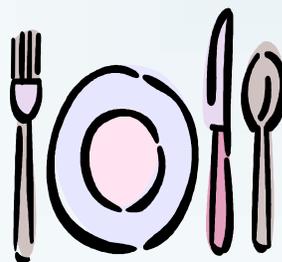


# The Garden Connection

## Garden Harvest Celebration Planned

Our 17th annual Harvest Breakfast Celebration is scheduled for Saturday, August 22, 2015, at 9:00 AM. Mark your calendar! Come and meet the other gardeners and enjoy a delicious potluck style breakfast. For those of you new to the Garden this year, here are a few facts:



- We gather from approximately 9:00 to 11:00 AM at the gardens. You can't miss us. Can't make it for the whole time? Come for as long as you can.
- There is no cost to participate although it is organized as a breakfast potluck. As the date gets closer, call in (to Christa) with what you will be bringing OR if at the last minute you are able to attend, bring whatever you'd like. Not sure what to bring? Questions? Call Christa (see below).
- Napkins, plastic ware, paper plates, and coffee are provided.
- We will hold a short garden meeting around 10:00 AM. Let's talk about what is working and what can be improved. Bring your suggestions/concerns.

## Do You Have Gardening Questions?



The Waukesha County UW-Extension office has a Horticulture Helpline that can answer your gardening questions. Get your questions answered from our trained staff by calling (262)548-7779. Presently we are taking calls Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 9:00 AM to Noon. You can also email your questions to [uwex1@waukeshacounty.gov](mailto:uwex1@waukeshacounty.gov).

## Garden Pathways

There are numerous pathways throughout the garden which welcomes movement in and around the garden. Most of you have a garden path on one or more sides of your garden plot. **We ask you for your help in keeping the weeds down by either weed-whacking, mowing, or applying mulch to the path (see photo at right).** This will eliminate the amount of weeds and weed seeds scattered in the garden. Thank you for your help.



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## Questions/Contact Information

Questions? Concerns? Contact Christa at (262)548-7775. Our office hours are from 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM. Feel free to leave a message on her voice mail if you call after business hours. If she cannot answer your question, she will see to it that Ann will get back to you to address the problem or concern. You can also email Christa at [cthao@waukeshacounty.gov](mailto:cthao@waukeshacounty.gov).

**Waukesha County UW-Extension has staff who speak Hmong and Spanish.** Contact Christa Thao for Hmong (see above) and Teri Bull for Spanish (12:30 to 4:30 PM only) at (262)548-7774 or email Teri at [tbull@waukeshacounty.gov](mailto:tbull@waukeshacounty.gov).

## Two Common Tomato Problems and Why They Happen



**Blossom End Rot:** Black leathery bottoms on fruits are caused by uneven distribution of calcium as a result of irregular rainfall or irrigation.

- Water regularly
- Avoid drenching and drought
- Consider mulching to hold moisture
- Tomatoes are safe to eat
- Cut away the darkened portion and eat the remaining portion
- Some resistant varieties are available



**Cracking:** This appears in rings around the stem or in lines in rays from the stem.

- Excess moisture or fertilizer causes rapid growth causing cracking
- Keep evenly moist and mulch to hold moisture
- Some resistant varieties are available

## Water Reminders

When removing your hose from the T-connectors at the water tanks, **be sure all connections are tight after you disconnect your hose.** If it is left loose, it often leaks and we get charged for every drop of water we use. **Be sure to read any notes on the duct tape attached to the water connections or tanks.** These notes will be short-term recommendations or directions to follow for the remaining season. Thank you.

## There's Still Time to Plant More Vegetables

With an average frost date of October 1 (give or take) for Southeastern Wisconsin, there's still time to plant more vegetables. As a rule, September 1 is the last date for planting seeds of Swiss chard, leaf lettuce, mustard greens, and spinach. It is also the last date for planting transplants of kohlrabi and onion sets. September 15 is the last date for planting seeds of radish. In addition, if you plant seeds of beets, bush beans, Chinese cabbage, cucumber, kohlrabi, peas, and turnips around August 1, you should enjoy a great early fall harvest of some wonderful vegetables.



## Fresh Produce Donations: Collection Site at the Gardens



Starting Tuesday, July 28, we will be collecting fresh produce donations at the garden. There will be a crate on the old picnic table under the trees near the garbage cans.

**Produce pick up times at the garden will be Tuesdays at 3:00 PM and Thursdays at 6:00 PM.** We will collect any donated produce and deliver it to the Food Pantry of Waukesha County. If these days and times are not convenient for you and you would like to drop off your produce donations directly to a food pantry, I am enclosing (if mailed to you) or attaching (if emailed to you) a list of fresh produce drop-off sites in Waukesha County. Please verify hours before going. Thank you for your generosity.

## Waukesha County Community Garden's Website

Please occasionally check the "Garden Updates" page on our Waukesha Community Gardens website for timely information. **Make this website a favorite: [www.waukeshacounty.gov/uwex/hort/communitygardens/](http://www.waukeshacounty.gov/uwex/hort/communitygardens/)**



Ann Wied

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Waukesha County UW Extension