

July 2011

# Tualatin Community Garden

Hosted by Boones Ferry Community Church

## Food Pantry Reminder

We are collecting extra produce for the food pantry twice a week. Please place extras in the bin before 8 PM on Sunday and Thursday evenings. Your donations are very much appreciated!

## Memorial Rose Garden

Plans are underway to build the bed next in July. There is still space available if you are interested in a memorial rose. We will buy, plant, and care for the rose. Each dedicated rose bush will have its own plaque stating whom the rose honors. Suggested donation for each rose and plaque is \$100. Please visit the Tualatin Community Garden website for more information.

## Dates to Remember

- **Friday, July 8** – The TCG will have a booth at the Tualatin Farmer's Market to share our story about starting a community garden, get the word out about the memorial rose garden, and meet people in the community. Please stop by to visit with us.

## What to Plant in July<sup>1</sup>

- Snap beans
- **Broccoli**
- **Cabbage**
- **Brussels Sprouts**

- **Beets**
- **Carrots**
- **Chicory/Radicchio**
- **Overwintering cauliflower/broccoli**
- **Cauliflower**
- Celery (starts)
- Kale
- Lettuce (starts)
- Radishes

**Bold** crops for this month are planted for Fall and Winter harvest.



## Year Round Gardening<sup>1</sup>

With the warm weather finally here, it may seem crazy to start thinking about fall and winter gardening. July is the time to start planning for the fall crops you want to grow. Luckily the Oregon winters are mild enough to allow some vegetable crops to survive and even continue to grow slowly. These cool weather crops are the same as those

July  
planted in the spring with the exception of overwintering cauliflower. The Territorial Seed Co. has a great section dedicated to fall and winter gardening on their website at:

[http://www.territorialseed.com/grow\\_guide\\_winter\\_index](http://www.territorialseed.com/grow_guide_winter_index)

Here are a few of the crops they recommend:

- **Cole crops** (broccoli, Brussels sprouts, cabbage, cauliflower, collards, kale, kohlrabi) – sow in midsummer to allow enough growth before fall arrives. Since soil activity is lower during cool weather make sure to add organic fertilizer at transplant time. It’s important to know that if cole crops are stressed during their growth from lack of water or nutrients, they will not produce a crop. The cooler weather allows these crops to store sugar which adds sweetness.
- **Root crops** (beets, carrots, radishes, etc.) – sow seeds in light, rock-free, well dug soil. Amend soil with fertilizer so that it has time to breakdown before cool weather sets in. Water deeply every week or so after the seeds have sprouted to encourage roots to go deep.
- **Greens** (lettuce, arugula, spinach, swiss chard) – consider succession planting so that you can have a continual harvest of salad greens year-round. Sow seeds about every 3 weeks.

## Harvesting Hints<sup>1</sup>

When harvesting vegetables, be careful to avoid damaging or bruising them. They will store longer with less handling. Here is a chart

Crop	Harvest	Comments
peas, snap beans, asparagus, summer squash	Every day or two, In AM	Degrade rapidly in hot weather

Sweet fruit like berries, tomatoes, melons	When just ripe	End of a warm day
Greens like lettuce, chicory, spinach, chard, kale	Thinnings or mature, In AM	Degrade rapidly in hot weather
Cabbage, broccoli, cauliflower	Heads firm and tight, In AM	Degrade rapidly in hot weather
Potatoes, onion family	When tops die back	Allow soil to dry out before harvest
Sweet corn	Tassels brown/ husk tight	Kernel liquid is milky
Winter squash, pumpkins	When vines die back	Fruit has a hard shell for storage
Root crops	Thinnings or mature	Store well in refrigerator

## Useful Links

<http://tualatincommunitygarden.com/index.htm>

## References

<sup>1</sup>Tim Lanfri, Master Gardener, Community Garden Creators

