

Community Gardens of Tucson

2940 North Santa Rosa Place
Tucson, Arizona 85712
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www.CommunityGardensofTucson.org

Community Garden Locations

Chaverim Garden (Eastside)
5901 East 2nd Street
Site Coordinator-Signa Roswall
520-750-8439; alamo@dakotacom.net

Corbett Garden (Eastside)
5948 East 30th Street
Site Coordinator-Andy Stevens
520-990-1459; andy@solvomassage.com

Presidio Garden (Midtown)
Off Fort Lowell and Country Club
Site Coordinator - Sally Coulthard
stan@coulthard.net

Sabino Vista Garden (Sabino Canyon)
3185 North Rowe Lane
Site Coordinator-Stacey Harrison
520-290-3647; stacey@dserve.net

Wilson Garden (Midtown close to UA)
3331 North Wilson
Site Coordinator-Melissa Urreiztieta
520-320-9814; melissa.u@earthlink.net



Garden Photo



Anyone who spends enough time in the garden will swear that the vegetables are trying to communicate!

Community Gardens of Tucson

a bimonthly guide to community gardening activities in the Greater Tucson area

July/August 2007

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Is That A Ladybug?

by Andy Stevens

On a recent trip to one of the gardens, I had the chance to see, what I thought to be a yellow ladybug. What I really saw was a spotted cucumber beetle. It's a member of the family Chrysomelidae (leaf beetles) as opposed to the ladybug, which is a bug predator in the Coccinellidae family. If you have some time, do a little research into the Chrysomelidae family. They're interesting creatures, but not very friendly to vegetable plants.



Two very different insects with similar color patterns. Can you tell friend from foe? Here's a hint: The friendly one eats aphids.

The spotted cucumber beetle, unlike the striped variety, lives by not only eating the leaves of cucurbits, but by attacking other plants as well; peanuts, soybeans, cotton and corn round out its hit list. The beetles are drawn to the cucurbits by a bitter kairomonal (flower scent) compound called cucurbitacin. It is supposed to be a part of the plant's defensive system, but it works as an attractant in the cucumber beetles. As if that were not enough, in its larval stage, the spotted cucumber beetle is known as the southern corn rootworm. As that name implies, it tunnels into the roots of corn plants; with only an eight week life cycle, it has great deal of crop destruction to accomplish in a small amount of time. To add more insult to injury, this beetle can also carry the pathogens responsible for cucumber mosaic virus and bacterial wilt. It is important to remember though, that one human's damaged plant, is an insect's sweet livelihood.

As you can see from the pictures above, the spotted cucumber beetle looks very much like the ladybug, but the plant health implications of the two insects could not be more different. Look closely at the photos and you'll see that the color pattern on the ladybug (the one eating the aphid on the left) is not regular. This is the key to differentiating the two. The cucumber beetle will have six spots on each of its two elytra (forewings) and their arrangement will be orderly. The mnemonic, "twelve spots and your plant may rot", may be of some assistance when it comes to deciding where to apply George's finger-and-thumb pest control measures.

CONTACTS

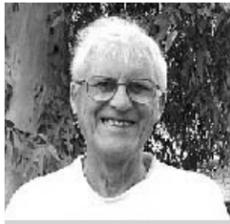
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George Says . . .

by George Brookbank

Get ready for the heat of summer!

You can help your plants survive the experience if you use a white sheet to cover them. A loose cover keeps the sun's radiation from baking the fruit, killing the pollen, and burning the young leaves. Tomato fruit skin gets leathery if left out in the exposed sunshine and this reduces the quality of what you've spent a lot of effort in growing.

You will have noticed that fruit that is hiding beneath the foliage is of better quality than those out in the sunshine. July and August sunshine simply gets too strong for man and beast, and vegetables too. An old white sheet does a good job of providing shade. Don't use black plastic shade cloth from the nurseries. It, in itself, gets too hot. Part of the story is that a covering of the right sort keeps in the humidity that a plant produces and the fruit is of a better quality with a thin skin instead of a thick leathery one.

