



DOWLING COMMUNITY GARDEN

SUMMER 2007
GARDENING NEWS AND VIEWS

newsletter

HEIRLOOM FESTIVAL August 18

SATURDAY, 10 AM – 1 PM Come to our yearly celebration of fruits, vegetables and flowers featuring open-pollinated crops from your great-grandparents' garden. Taste tomatoes with old-fashioned flavor, learn how to save seeds, and get recipes for using your garden produce. We'll have displays of heirloom vegetables, sources for old-time varieties, and seeds saved at Dowling Garden to give away.

10 am – 1 pm Displays and information

10:30 am – 1 pm Tomato and pepper tastings

WE'RE FEATURING SWEET AND HOT PEPPERS From Ancho to White Habanero, we'll offer an assortment of peppers for you to taste. Sweet, spicy, citrusy, or atomically hot – there's something for every pepper lover! Come learn the difference between jalapeno, chipotle and chile gordo (they're all the same pepper) and new ideas for using peppers in cooking.

ARE YOU GROWING HEIRLOOMS? Please donate vegetables to be part of our displays. We also need your open-pollinated tomatoes and peppers for the tastings. To donate to the festival (*display vegetables in good condition will be returned*), contact Susan at 612/722.8022 or srdesign@visi.com.

WE NEED YOUR FAVORITE PEPPER RECIPES AND REMEDIES! Do you have a delicious dish using peppers? Or a fail-safe remedy for dealing with more hot pepper than you can handle? Submit recipes or remedies by August 10 (*see Susan's contact information above*). We'll publish recipes as space allows and have them available at the festival.

VIRTUAL SALSA CONTEST! Submit your favorite salsa recipe using tomatoes and peppers by 8/10. Recipes will be evaluated by a panel of food enthusiasts and three winners chosen. Prizes too!

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 15: MINI CLEAN-UP Help tidy up the garden's common areas before Heirloom Festival: 6:30-8 pm.

We need your garden looking its best for the Festival and Parade of Gardens. Plot inspections will occur before August 15; gardens should be weeded and looking neat, paths mowed and free of debris. Gardens are very weedy with purslane; please remove it. 46th Avenue gardeners should make sure sidewalk is well-weeded and swept of debris.

PARADE OF COMMUNITY GARDENS Open houses will be held at metro community gardens on August 18 from 10 am – 2 pm; elected officials and the public are invited to come and enjoy the gardens. The Parade is sponsored by GardenWorks; for more information go to www.gardenworksMN.org.

Don't Let Your EXTRA VEGETABLES Go to Waste!

Weekly food delivery to area food shelves is off to a good start. Deliveries generally occur 3 times per week; the schedule is posted on the shed bulletin board. Please pick your garden regularly and put produce you can't use in the cooler on pickup days. The food shelf is in need of fresh produce, and grateful for our contributions.

HOW IT WORKS A cooler is located on the west side of the shed, under the pine trees. Please place your produce here *before 9 am* on pick-up day. Drop off vegetables the evening before or the early morning of collection day, to avoid produce being damaged by daytime heat. Place leafy greens and herbs in the pails provided, with water in the bottom of the container to keep them fresh. Garden volunteers deliver your vegetables to the food shelves. Please let us know if you observe other people taking vegetables from the coolers.

Be ALERT and Be SAFE

There have been many thefts of plants and produce from gardens in the past months. The Longfellow Garden at Minnehaha Park had hundreds of plants stolen. Dowling has already experienced thefts of fruit, vegetables and flowers.

Please keep an eye on your area of the garden. Get to know others who garden nearby, and be alert for persons who engage in suspicious behavior. Bring a cell phone to the garden and call if you witness criminal behavior; take a photo of the person(s) if possible. If you observe someone stealing from gardens, ask them to leave immediately. Be alert when walking to and from the garden.

REPORT THEFTS, VANDALISM AND OTHER IMPROPER BEHAVIOR If you see anything suspicious, take note of the time and date, appearance and age of persons, and the vehicle they are driving. If possible, get the license plate number. Call 911, or for non-emergencies, 311. Give this address for the garden: 3901 46th Avenue South (*note this is a new address for the garden; always use this address*). Call the Dowling voice mail, 651/255-6607, to report what you witnessed and the steps you have taken. Alert others in the garden.

We Are THANKFUL for...

GARDENERS WHO RECYCLE Thank you to those who saved their 4" pots and 4-pack cells. Pots will be used for next season's plant sale. Please do not leave any more pots at the shed; see pot recycling dates in September under "Events".

DONATIONS OF TOOLS Dowling has additional tools for all to use, courtesy of two metro gardeners who donated their tools to community gardens.

