

News from the garden:

Gardening volunteers met during the social time before the Volunteer meeting on August 12. This will be a regular meeting time on second Thursdays. Other volunteers are welcome to join us.

We discussed ways to communicate more often with the group, whether by e-mail or in person, particularly about that all-important chore of Watering. We decided to have two days a month when we can actively plan ahead to be there, knowing that there's a good chance we will meet at least one other gardener in the garden. This should lead to more cohesive planning and action! It will also be a good time for other interested volunteers to see what we're up to.

These two days will be:

- the first Thursday morning,
- the third Saturday afternoon.

Since I usually commit to one demo a month. I may make the third Saturday afternoon my regular demo time.

We talked about the gate's padlock. None of us like using it. A spring-loaded gate was suggested. My feeling is that if we have no lock, even if we have a spring on the gate, we need something on the front of the gate that people will use to close the gate firmly when they leave. It could be a more solid version of the wooden latch we have now.

We began the discussion of vegetables for the fall and winter garden. We talked about putting manure in or on the beds as they become available after their summer plants are done. I have been remembering that carrots do not like manure. Two or three beds have fairly permanent trellises in them. We agreed to leave these and plant our winter vegetables in two rows, one on each side of the trellis. Snap peas will be a good next-planting for one or two of these rows, especially the tomato row, as the legumes will help to replenish the soil.

There is a wealth of information at the A&M website, but remember that we are an organic garden. As for dates, a warm or cold winter will have a different impact, and we all know that gardeners can't resist taking risks and pushing the limits on when and where to plant a seed or seedling!

http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/lawn_garden/veg.html

Make sure you look at the Urban Harvest website also or instead. Their approach is more in line with ours.

<http://www.urbanharvest.org/advice/vegetables.html>

I have a demo scheduled for the afternoon of Sunday the 15th, so that is when I will next be in the garden. The next third Saturday is the 21st, and I expect to be there for an hour or two.

Hope to see you out there,

Hilary