



DOWLING COMMUNITY GARDEN

newsletter

APRIL 2005
GARDENING NEWS AND VIEWS

Spring Cleanup is SATURDAY, MAY 7

10 AM-NOON If your service commitment assignment is to help out at Spring and Fall clean-ups, this event is for you! Come meet your gardening neighbors and help prepare the common garden areas for a new season. We will clean up debris, organize and make any needed repairs to the shed, prepare school and raised bed garden plots, and complete other seasonal chores. Meet at the shed.

Bring garden tools (rakes, wheelbarrows, shovels, pruners), weed trimmers, lawn mowers, trash bags, garden gloves.

WATER BARREL FILLING DEMONSTRATION Have you signed up to fill water barrels this season? A demonstration will be given at 11 AM on Cleanup Day showing how to access water spigots, flush the system and fill barrels.

GARDEN SWAP DAY Recycle usable garden items by bringing them to the garden during Spring clean-up hours, 10 AM-Noon. Items not claimed must be removed from the garden. *Do not leave items next to the shed after clean-up is over, or at any other time of year.* Garden items may be recycled only on Spring and Fall clean-up days..

FREE SEEDS AVAILABLE Attend Spring Cleanup and select from vegetable and flower seeds donated by Minnesota State Horticultural Society's Minnesota Green program.

Spring Planting Date: JUNE 5

Make sure your garden is planted by June 5. Unplanted plots will be assumed to be abandoned, and you may forfeit your plot if your garden is not planted in a timely manner.



SERVICE ASSIGNMENTS

Your service commitment assignment and coordinator's name and contact information is enclosed in this newsletter. Please follow through with your chosen task; it takes all of us to make this garden successful.

REPORT YOUR SERVICE HOURS Keep track of your service hours and report them directly to your coordinator. All service hours must be completed by November 30, 2005.



SPRING GARDENING TIP

Feed your dirt! Have your soil tested to determine what nutrients might be lacking. Apply organic fertilizers a few days to a week before planting, and water in. Work compost or manure into your garden to loosen compacted soil and help hold in moisture.

Plant a "green manure" cover crop and till it in to provide nitrogen for fall crops (see our publication "Using Cover Crops" on the web site, www.DowlingCommunityGarden.org, at bottom of Seed Saving page).

2005 PRODUCE DONATION Program

by Marilyn Terhaar

Planting season is just around the corner and Dowling Garden's Produce Donation Program will be in full swing. All gardeners are encouraged to donate extra produce this season; consider planting something specifically for donation. For those who get an early start in your gardens, we would love to see peas, romaine, spinach, swiss chard, collards, mustard greens... (you get the picture!) in the coolers.

If you have any questions or want to help with this wonderful project, please contact Marilyn Terhaar at 612/722-3261 or by e-mail at Jimmar96@netzero.com. Look for a notice on the shed bulletin board for pick-up dates and times.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

- Donate an extra cooler you may have around the house to the food program
- Plant extra produce for donation
- Pick your garden regularly and donate what you can't use

Dowling's HEIRLOOM FESTIVAL to be part of Garden Conference August 13

The American Community Gardening Association is having their annual conference in the Twin Cities in August, and Dowling Garden will be part of the tours and festivities! Our August festival will be dedicated to growing and enjoying heirloom varieties of fruits, vegetables and flowers. We'll offer samples of tomatoes to taste, and see how they compare with last season's winners. Information on saving seeds, sources for heirloom varieties, and a display of heirloom produce will be featured. Planning for this event is underway; if you'd like to help out or have ideas to share, contact Susan (612/722-8022, srdesign@visi.com) for more information.

HEIRLOOMS NEEDED! If you are growing interesting (tasty, attractive, historic) open-pollinated varieties of vegetables or flowers, we want to hear from you! We'll feature a display of fresh produce and give brief descriptions of the stories behind the heirlooms.

TOMATO PLANTS AVAILABLE A limited number of heirloom tomato plants are available on a first-come, first-served basis. Grow an interesting variety and keep the fruits except for those you'll need to donate for our taste-testing. Contact Charlie (612/724-5430, cbowler@mn.rr.com) or Susan (612/722-8022, srdesign@visi.com) to request plants.

