

## Community Garden Locations

### Chaverim Garden (Eastside)

5901 East 2nd Street  
Site Coordinator—Signa Roswall  
alamo@dakotacom.net

### Corbett Garden (Eastside)

5948 East 30th Street  
Site Coordinator—Naniolo Smith  
naniolo@velocityhsi.com

### Presidio Garden (Midtown)

Off Fort Lowell and Country Club  
Site Coordinator—Sally Coulthard  
stan@coulthard.net

### Wilson Garden (Midtown close to UA)

3331 North Wilson  
Site Coordinator—Melissa Urreiztieta  
melissa.u@earthlink.net



## Featured Photo



George Brookbank setting up and installing the Presidio Garden. The garden has come a long way. It appears to only be getting better with the addition of gardeners and with age.

# Community Gardens of Tucson

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# Community Gardens of Tucson

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a bimonthly guide to community gardening activities in the Greater Tucson area September /October 2005

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## The Gardens Need You

There are always a lot of things going on at your particular garden, but you may not see what is happening for all of the gardens. Over the next few weeks and months, I encourage you to pick another garden's meeting from the newsletter's calendar or one of the steering committee meetings, and just show up. You might find that you'll really enjoy a little bit of garden networking. It will be a chance for you to see what the other gardens look like and get to meet some of the other gardeners. You never know who you'll meet. In my short time with the Community Gardens of Tucson, I've met a doctor, several lawyers, someone involved with an auto repair and towing shop, a former court reporter, and a retired airline employee. I'm still amazed at the interesting mix of people that make up this group. It's always nice to hear people's stories, see what brought them to Tucson, or find out how they found their way into the Community Gardens of Tucson.

Andy Stevens

p.s. look for our article in the Sep/Oct issue of Organic Gardening Magazine

## Brat Party and Fall Potluck

Saturday October 29th is the day. 12-Noon is the time. Guests welcome. Just so we have enough brats for everyone, please tell your site coordinator the number of people in your party. Please bring a dish to pass so bring your favorite and give us all a treat. We'll have drinks for all. Hope to see you all at the Corbett garden on the 29th. Site coordinators please advise the number from your garden by October 20th.

Lyle Ziegler

## This Just In....

Your newsletter is a bit late this month. Please accept the the humblest of apologies from the administrative director and the newsletter editor as we were both in on this one. The newsletter editor recently found out, while trying to cook dinner, that she is pregnant. As such, the newsletter has been sidelined by the editor's morning sickness and general malaise while the administrative director, who doubles as our editor's husband, has been scrambling to get this to the printers. You may notice that a small amount of the material has been reprinted from last year. We hope to have a fresh batch of stuff from all of our contributors in time for the next issue.





# George Says . . .

by George Brookbank

These next two months are going to be busy ones. The first thing to do is to decide whether you think your summer plants are worth saving (because the fall is recovery time for tomatoes, peppers and eggplant) or whether you should pull them out to get space for seeds and plants of winter vegetables.

I prefer plants of winter vegetables over seeds, but both can be done if you feel inclined to keep seeds moist every day and fend off birds that like seedlings. You have no choice with bush beans, peas and FAA beans or the root crops; it's got to be seeds, and the beginning of September is a good time to make the first sowing. The idea with bush beans is to get flowers before frost kills the plants in November (perhaps) and December (for sure). Some early gardeners start their peas at this time because frost is not an obstacle to good harvests in the spring. Study John Swanson's Planters Guide in this newsletter and you'll notice that there is no hurry to sow seed, or put out plants, of lettuce. If you start too early the hot weather makes your first crop bitter-tasting. John will be selling many different plants at the Farmer's Markets in good time; he started his program by sowing seeds last week.

Last year many gardeners were successful in scattering lettuce seed, quite thickly, in square blocks. They harvested by clipping the young leaves with scissors and obtained several weeks of fresh green small leaves while the remaining plants grew more. Block sowing is also appropriate for beets, carrots and radishes. As time passes, you thin out half the crop each harvest.

Strawberry plants will begin to send out runners and you can benefit from this. It's a bit of a tiresome procedure but you can get new plants from these runners if you peg the ends in soil, either in pots or near to the main planting. Look at the pictures in the chapter on Strawberries in my book "Desert Gardening" to get the idea. Alternatively, if you have a crowded strawberry patch you can dig them all up, separate them and replant in another part of the garden. It's critical to plant strawberries at the right depth, (picture on page 150) so firm the soil before you plant so it doesn't sink and bury the plants' crowns. Fall is strawberry planting time but the nurseries seldom have plants when we need them most.

