

GARDEN NOTES

WELCOME SPRING

March has arrived with a ROAR, lots of cold, wet weather in the forecast but our hardy plants are showing signs of coming out of their Winter dormancy - buds are swelling on the fruit trees and Raspberry vines, the Garlic greens are getting taller and we've got color popping up in and around the flower beds (some we weren't aware of last Fall). Hard to believe but we'll also be needing to turn the water back on by the end of the month, too.

Over the Winter, we've been working on tool maintenance, planting plans and budgeting of some needed infrastructure improvements to allow expansion of last years efforts, thus providing an increased produce yield to the Food Bank. Once the weather begins to clear, these improvements will be able. I could use some help in cleaning up downed tree limbs for either burning or chipping; distribution of the surplus sand/woodchips from the pre-school playground and parking lot around the outside of the garden as well as assembly of some new growing beds using re-tasked metal from the re-roofing project in the next couple of months. In the meantime, We'll keep working on existing projects between rain storms to be ready for growing season.

IN THE GARDEN

A number of classes and seminars have been made available through the Marion - Polk Food Share (MPFS) and Oregon State Master Gardeners (MG) organizations sharing tips on seed starting, pruning and propagation of woody plants and trees as well as updates to our seed stockpile and more contacts within the Community Gardening group. MPFS has also made available a number of resources in the form of upcoming Compost and Plant giveaways and small Grants for garden improvements. The first of these we would see is the delivery of 16 cubic yards of Compost (a little bigger than the current pile of Woodchips) - this compost is not ready to go into planter boxes or beds yet (may need another year or so to decompose).

Our garage has also turned into a small scale seed starting nursery as we ramp up for initial planting in the next several weeks. Current starts include corn, beans, squash, cabbage, broccoli, peas, potato's and gourds.. More seeds will be started in phases to allow for phased / succession planting throughout the 2024 growing season (see photos). The garage at the church has been slightly re-organized, with more to come (including some service on the door control key-pad). The future work will include a revision / addition to the existing shelving to allow more wall storage and effective use of floor space (not just for the Garden!).

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PICTURES



MARCH 2024 - P.2

GARDEN NOTES

Watchdog (DAISY); Daffodils; Potato Starts and the Garage Greenhouse

CALENDAR

ALWAYS - weeding, cleanup (limbs and leaves) and hacking back Blackberries

MARCH

Planter Box cleanup, ready for planting in April

Establish green paths, complete irrigation at production garden beds

Seed starts and hardening off prior to planting

Prepare production garden beds for planting in April

Turn and make more Compost

19 - **FIRST DAY OF SPRING 2024**

25 - projected LAST FROST date (224 growing days to Nov 5 FIRST FROST)

APRIL

Plant, Grow, Water*, Weed, REPEAT

Stay Tuned (**and In Touch**).

Thanks All

Andy and Heather Brophy

jhhhgg2659@gmail.com