

October 2011

Tualatin Community Garden

Hosted by Boones Ferry Community Church

Plot Renewals

January is the month when the garden plots will be renewed. Feel free to garden through the winter. On February 1st, open plots will be made available to the people on the waiting list. On March 1st the open plots will open up to the community. We will be sending out more information as renewal time draws near.

Dates to Remember

- **Saturday, October 8 at 6:00 PM** – Annual harvest dinner at Boones Ferry Community Church. It will be a potluck dinner so please bring 2 dishes. The challenge will be to bring something in at least one dish that came out of your garden. We will eat together, discuss our gardening year, and do a couple fun things. Please RSVP to Laurie.

Keep our Garden Nice

As the growing season winds down, it is very important to get decaying fruits, vegetables, and greenery out of the garden beds and pathways and into the compost piles. This will help to avoid starters from sprouting up next season.

Putting a Garden to Bed

If you aren't planning to grow Winter crops, Fall is a good time to get out in your garden and put it to bed so that it will be ready for next Spring. The work you

put in now will pay off when you have a strong and healthy garden next year. Here are two different options:

- Once your plants have been removed from your raised beds, cover them with leaves. Worms eating will eat the leaves all Winter and will produce dirt by spring. This blanket will also prevent Winter weeds from germinating.
- Plant a cover crop as discussed in the September newsletter. This will smother out perennial weeds and add organic matter to the soil. Dig the cover crops into the ground before they go to seed. Examples include Alfalfa, Austrian Field Pea, White Clover, Alsike Clover, Crimson Clover (shown below), Red Clover, Purple Vetch, Hairy Vetch, Woolly Vetch, Common Vetch, Fava Beans, Wheat, Oats, Cereal Rye, Winter Rape, and Lupines.



October

What to Plant in October¹

- Garlic
- Fava Beans

Leafminer Pests²

The spinach leafminer looks to be making a home among some of the spinach, beets, and swiss chard in the community garden. These insects feed on the leaves of these plants by mining out the tissue between the upper and lower leaf surfaces. This destroys portions of the crop and decreases the size of the root crop. The picture below shows damage to beet leaves.



Here are some tips to managing these pests:

- *Practice crop rotation* – the insect overwinters in the soil where the crop was infested the previous year.
- *Cover plants* – fine netting can protect plants from the egg-laying flies. Be sure the edges are well anchored.
- *Pick* – hand pick and destroy infested leaves before the larvae drop to the soil.
- *Control weeds* – destroy the insect's wild food plants.
- *Beets* – Use horticultural oil or neem oil.
- *Spinach* – Apply neem oil or spinosad (an organic insecticide).

Curry-Roasted Butternut Squash and Chickpeas Recipe

- 2 large butternut squash (peeled, seeded, and diced into 1" pieces)
- 1 19-ounce can chickpeas (drained, rinsed, and dried)
- ¼ cup extra-virgin olive oil
- 1 T mild curry powder
- ¼ t cayenne pepper
- Kosher salt and pepper
- 3 cups plain whole-milk yogurt
- ¾ cup finely chopped cilantro
- 3 T fresh lemon juice

Directions

Preheat the oven to 375°. In a large bowl, toss the butternut squash with the chickpeas, olive oil, curry, and cayenne, and season with salt and pepper. Spread the squash cubes and chickpeas on a large rimmed baking sheet and roast for 30 minutes, or until tender.

Meanwhile, in a medium bowl, stir the yogurt with the cilantro and lemon juice, and season with salt and pepper.

Spoon the roasted butternut squash and chickpeas onto a platter and drizzle with ½ cup of the yogurt sauce. Serve the remaining yogurt sauce on the side.

Useful Links

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

<http://faq.gardenweb.com/faq/lists/sqfoot/2003112433023631.html>

References

¹Tim Lanfri, Master Gardener, Community Garden Creators

²www.ccesuffolk.org/assets/Horticulture-Leaflets/Spinach-Leafminer.pdf