A fall planting enables the plants to gather strength for a good flowering in spring. Spring planting doesn't give enough time for this.

I'm sure you've noticed how plenty of steer manure creates a good soil. We need to keep up the momentum of soil improvement by adding five, or more, bags to our plots together with ammonium phosphate and sulfur. How much? Ask your neighbor if you don't remember. Otherwise, read Chapter 6 of the book.

The rototiller will be available at each garden on meeting day, but if you can't wait and you have your plot ready, give me a call and we'll get to you earlier. Please don't widen your plot. If you do you'll seem to get more planting space but the center of your plot won't get water if you bring out the drip system to the edges. Drips from the two lines should moisten the middle of the plot. A dry center means you've lost planting space.

In order to make a worthwhile report of the varieties that do well, you need to keep records. A sturdy plant label is a good start and a diary journal is helpful. The name of the variety, where it came from, when it was put in the ground and when you began harvesting, yield and quality, are important parts of the story.

By popular demand I shall be doing a spinach variety trial in my plot at Presidio. I have ordered packets of ten varieties that I'll be growing in my greenhouse as soon as they arrive from "The Cook's Garden" and "Thompson and Morgan". We have learned enough, for the present, about onions and you have all benefited from those trials. Next year it might be the turn of carrots, the runner up of the replies you sent in.

Now that the weather is cooling, it is hoped that there will be good attendance at the monthly meetings again. They are a time for sharing thoughts and successes, for swapping seeds and plants, for accepting and giving surpluses, for enjoying the snacks and goodies that kind people bring.

We are a Community of gardeners.

Join in!!

## Produce in Pots Growing Vegetables in Containers\*

Container planting can help gardeners overcome such gardening challenges as a too-small plot, poorly-drained soil, underground pests, and soil-borne diseases. To get started, you'll need a generous-sized container, quality potting soil, and an outdoor spot that gets at least six hours of full sun each day. Even if you're gardening in the ground, planting in containers can still help you overcome soil-borne diseases and pests. Additionally, tall containers set in the ground or resting on top help gardeners with limited mobility fully participate in gardening activities.

First, make sure you select the right container. Pick a pot that is large enough to hold a growing root system; go for depth *and* width. Our warm temperatures here in Tucson mean that containers should be light-colored to prevent the soil within from becoming overheated. Glazed terra-cotta or plastic pots retain moisture well, while unglazed terra-cotta pots tend to dry out faster. Next, select a high-quality potting mix and blend in a fertilizer, either an organic additive such as bonemeal or dried kelp (and supplement with fertilizer at watering), or a synthetic controlled-release fertilizer that will provide nutrients for three to six months.

Drip irrigation continues to be the most effective method of watering plants, and if you select this method, make sure that your timer is set to deliver enough water to keep the soil moist. Containers dry out more quickly on average than the ground does, so check your plants daily. If you hand water, do not let the soil dry out. While subterranean pests will not be a problem, you may still find your plants bombarded by aphids, mites, or whiteflies. If this happens, take active steps to eliminate them. Improve the overall health of your plants first and reduce any stress they may be subject to. Then, spray your plants with an insecticidal soap or horticultural oil.

Some vegetables that can be grown successfully in pots include: pole beans (with support), carrots, cucumbers, eggplant, peppers, potatoes, squash, and of course, tomatoes.

\**excerpted from Sunset, April 2004*

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As always, we extend our warm thanks and appreciation to our friends at AlphaGraphics who not only make the publication of this newsletter possible, but make it beautiful as well.

### October

*Robert Frost*

O HUSHED October morning mild,  
Thy leaves have ripened to the fall;  
To-morrow's wind, if it be wild,  
Should waste them all.  
The crows above the forest call;  
To-morrow they may form and go.  
O hushed October morning mild,  
Begin the hours of this day slow,  
Make the day seem to us less brief.  
Hearts not averse to being beguile,  
Beguile us in the way you

know;  
Release one leaf at break of day;  
At noon release another leaf;  
One from our trees, one far away;  
Retard the sun with gentle mist;  
Enchant the land with amethyst.  
Slow, slow!  
For the grapes' sake, if they were all,  
Whose leaves already are burnt with frost,  
Whose clustered fruit must else be lost—  
For the grapes' sake along the wall.

# Garden Reports

## Presidio Garden

Presidio gardeners are still enjoying their summer harvests and still not enjoying their weeds. Has anyone come up with a good Bermuda grass recipe? George's yellow watermelons are ripe and delicious. Zucchini and eggplant have plentiful. Toni is keeping us all supplied with Armenian cucumbers.

