

September 2010 Dowling Community Garden Newsletter

As fall creeps ever closer, we will all begin to clean up our plots. If you take material to the school compost area, ***please put it as far to the back as possible!***

Only Two More Clean-up Days Left

Response to the recent message concerning service hours has been great. Hours not previously reported have been turned in, and turnout at the Sept. 11 clean-up was terrific. The Oct. 2 and 30 clean-up days are open to all gardeners without sign-up. If a primary gardener and garden partner (or family member or friend) both work a 2-hour clean-up day, they fulfill the plot's annual obligation in a single day! Be sure to fill out service slip(s) after your service. That is the only way we know that you have put in your time. Although response has been good, there are still many plots that do not have the required 4 hours. Check to be sure your hours have been correctly recorded. (See next item.) Don't risk a rule violation and make-up hours next year.

Service Worksheet

As announced in the recent message "Dowling Community Garden Service Hours", the worksheet that is used to track service hours is accessible online at

<http://www.dowlingcommunitygarden.org/pdf/DCG%20Service%20Hours%202010.pdf>

This is a service-slip based worksheet, so each line represents a service slip. If your plot has submitted 3 slips, it should have 3 lines in the worksheet. If your plot has not submitted any slips, there will be no line for it. Note that combined plots (2 plot numbers) and plots with alpha suffixes (e.g. 043A) appear at the bottom of the sheet. To calculate the total hours submitted, you must add up the numbers in the "Hours" column for each of your slips. Keep in mind that the worksheet file is only updated every week or two. The slip collection date is posted at the top of the sheet. We realize that this is not the most user-friendly presentation, but it does allow gardeners access to all of the service information that we have.

Plot Cleanup

Gardeners are reminded that you must clean up your plot at the end of the season. Remove temporary structures such as tomato cages. Remove or compost all plant material. Certain frost-hearty vegetables (e.g., Brussels sprouts, Swiss chard) may continue to grow into November, but please clean up the rest as they finish their production.

Garlic Source

Just in time for fall garlic planting, gardener Larry Johnson recommends Gene Raak of Edgerton, MN (southwest, near Luverne) (507) 442-3587 or eugeneraak@yahoo.com. For varieties and details, see the notice in the shed kiosk.

Food Donation

Donations of all veggies are welcome. Fall crops such as squash and pumpkins are especially appreciated. Check the pick up schedule in the shed kiosk and place your surplus in the coolers or buckets as near to pick up as possible. Pickups for food shelf donations will continue at least through the end of September.

See you in the garden!