I don't think much of the recent advice given in the Sunday paper that recommends spraying plants to cool them down. Our water is salty and as it dries on the leaves and flowers and new leaf buds it leaves behind a residue of corrosive chemicals. Besides, you'd need to be spraying almost constantly to keep your plants cool all day, and that means a steady application of salts on the foliage.

Another way to "keep the cool" is cover the soil with an organic mulch. A bale of straw or good quality hay is what's needed, so stay away from cheap Bermudagrass hay that probably contains weed seeds. Split out the bale into flakes about three inches thick and lay them down like tiles instead of scattering loose straw, which can be blown away by our summer winds. If you have a lot of corn stalks, lay them down above and along the drip lines. Such a mulch will protect them from birds and

other pests and discourage the germination of weed seeds.

In a way our lack of rain has been helpful. There are few weeds in our gardens but where some gardeners have allowed Bermudagrass to grow there's work to be done! Summer rains and summer temperatures will boost the growth of weeds and give us a monumental task of weed control. It's not good merely to pick off the green parts of Bermudagrass--it has to be dug out! Avoid this time-consuming task by catching them young! Still, dig out, not just pick off.

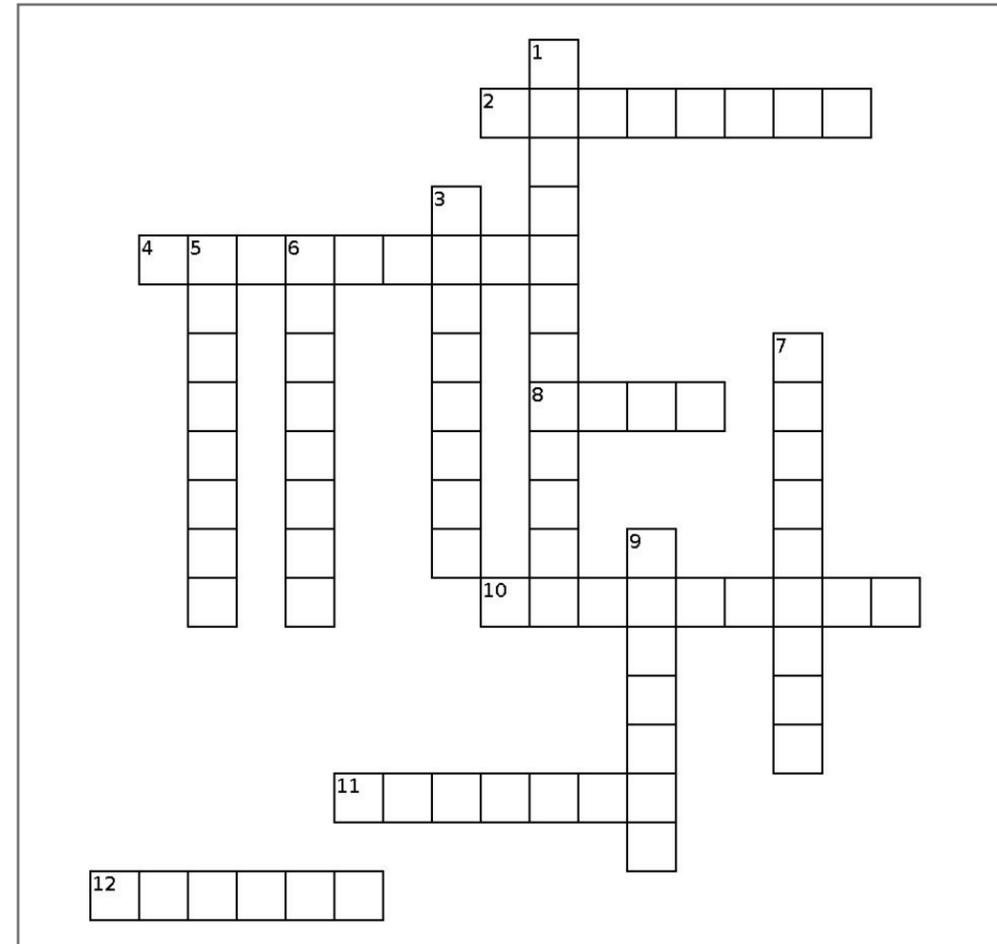
Don't despair with summer's heat affecting the tomatoes, peppers and eggplant. When cooler weather returns so will fresh flowering and fruit set.