ABOUT THE ACGA CONFERENCE The American Community Gardening Association's annual conference brings together individuals from the United States, Canada, and abroad who are engaged in all aspects of gardening and greening. The conference will include hands-on workshops, keynote speakers, a film festival, and visits to parks, schools, community gardens, and other green space in the Minneapolis - Saint Paul area. For more information go to www.communitygarden.org or call Corrie Zoll at 612/278-7119.

HELPFUL TIPS to Avoid Weed Citations

These are the most common reasons why gardens get cited for weeds or other violations: tall grass within garden and along edges (including within raspberry bushes), trees growing in plots, and unmowed/not maintained pathways next to garden. It's much easier to remove weeds when they're small than after they are established in your garden. Review the rules so you won't get cited this season!

DATES FOR WEED INSPECTIONS Here's advance notice of when gardens will be inspected for weeds and other violations, so you can be ready and avoid a citation: June 10-13 and July 22-25.

NO PESTICIDES/HERBICIDES are allowed in the garden, to comply with Minnesota state law and our insurance policy.

Are You a GARDEN ARTIST?

Do you paint in your garden? Make garden sculpture or art from plants? Take interesting photos? We'd like to periodically feature Dowling gardeners and their garden art on the web site. Contact Susan for more information (srdesign@visi.com or 612/722-8022).

ACCESSIBLE RAISED BEDS Available

One wheelchair-accessible raised bed garden is available for a qualified gardener. New raised beds are being constructed for seniors or those with mobility issues, and will be ready in May. We are looking for individuals with carpentry skills to help on this project. Contact Peter at 612/722-8022 for more information about the garden beds or if you are able to help out.

We'd Like to HEAR from You

Let us know what topics you'd like to see covered in Dowling newsletters. What information is most useful? Do you find the newsletter easy to read?

Your submissions are welcome: articles, essays, photos or artwork. Contact Susan, newsletter editor, (srdesign@visi.com or 612/722-8022) with comments, questions and for submission guidelines.

GARDENING ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dowling Heirloom Plant Sale Sunday May 15, 11am-2pm at 3549 46th Avenue South. Tomatoes, vegetables, flowers; funds raised support our Heirloom Festival on August 13.

"Cans for Sam" Plant Sale Saturday May 21, 8am-2pm at 3608 38th Avenue South. Proceeds support low-cost pet spay/neuter programs.

Free Workshops on Rain Gardens and Elm Tree Care Sponsored by Minneapolis Blooms/CUE. 6:30-8:30pm at various times and locations. For more information, contact Laura Wieland, 612/673-3014, laura@stepbystepbkg.com, or Joyce Vincent, 612-623-0157, joycevincent@mn.rr.com.

Friends School Plant Sale Friday May 6, 11am-8pm; Saturday May 7, 9am-8pm; Sunday May 8, 12pm-4pm. State Fair Grounds, Grandstand building, St. Paul.

Longfellow Garden Club Plant Swap Wednesday, May 11, 7pm, Epworth United Methodist Church (3207 37th Avenue South). Bring perennials and extra flower or vegetable seedlings to share with other gardeners.

Midtown Farmers' Market 2005 hours: May 7-July 9 Saturdays 8am-1pm, July 10-October 30 Saturdays 8am-1pm, Sundays 9am-1pm, Tuesdays 3:30-7:30pm.

Manure Dowling gardener Steve Dosch will deliver manure to a spot near your garden. Contact him directly to discuss quantity and cost: 612/729-1865.

MINNEHAHA FALLS NURSERY

offers a 10% discount on plants. Identify yourself as a Dowling Gardener at time of purchase.

MOTHER EARTH GARDENS

offers a one-time 10% discount on plants with this coupon. Good for 2005.

Please support our local Garden Centers!

GO TO WWW.DOWLINGCOMMUNITYGARDENING.ORG FOR SEED-STARTING INFORMATION, GARDENING TIPS, RECIPES AND WEBSITE LINKS!

Dowling Community Garden

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**YOUR SERVICE ASSIGNMENT
IS INSIDE!**

Forward and Address Correction Requested