



DOWLING COMMUNITY GARDEN

SUMMER 2005
GARDENING NEWS AND VIEWS

newsletter

HEIRLOOM FESTIVAL *August 13*

10 AM – 2 PM Plan to attend Dowling's Heirloom Festival, a yearly celebration of food and earth-friendly gardening, featuring vegetables and flowers that may have been in your great-grandparents' garden. Come taste tomatoes with old-fashioned flavor, and see how they compare to last season's tomato winners. You can also sample summer foods, get recipes for using your garden produce, and ideas on how to preserve the harvest. We'll have displays of heirloom vegetables and flowers, information on saving seeds, sources for heirloom varieties and seeds saved at Dowling Garden to give away. You can get information about locally grown food and earth-friendly gardening practices.

We need your gardens looking their best for the Festival. Elected officials and community gardeners from all over the country will be touring Dowling! All gardeners should have their gardens weeded and looking neat, paths mowed and clear. 46th Avenue gardeners, please make sure your sidewalks are well-weeded and swept of debris before the 13th.

HELP TIDY UP THURSDAY AUGUST 11 We'll have a clean-up from 6:30-8pm, to get the garden's common areas looking great for the festival. Please come help out if you can.

LOOKING FOR HEIRLOOM VEGETABLES AND FLOWERS Are you growing interesting, old-fashioned varieties? We need vegetables and flowers to be part of our display. Vegetables will be in a large basket and named as to variety; cut flowers will be in vases. If you have varieties you can donate to the festival (*vegetables in good condition will be returned*), contact Susan at 612/722.8022 or srdesign@visi.com.

Gardeners growing heirloom tomatoes for the festival will be contacted a few days before the 13th with instructions.

WE NEED YOUR RECIPES Send in recipes for your favorite dishes that use seasonal produce, especially tomatoes (*see Susan's contact information above*). We'll publish recipes as space allows and have them available at the festival.

THE ACGA CONFERENCE The American Community Gardening Association is holding its annual conference in the Twin Cities this year, August 11-14. Bus tours of conference attendees will visit Dowling on Saturday afternoon to tour the gardens and attend Heirloom Festival. For more information about the conference, or if you'd like to attend, go to www.communitygarden.org or phone 877/275-2242.



SUMMER GARDENING TIP

Plant a fall crop Vegetables you plant in early spring may also be started now for a fall harvest. Direct seed these crops and keep them well-watered through late summer heat.

Start by July 15: spinach, baby bok choy, radishes, beets

Start by August 1: arugula, lettuce, cilantro

GARDEN THEFT

There have been many recent thefts of produce. Get to know your gardening neighbors, and be alert for suspicious activity. Thefts have occurred at all times of day. It is helpful to bring a cell phone to the garden.

REPORT THEFTS If you notice someone stealing produce, take note of their appearance and the vehicle they are driving. If possible, get the license plate number. Call 911, or the non-emergency number, 348-2345. Give this address for the garden: 39th Street and 46th Avenue South (*a consistent address allows police to track incidents at the garden*). Insist that the call be dispatched/ logged, so the SAFE officer can investigate. Call the Dowling voice mail with the information. Alert others in the garden.

Please Donate your EXTRA PRODUCE!

by Marilyn Terhaar

The Dowling Garden Surplus Produce Program is underway! Our first delivery was Friday, June 17th at Keystone Community Services on University Avenue. Keystone distributed over 500,000 pounds of food through 10,000 food shelf visits in 2004. The Midway Keystone food shelf saw approximately 500 visits a month last year!

HOW IT WORKS A cooler is located on the west side of the shed, under the pine trees. Please place your produce here, preferably the evening before or early morning of the collection day, so as to avoid the heat of the day. Garden volunteers will collect items for delivery. The pick-up schedule for produce is posted in the bulletin board.

Dowling Gardeners can be proud to be a part of this wonderful service. Please remember to contribute any extra produce you may have in your garden. Thank you and happy gardening!

All food grown in one of the new raised beds is being donated to Keystone Community Services this season. Don't let your surplus go to waste.—ed.

THUMBS UP TO...

