



# DOWLING COMMUNITY GARDEN

HEIRLOOM FESTIVAL  
SPECIAL EDITION

## update

### HEIRLOOM FESTIVAL 2008

Saturday, August 16 from 11 am. to 2 pm.

#### IT'S DOWLING GARDEN'S 65TH BIRTHDAY!

**IT ALL BEGAN IN 1943** Dowling's yearly celebration of old-fashioned fruits, vegetables and flowers pays tribute to our start as a Victory Garden during World War II. In 1943, the Twin Cities had 130,000 gardeners, and by 1944 40% of all the fresh vegetables in Minnesota were grown in Victory Gardens. Heirloom Festival will showcase some of the same varieties grown by your parents or grand-parents, provide sources for old-time varieties, and give away seeds saved at Dowling Garden.



We'll have an assortment of **old photographs** from the early years of the Garden. And you can learn about plants traditionally used to color fabric at the "Using Vegetables and Flowers as Natural Dyes" display.

**TOMATO AND PEPPER TASTING** Last year's pepper tasting was so popular, we are offering it again. Sample hot (if



you dare!) and sweet varieties.

Selection will depend on what is ripe at the time (*one pepper which might be available is considered the hottest in the world!*)



The festival will continue to feature samples of heirloom and more recently introduced open-pollinated tomatoes. Taste a wide assortment of cherry, beefsteak, salad and cooking tomatoes and determine which varieties you'd like to grow next year.

**SUSTAINABLE GARDENING INFORMATION** Insects are causing problems for many gardeners this year. Check out the "Problem Pests" display to identify bugs and learn how to prevent damage to your crops. You will also find information sheets on using cover crops and improving your soil (also available at [www.DowlingCommunityGarden.org](http://www.DowlingCommunityGarden.org))

Attend a free seminar: Veronica Malone, a Hennepin County Master Gardener, will demonstrate container gardening techniques for flowers, vegetables, and herbs. Her talk on "Container Gardening" is at 12 noon. Derek Schumacher from J.R.Johnson will talk on "Building Better Soil" at 1 pm. Derek's talk will focus on creating above and below ground microbial bio-diversity for pest control and soil fertility; mulching; and managing water pH.

Also check out the information about saving money and proper storage techniques to make the most of your garden harvest at the "Gardening on a Budget" display.

#### EVENT SCHEDULE



**Tomato and Pepper Tasting Displays Open**  
11 am – 2 pm

**Gardening Seminars**  
12 noon  
"Container Gardening"  
*with Veronica Malone*

1 pm  
"Building Better Soil"  
*with Derek Schumacher*

#### JOIN THE PARADE OF COMMUNITY GARDENS

Open houses will be held at 45 metro community gardens on August 16 from 10 am-2 pm. Elected officials and the public are invited to come and enjoy the gardens. Many gardens are sponsoring special activities for the day or offering refreshments. Dowling Garden and the Heirloom Festival are stops on the Parade of Gardens. The Parade is sponsored by GardenWorks; for more information and a printable brochure (with map) go to [www.gardenworksMN.org](http://www.gardenworksMN.org) or call 612/278-7123.

#### LET'S SHOW OFF OUR GARDEN!

Dowling Garden should look spiffy for the Festival and Parade of Gardens. Please have your garden weeded and looking neat, paths mowed or neatly covered in wood chips and free of debris. 46th Avenue gardeners should make sure sidewalk is well-weeded and swept of debris.

#### ARE YOU GROWING HEIRLOOMS? PLEASE DONATE A FEW

Please let us "borrow" any type of heirloom vegetable, fruit or flower to be part of our display. (*Vegetables in good condition will be returned after the festival.*) We also need your open-pollinated tomatoes and peppers for the tastings. Even just one or two fruits are really appreciated. To donate to the festival, contact Susan (612/722.8022 or [srdesign@visi.com](mailto:srdesign@visi.com)) or Charlie (612/724-5430 or [cbaxyl@gmail.com](mailto:cbaxyl@gmail.com)).