What can you plant or sow during the next two months? More squash and melons, Chinese Pole beans, and at the end of August, Sweet Corn and bush beans for a Thanksgiving harvest.

Look in my current Blog to get a story of squash management. It's too long a story to repeat it here, but it's a worthwhile story if you garden with squash.

Some Favorite Varieties



Puzzle Clues

- 1 Soft-textured sweet head lettuce
- 2 Succulent matweed green prolific in Tucson
- 3 Sweet pesto basil
- 4 Italian heirloom broccoli
- 5 Thin-skinned heat loving cucumber
- 6 Mexican grain grows to 8ft
- 7 Yellow heirloom squash
- 8 Meaty sauce tomato
- 9 Slender chili mild heat and good for roasting
- 10 Sweet carrot good for roasting
- 11 Bush bean heirloom native to Southwest
- 12 Chard with bright yellow leaf perioles



Answers: 1 buttercrunch 2 purslane 3 Genovese 4 calabrese 5 Armenian 6 amaranth 7 crookneck 8 roma 9 Anaheim 10 chantenay 11 Anasazi 12 golden

Treasury Notes

by Darlene Schacht, Acting Treasurer

Thanks to everyone who sent plot fees in on time. If you haven't yet completed your membership, please send your check to me at the return address listed on the reverse cover of this newsletter.

If you have experience in accounting and are interested in supporting Community Gardens of Tucson as a volunteer, consider becoming our treasurer. I'd be happy to teach you the details of CGT operations, but you should have some experience working with accounts. Contact me if you're interested.

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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.

Sun Stand Still

by Andy Stevens

The solstice on June 21st has passed and we're now headed toward shorter days and longer shadows stretching out toward the north. The term solstice is from the latin sol (sun) and sistere (to stand still). The earth's declination has slowed down, but at this point in our desert seasons, so have most of our plants. Tomatoes and many other plants hide out under old bedsheets making the garden look like a tent city of sorts. Even though some of the plants have slowed down, the predators have not. The birds and insects are busy making a living and sometimes that comes at the expense of our vegetables.

There is good information on George's blog and in his newsletter articles, with this issue being no exception, so keep both of them handy for reference. As you can tell from the cover article, the subtle differences in helpful and harmful insects, and even practices in the garden will be more than enough to keep most of us continually learning new things.

I've heard of some issues regarding whether or not the forum is being used enough. The forum, like George's blog, is a new technology for many folks and it takes a while for things to catch on. Most web forums only really start really buzzing after hundreds of folks start using them regularly. It'll eventually prove to be a useful tool, but it has to learn to crawl first.

Too Much Zucchini?

recipe from Signa Roswall

Here's a recipe I've resorted to when confronted by an embarrassment of riches from ye summer garden plot. It's good! Sometimes I've substituted Italian turkey sausage for the beef. That way is good, too.

Zucchini Soup

2.5 pounds zucchini, sliced in half lengthwise, then cut into 1/2 inch pieces

- | | |
|--------------------------|---------------------|
| 1 pound ground beef | 1 cup chopped onion |
| 3 cloves garlic, minced | 1 teaspoon sugar |
| 28oz can of tomatoes | 16oz tomato sauce |
| 1 tsp Italian seasoning | 1 tsp dried oregano |
| 1/2 teaspoon dried basil | Salt to taste |
| Mozzarella for topping | |

Brown ground beef with onions and garlic, drain liquid off and discard. Add the zucchini and allow to cook down for about 30 minutes, stir occasionally during this process. After zucchini has cooked down some, add remaining ingredients (except cheese) and salt to taste. Simmer until the zucchini is soft and you just can't wait any longer. Serve with grated mozzarella on top. Very good with crusty bread. Serves 4 to 6.