PLANT SALE VOLUNTEERS Thanks to everyone who helped make our first heirloom plant sale a great success. Gardeners donated plants and volunteered to help on sale day. One



Dowling gardener grew over 200 tomato plants for this event! Proceeds are being used to present our Heirloom Festival on August 13th.

RAISED BED WORKERS A big 'thank you' to the crew who constructed and filled the new raised beds. Gardeners put in many more than 4 service hours in cold, rainy weather.

PROBLEM AREAS *in the Garden*

WATER Water volunteers, be sure to flush the system for 5 minutes before filling barrels. In the north garden, distribute water onto the grassy area; in the south garden, into the woods. If you have used the hose to water your garden, TURN OFF the water when you are done (yes, someone left the water running) and put away the hose.

DON'T LEAVE UNWANTED MATERIALS BY SHED! Please remove them to your home trash or recycling. Reuseable garden items may be offered on spring and fall clean-up days only.

RESPOND TO YOUR SERVICE ASSIGNMENTS Coordinators are reporting that gardeners are not returning phone calls, and are not calling in their service hours. Please respond when contacted by your service coordinator.

KEEP PATHS MOWED Trim grass around your garden. Push mowers are located in the shed. Don't put weeds or rocks in garden paths.

PLOT STAKING *and Measuring*

Over the next few months, crews will be in the garden replacing stakes at the corners of plots to define plot boundaries and mark gardens with a number. Please do not move or remove these stakes. If you feel a stake has been placed in error, call the Dowling voice mail at 651/255-6607 and state your concern; someone will call you back to resolve the issue.

Dowling Garden Saves **HEIRLOOM SEEDS**

Have you noticed the little white bags attached to tomato plants in many gardens? Dowling Garden is saving seeds of heirloom tomatoes to offer to other gardeners, and to members of Seed Savers Exchange and Seeds of Diversity Canada, organizations preserving heritage varieties. For more information, or to learn how to save your own seeds, go to <http://www.dowlingcommunitygarden.org/dowling05/pages/seedSaving.htm>.

GARDENING ANNOUNCEMENTS

"The Useful Art of Pickling" August 19-21, noon-5pm each day at the Oliver Kelley Farm. 2.5 miles SE of Elk River on Hwy. 10. Call 763/441-6896 for information.

Gardening Information Sheets Handouts on *Building Soil, Dealing with Insects & Diseases, Using Cover Crops, Saving Tomato Seeds, Gardening for Wildlife* are located in the shed.

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

Minnesota State Fair Enter your vegetables or food you have preserved in the fair! It's fun and easy. Pickles, jams and other preserved foods compete under Creative Activities; vegetables under Ag-Hort-Bee/Farm Crops. Competition rules books are available by calling the Competition Office at 651/288-4417 or online at: http://www.mnstatefair.org/pages/comp_ghortbee.html. Registration deadlines are early to mid-August. Let us know if you win any prizes!

"Fresh Cut," at the Weisman Museum Botanical work of 52 artists, through October 2. 333 E River Road, Minneapolis. www.weisman.umn.edu.

Do You want **FACILITIES** *in the Garden?*

There have been requests for a portable toilet at Dowling. If there is sufficient interest, we'll see if it is feasible to have one installed during the summer months. Cost would be about \$5 more per plot, per season. Are you willing to pay higher plot fees for this? Let us know your thoughts by August 1 – by voice mail, 651/255-6607, or by email at cbowler@mn.rr.com.

Updated **WEB SITE!**

Check out our newly designed and expanded web site. You will find information on a broad range of gardening topics, Dowling events, food recipes and preserving, garden history and more: www.DowlingCommunityGarden.org.

TO CONTACT THE GARDEN, CALL: 651/255-6607

GO TO WWW.DOWLINGCOMMUNITYGARDENING.ORG FOR SEED-SAVING INFORMATION, GARDENING TIPS, RECIPES AND PHOTOS!

Dowling Community Garden

PO Box 6757
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651/255-6607

HEIRLOOM FESTIVAL
AUGUST 13, 10AM – 2PM!

Forward and Address Correction Requested