Some plots are already tilled for fall planting. I'm trying some winter plantings a bit little earlier this year. The sugar snap peas are already popping out of the ground, thanks to the planting help that I got from 4-yr-old Matthew Coulthard.

Like all the garden sites, at Presidio we are constantly trying to find the perfect balance on water usage. Andy has partially installed a rain sensor that will eventually turn off the irrigation system when enough rainfall has registered. We're hoping these systems (manufactured by Rainbird) are smart enough to do what they're supposed to do. Last week one of the header lines blew apart and, of course, it was directly under the monstrous Devil's Claw in the middle of the garden. George patiently removed the entire thing bit by bit. If you want any of the pods, check out the compost bins.

Thanks to Dianne and Melissa, the compost area is getting under control. They've been chopping, watering, turning, sifting and then doing it all over again and again.

Darlene Schacht

## Corbett Garden

The rains have brought on a sudden splurge of growth. Yahoo! It is wonderful to see the crops bearing again. Any extra produce you have can be made part of the Farmer's Markets' at Palomino and St. Phillips Plaza. John Swanson has agreed to pick up your extra produce. He can be reached at 548-8193. Corbett Gardens will be hosting the Fall Potluck October the 29th. Let's get our gardens ready to show them off. Plot fees are due to Pete DiCurti 6642 N. Longfellow Dr. Tucson, AZ 85718 or call him at 299-5581.

Naniloa Smith

## Optimum Germination Temperatures of Common Vegetable Seeds

**Crop: Minimum–Optimum–Maximum**

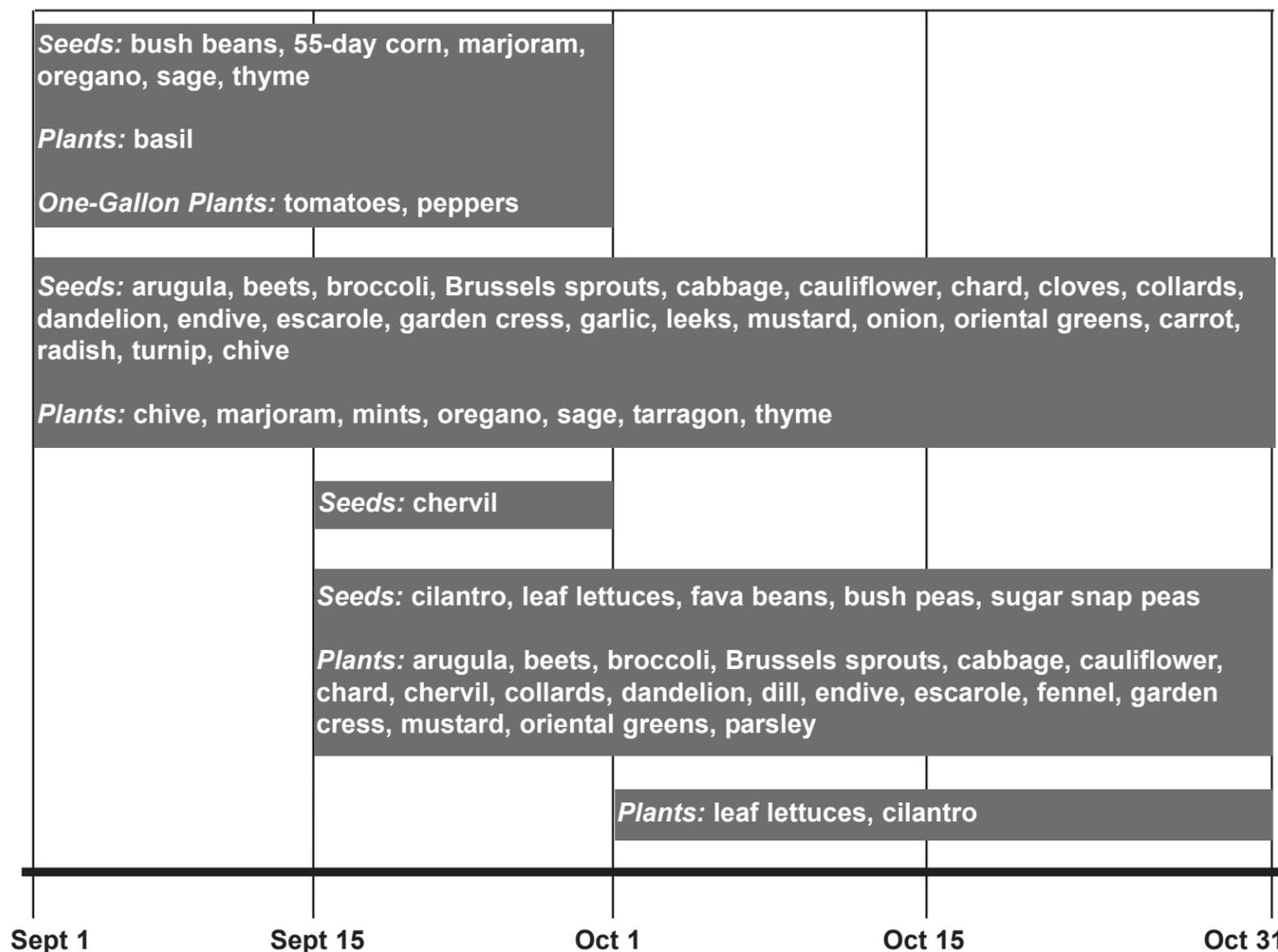
Asparagus: 50–75–95	Cucumber: 60–95–105	Radish: 40–85–95
Bean: 60–80–95	Eggplant: 60–85–95	Spinach: 35–70–85
Beet: 40–85–95	Lettuce: 35–75–85	Squash: 60–95–100
Broccoli: 50–70–85	Muskmelon: 60–90–100	Swiss Chard: 60–95–100
Brussels Sprouts: 45–60–75	Okra: 60–95–105	Tomato: 50–85–95
Cabbage: 40–85–100	Onion: 35–75–95	Turnip: 40–85–105
Carrot: 40–80–95	Parsley: 40–75–90	Watermelon: 60–95–105
Cauliflower: 40–80–100	Pea: 40–75–85	
Celery: 40–70–85	Pepper: 60–85–95	
Corn: 50–95–105	Pumpkin: 60–95–100	