CGT Web Forum Created

The CGT webmaster has created a web-based forum that all CGT gardeners can use to participate in online discussions pertaining to our experiences in the gardens. The forum can be found at <http://www.communitygardensoftucson.org/forum> and is a venue for gardeners to solicit advice, share successes, and discuss recent events at the gardens. To use the forum, you will first need to register a user name and be approved by the forum administrator (Andy). This registration takes only a few minutes and will protect the forum from spam. Please check out the forum, I think you'll like it.



Jul 1-15 Jul 15-31 Aug 1-15 Aug 15-31 Sep1-15 Sep 15-30 Oct 1-15 Oct 15-31

	Jul 1-15	Jul 15-31	Aug 1-15	Aug 15-31	Sep1-15	Sep 15-30	Oct 1-15	Oct 15-31
Amaranth								
Armenian Cucumber								
Artichoke								
Arugula								
Asian Cabbage								
Asian Leafy Greens								
Asparagus								
Beets								
Blackeyed Peas								
Broccoli								
Broccoli Raab								
Beans (Bush)								
Beans (Fava)								
Beans (Pole)								
Brussels Sprouts								
Cabbage								
Cabbage (Chinese)								
Cauliflower								
Carrots								
Cantelope								
Chard								
Collards								
Corn								
Cucumber								
Dandelion Greens								
Eggplant								
Endive								
Garlic								
Irish Potato								
Kale								
Kolorabi								
Leek								
Lettuce (Leaf)								
Miner's Lettuce								
Lettuce (Romaine)								
Lima Beans								
Mache (Corn Salad)								
Melons								
Musk Melon								
Mustard								
Okra								
Onion (Green)								
Onion (Sets)								
Parsnip								
Peas								
Pepper								
Potato (Irish)								
Pumpkin								
Purslane Greens								
Radish								
Rhubarb								
Rutabega								
Spinach								
Spinach (New Zealand)								
Spinach (Malabar)								
Squash (Summer)								
Squash (Winter)								
Sweet Potato								
Swiss Chard								
Tomato								
Turnip								
Watermelon								

Legend For Planting Guide

- Unwise To Plant
- Sow Seeds
- Plant Seedlings
- Plant Seeds and/or Plants

Article of Interest

Organic Weed Control Using Corn In Your Garden

The following article was forwarded by Stacey Harrison from the Sabino Vista Garden.

Weeds are a problem faced by everyone who enjoys gardening. When we carefully prepare the soil to make a good home for our garden plants, we're also creating ideal conditions for weeds to thrive. Weeds not only detract from the beauty of our gardens, but they also compete for the water and nutrition that is meant to be used by the more desirable plants.

So what's a gardener to do about weeds? We can smother existing weeds when creating new planting beds, but despite our best efforts, weed seeds will always be blowing into the beds. When those weed seeds germinate and grow, the weeds will once again make themselves right at home in the garden.

Now there's a natural product available that helps prevent weed seeds from growing in the garden, and surprisingly, it is made from corn.



Corn gluten is a byproduct of the wet-milling process and has traditionally been used in cattle and poultry feed and also as an ingredient in dog food. It was discovered entirely by accident that corn gluten can also be used to prevent weed seeds from germinating. Not only can it suppress weeds, but it will also help feed your garden plants since it is also a source of nitrogen. And corn gluten won't harm pets, people, birds or insects, making it very safe to use.

Corn gluten works by preventing germinated seeds from growing a root. A plant that has already grown roots will not be affected by corn gluten. For the best results, the corn gluten should be applied early in the season, before the weed seeds germinate and grow roots. As a pre-emergent herbicide, corn gluten tends to have a cumulative effect and

4 becomes even more effective on weed seeds with repeated applications over time. One application of corn gluten continues to suppress weeds for 4-6 weeks, a bit less if the

weather is unusually rainy or hot.