MORE WATER BARRELS Thanks to Gary for providing extra water barrels. They are coming in handy this year!



PLANT PROFILE

Tatsoi Grow this easy salad vegetable in spring or fall. Rosettes of spoon-shaped leaves are tender, stems are crunchy; delicious taste is similar to watercress. Grow under row cover for blemish-free leaves. You can eat thinnings in 21 days, full-sized plants in 45. Tatsoi held well in this summer's early heat, and is also very cold-hardy.

DOWLING COMMUNITY GARDEN

PO BOX 6757, MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55406

651-255-6607

HEIRLOOM FESTIVAL

AUGUST 18, 10AM - 1PM!

Return Service Requested

DETAILS, Details, Details...

DON'T LEAVE ANY MATERIALS BY THE SHED! Remove trash and used garden materials to your home garbage can. Weeds and other garden debris go to the compost pile east of the apple trees. Reusable garden items may be offered on spring and fall clean-up days only. Inconsiderate gardeners have been dumping lots of garden debris next to the shed; please stop.

RESPECT OUR TOOLS AND EACH OTHER! Tools are being broken by misuse, and community-owned tools are disappearing. Put away all tools and watering equipment when you are finished. Place them neatly in the shed, in the spots where they belong. Coil hoses and hang so they don't drape on the ground. *Lock the shed!* Treat tools gently and only use them for the purpose they were intended. Look for any community tools left out in the garden area and put them away.

KIDS IN THE GARDEN Please instruct your children in the proper use of tools and watering equipment, and supervise them when in the garden.

ROCKS We no longer have an area to place unwanted rocks. All rocks must remain within the confines of your plot (do not place in path or anywhere else in garden area) or you will be cited.

PLOT INSPECTIONS Gardens will be inspected periodically for rules violations like tall weeds and obstructed paths. Expect a sweep before Heirloom Festival; other inspections will occur randomly. Avoid a citation by keeping weeds under control (*purslane too!*) and pathways mowed and free of plants and rocks.



Plight of the BUMBLEBEE

By Charles Bowler

Over 20,000 bee species pollinate more than 90 of the world's plants, fruits and vegetables, and they are disappearing at an alarming rate. Without them, we will be dependent on the wind and other insects to pollinate our food. If the rapid decline of honeybees continues, common fruits and vegetables (like potatoes, apples, almonds, carrots, beans, citrus fruits, broccoli) and honey will no longer be available to most Americans.

This sudden disappearance is called Colony Collapse Disorder (CCD). The hive or colony is abandoned by worker bees, after

GARDENING EVENTS

Minnesota Landscape Arboretum Classes. For information, call 952/443-1422 or email ArbEdu@umn.edu.

Perennials for Sun and Shade – Saturday, August 4

Growing Roses in Minnesota – Saturday, August 11

Lavender: Growing and Using – Saturday, August 11

Hostas and Companion Plants – Saturday, August 18

Building a Grow Light Stand – Saturday, August 25

Heartland Cooking: Peak of the Season – Thursday, August 9

Midtown Farmers' Market Open Saturdays 8 am-1 pm and Tuesdays 3:30-7:30 pm through October 27.

Minnesota State Fair Enter your vegetables or preserved food in the fair! Make a crop art picture! Pickles, jams and preserved foods, and baked goods compete under Creative Activities; vegetables under Ag-Hort-Bee/Farm Crops. Rules are available by calling the Competition Office, 651/288-4417, or online at: www.mnstatefair.org. Registration deadlines are early to mid-August. Let us know if you win any prizes!

Plastic Pot Recycling September 22-23, 9am-3 pm at Mother Earth Gardens. Clean pots of any size and color will be accepted, however no cell packs or household plastics. Remove any wire hangers.

which honey-raiding pests cause the death of the Queen and remaining bees.

Several trends seem to be implicated in the disappearance of billions of bees worldwide (*a billion bees = 15,000 beehives*). Genetically modified plants which secrete toxins to kill insects may turn up in the pollen and kill bees. Pesticides called neonicotinoids may interfere with a bee's navigation, causing them to become disoriented and unable to find nectar or their way back to the hive. An insecticide called Imidacloprid used in the soil finds its way to the plant's tissues, killing bees in the same manner as genetically modified plants.

Beekeepers, food producers, governments world-wide and scientists are working to stem the incidence of CCD. For more information, and what you can do:

- *North American Pollinator Protection Campaign:* www.nappc.org
- *Become a Pollinator Observer:* www.pollinationcanada.ca
- *Congressional Research Service Report to Congress-Recent Honeybee Colony Declines:* www.fas.org/sgp/crs/misc/RL33938.pdf