– Courtesy of University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Department of Horticulture

# A Planter's Guide

## to September and October

It's decision time for your garden plots; the following graph should help you decide what to plant and when.



shaded bar marks those dates safe for planting

## Hard-Hearted Gardening

by Tom Watson

We're coming up on one of those times when decisions must be made. Although it may not feel like it, summer is passing us by. If you don't believe me, consider what time it is when the sun rises these days. If, like me, your work week is ruled by the alarm clock, it's on the dim side of daylight when you slap that snooze button. Fall's coming. The time will very soon be here when you need to switch gears in the garden and start planting those greens, roots, and herbs that will thrive in cooler weather and the shorter winter days to come. In fact, you should probably start working on clearing the garden and getting ready in the next couple of weeks. Except, of course, that the tomatoes and peppers have begun to flower again. Some of you may have even done some judicious clipping and fertilizing in order to rejuvenate them. Well, if your plants are in the process ripening a second crop, good for you! You don't need to read this. But if in your plot, as it happens is the case in my garden this year, things are looking a bit beat up, it may be time to reconsider making the effort to encourage summer's survivors. They may be starting to flower again, or even setting a few fruit, but this could be a trap. Keep them going long enough, and you might run yourself short of planting time for the crops of fall, with no tomatoes to show for it. The odds that they will give you a reasonable harvest are not good. It's time to return them to the earth from whence they came.

Easier said than done. I know, because I have to do these chores while my wife's not looking! The plants are still alive and growing, after all. Why give up on them so easily?

Consider that alarm clock again. In July when 5:30am rolled around and that obnoxious buzzing rolled you over (the alarm clock, not the snoring beside you) it was

light out already. Relatively easy to be up and at 'em then, right? And it stayed bright well into the evening. It's no coincidence that (especially when the monsoon humidity arrives) things grow with increased vigor: lots of moisture and abundant, long-lasting solar energy. Well, it may still be on the muggy side at the moment, but what's it look like at 5:30am now? Like I said above, the dim side of daylight, and the sun sets a little earlier, too. The length of the day is seasonal, and the time has come for it to grow shorter. And this is why it may be time to give up on the tomatoes, peppers, and cucumbers (if they are not producing right this very moment). The shorter days mean they have less of the sun's energy to grow on, which in turn means they grow slower. The flowers come less frequently, and fruit set is reduced, with the rate of fruit development decreasing every day. The plants have stopped trying to reproduce (which is what all the flowers and fruit are really about, after all) and are switching to survival mode. In time, they will stop flowering altogether.

It's a diminishing returns sort of situation. You can nurse the plants along, and they'll hang in there, but unless you protected them well enough to over-winter (a big job, but it can be done) their fruitful days are over. No matter how good they look in the coming weeks, they are taking up space you could use for more timely crops, and to no real purpose.