Corn gluten is typically applied by broadcasting it on the growing bed at a rate of 20-40 pounds per 1000 square feet. It may then be lightly raked into just the surface of the soil and watered in. Corn gluten will not be effective unless it is wetted and should be given a gentle shower after being applied. However, if there is a long rainy period after the corn gluten has been applied, it may lose its effectiveness. As with any herbicide, it can wash away, and weed seedlings may even recover and begin again to form roots if the soil surface remains wet for an extended time. Keep an eye on the weather and apply the corn gluten when no rain is expected

for a few days. Always follow the instructions on the package when applying any herbicide or fertilizer.

Corn gluten will not harm mature plants and can be safely used in an existing flowerbed, vegetable garden or potted plants. Vegetable or flower seeds that are planted deeply, such

as peas, corn or beans, won't be affected by the corn gluten. But avoid using corn gluten where shallow-seeded plants such as lettuce or carrots will be grown. The corn gluten won't have an effect on deeply planted seeds, but it will inhibit root growth in seeds that are planted close to the surface.

Corn gluten is sold under several brand names. Look for corn gluten herbicides at your local garden center or in the organic section of gardening catalogs. With a good dose of corn gluten on the garden, you can enjoy the garden more and spend less time pulling weeds.

Article by Kathy Anderson
Article located on the following websites:
<http://gardenofchoice.com>
<http://www.gardening-articles.com/>

Do your own research before application of this and let us all know what you find out. A good place for more information is the Iowa State website at: <http://www.gluten.iastate.edu/>

Garden Reports

Corbett Garden

Corn, along with beans, onions, squash, and tomatoes continue to beat the heat in the garden. We hope this trend will continue. At a recent meeting, Cady Paine helped Dianne harvest the onions and bush beans. It's good to see her start gardening on the right (dirty) foot.



Presidio Garden

Presidio gardeners are enjoying the bounty of their summer labor--squash, beans, tomatoes, cucumbers, cantalope, sweet potatoes, peppers, and even rhubarb! George's corn plot was a big hit. Planted mid-March and harvested June 3rd, his Serendipity bicolor hybrid passed the taste tests with rave reviews. Welcome to Gene Zonge, our newest gardener, who soon be taking over George's plot. Clare Schroeder is healing from shoulder surgery and Sally Coulthard is dancing around on her new knee, but their gardens look good in spite of these setbacks. The plan for our next garden meeting is to get the compost area tidied up and active brewing. Hopefully we will try out the chipper/shredder that Stan & Sally so generously donated to the cause.



Community Garden

Activities



From top left: The vine borer has left its mark at the Presidio Garden. Danielle and Aida are left to clean up after it. Keith assists Jennifer at Chaverim for their last harvest of bermuda grass before moving on to greener pastures. We appreciate them being good gardeners with us since the start of the Chaverim garden and we'll miss them both. Renate and Melissa teamed up recently for watermelon planting at Wilson. Shirley's plot is looking good even though she took off for the mountains - how does that work? George recently gave the Sabino Vista crowd a close-up look at our nemesis, the vine borer.

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Community Garden

Calendar

July 2007

- 7** Corbett Garden Meeting 8:00am
- 8** Sabino Vista Garden Meeting 6:30pm
- 12** CGT Steering Committee Meeting at Darlene Schacht's, 2940 N. Santa Rosa, 9:00am. All CGT members invited.



- 14** Presidio Garden Meeting 8:00am
- 15** Chaverim Garden Meeting 8:00am
- 28** Wilson Garden Meeting 8:00am

August 2007

- 4** Corbett Garden Meeting 8:00am
- 9** CGT Steering Committee Meeting at Darlene Schacht's, 9:00am. All CGT members invited.
- 11** Presidio Garden Meeting 8:00am
- 12** Sabino Vista Garden Meeting 6:30pm



- 18** Deadline for Newsletter Submissions
- 19** Chaverim Garden Meeting 8:00am
- 25** Wilson Garden Meeting 8:00am

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