinGarden/? Did you know that the Extension office in Waukesha County also has a Facebook page at https://www.facebook.com/ExtensionWaukeshaCo/? These pages all have great resources—check them out!

Make a Garden Sketch

If you haven't already done so, now is a great time to make a note of where you planted your vegetables so you can make plans to rotate your vegetable plants next year. Rotating where you plant your vegetables keep disease causing fungi from building up to high levels in any one area of your garden.

Fresh Produce Donations to Food Pantries

Did you plant more vegetables than you need? We encourage you to drop off your excess produce at your local food pantry. You may want to contact them for hours and to find out the best way to donate your fresh produce before heading there.

Permanent Plots

If you have a permanent plot and have not gardened your plot to its "potential" and/or have not gardened much, please consider giving it up. We have gardeners who are interested in a permanent plot and would be happy to begin this fall to prepare the plot for next year's gardening season. Thank you.

Gardening/Horticulture Assistance is Available

Do you have a gardening question? You can contact the Waukesha County Extension Horticulture Helpline by email at uwex1@waukeshacounty.gov or call 262-548-7779. Currently, calls are being answered on Tuesday and Thursday mornings from 9 a.m. until noon. If you send an email, feel free to include photos!

Garden Pathways

There are pathways throughout the gardens. Some are larger than others due to plot size and shape. Most of you have a garden path on one or more sides of your garden. **To help control the weeds surrounding your garden plot, we ask that you help weed-whack, mow, or apply mulch to the path.** We appreciate your help.

Questions/Contact Information

Questions? Concerns? Email Lisa at lboyer@waukeshacounty.gov or call 262-548-7775. Our office hours are from 8:00 am to 4:30 pm, Monday through Friday. Your message will be relayed to Ann Wied. You can also email Ann directly at ann.wied@wisc.edu.

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