So you grab them and pull...Not so easy, is it? You worked hard on and with these plants, and chances are it was a rewarding relationship. But all good things come to an end sometime. Pull them and compost them. Make them part of the next cycle. There are more good things ahead, waiting to be planted.

## Little Gardeners

It's always great to see the tiny sprouts in the garden. On the right are Omie (Patty Hartmann) with Ella at the Chaverim Garden monthly meeting and to the far right, Stan Coulthard is hiding from the sun (under that huge hat) while answering one of young Matthew's numerous questions at the Presidio Garden.

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# Recipes and Good Things to Eat

### Zucchini Cheese Pancakes

sent in by Lucille Boilard-Harkin of the Chaverim Garden

Serve with tomato sauce and freshly grated Parmesan cheese

3 3/4 cups shredded zucchini  
1/3 cup grated onion  
1 clove garlic, minced  
2/3 cup grated Parmesan cheese  
5 eggs, lightly beaten  
3/4 cup whole wheat pastry flour  
1/3 cup wheat germ  
1/2 tsp oregano  
1/2 tsp thyme

Combine zucchini, onion, garlic and cheese. Mix in the eggs, then flour, wheat germ, and spices. Cook the way you always cook pancakes. Delicious and easy for dinner.

### Cold Melon Salsa

3 tomatoes, seeded and finely diced  
1/2 honeydew melon, peeled and finely diced  
1 cantaloupe, peeled and finely diced  
1 cup minced red onion  
1/2 jalapeno pepper, minced  
1/2 cup chopped fresh cilantro  
3 tablespoons fresh orange juice  
1/2 cup finely chopped almonds  
1/2 teaspoon salt  
2 tablespoons fresh lime juice

In a large serving bowl, stir together tomatoes, honeydew melon, cantaloupe, red onion, jalapeno and cilantro. Stir in the orange juice, almonds, salt and lime juice. For best flavor, refrigerate for at least 4 hours before serving.

### Tomato Cucumber Mint Salad

2 large cucumbers, halved lengthwise  
3 large tomatoes, seeded and coarsely chopped  
2/3 cup coarsely chopped red onion  
1/2 cup chopped fresh mint leaves  
1/3 cup red wine vinegar  
3 tablespoons olive oil  
1 tablespoon sugar  
1 teaspoon salt  
pepper to taste

Combine cucumbers, vinegar, sugar, and salt; refrigerate one hour.

Add tomatoes, onion, mint and olive oil; toss to blend. Add additional salt and pepper to taste; serve cold.

### Eggplant Chips

1 eggplant, sliced into strips  
1/2 cup soft bread crumbs  
1/8 cup grated Romano cheese  
1 clove garlic, chopped  
2 sprigs fresh parsley, chopped  
1/2 teaspoon dried oregano  
salt and pepper to taste  
2 tablespoons vegetable oil

Preheat oven to 400 degrees F (200 degrees C). Cut eggplant strips in half again, lengthwise. Lay strips on a baking sheet.

In a small bowl combine bread crumbs, Romano cheese, garlic, parsley, oregano, salt and pepper. Sprinkle over eggplant strips and drizzle with oil.

## September-October Lunar Phases



# Community Garden

## Activities



Photos courtesy of Darlene Schacht

Top: Caroline, Dianne, and Melissa work over the compost at Presidio using recently donated composting rings as well as the recycled trash cans.

Right: Jim, our Chaverim compost master, is out behind the shed to remind folks that the compost must be chopped before going into the containers....or else! All kidding aside, Jim's one of the nicest guys that you could ever meet and we're lucky to have him as a volunteer.



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# Community Garden

## Calendar

### September 2005

**3** Corbett Garden Meeting, 8:00am

**8** CGT Steering Committee Meeting at Darlene Schacht's, 2940 N. Santa Rosa, 9:00am. All CGT members invited.

**10** Presidio Garden Meeting, 8:00am



**18** Chaverim Garden Meeting 8:00am

**24** Wilson Garden Meeting 8:00am

### October 2005

**1** Corbett Garden Meeting, 8:00am

**8** Presidio Garden Meeting, 8:00am

**13** CGT Steering Committee Meeting at Darlene Schacht's, 2940 N. Santa Rosa, 9:00am. All CGT members invited.



**16** Chaverim Garden Meeting 8:00am

**Deadline for Newsletter Submissions**

**22** Wilson Garden Meeting, 8:00am

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