

NEW WESTMINSTER COMMUNITY GARDENING SOCIETY

June/July 2019 – SUMMER EDITION

SUMMER TIPS

- Make sure to give your plants plenty of water!
- Weed often.
- Greens (arugula, baby lettuce, etc.) re-sow every 2-3 weeks.
- Plant some fall ready vegetables; carrots, kohlrabi, spinach, lettuce, broccoli.
- Make sure to sign up (and complete) communal chores.



NEW WEST MUSEUM FEATURE

The NWCGS was featured at the New West Museum this past spring. Melody toured some folks from the museum around and explained what we do!

To view the video please follow this link and download the mp4 file: <https://www.dropbox.com/s/j7bupdudonhfmj/Community%20Garden%20Final.mp4?dl=0>

Garden Announcements:

City Hall: *City Hall Gardens are ready for their 3rd year as a garden with NWCGS!*

With over 80% of our gardeners continuing this year, many chose to plant garlic in the fall and have beds filled with their bright green shoots.

New hoses are in the shed and our new signs are up, sharing who we are with the community. We are looking forward to what the next year brings us - who will grow the biggest zucchini, the reddest tomatoes or the tallest sunflower!

Simcoe: *With the hot weather, things in the garden are growing like gangbusters. Garlic is looking great, strawberries beginning to redden up, peas shooting up and spring greens starting to bolt in the heat. Soon it will be time for tomatoes, peppers and crispy cukes!*

Thanks to Murray, Caitlin, Andrew, & Lauren for their work on repairing the garden fence! Looking terrific.

A few reminders for gardeners:

There's been a change to the green bin positioning - please place them in tandem, with handles facing the same direction. Please be sure to check the garden chores sign-up sheets and sign up for some work, if you haven't already. With all the heat, weeds are growing too! Please keep on top of your unwanted plants as much as your wanted ones :)



Saint Mary's: *Hello from St. Mary's Garden! Many new gardeners have joined us this year and have brought their curiosity and excitement along with them. All of the gardens are full of herbs, veggies, and flowers for the pollinators. We are also so happy to have continued our partnership with Purpose Society's Alternative School and Qayqayt Elementary for the care and tending of the donation and school plots, respectively. Kids in the garden is a beautiful thing. Happy gardening, from your friends at SMGS.*



The garden suggests there might be a place where we can meet nature halfway – Michael Pollan

HOW TO BEE

The New Westminster Beekeepers Association has reached out to us asking if we have any members who would like to learn about what they do.

If any members are interested on going on a group tour and learning about the NWBKA please email nwcommunitygarden@gmail.com with "NWBKA Interest" as the subject line.

Alternatively, they have also suggested if individuals would like to learn more without a group from the garden we are welcome to.

You are welcome to drop by, see the hives, and help out. We would meet at 2:00pm most Saturdays in the parking lot behind the Arena in Queens Park, also beside the rose garden, and the petting zoo. Bring a bee veil if you have one - see you there.



SUMMER WATERING PRACTICES (FROM WEST COAST SEEDS)

The following information is courtesy of West Coast Seeds' 04 May 2019 e-newsletter on *Good Watering Practices*.

Article in its entirety on their blog here

<https://www.westcoastseeds.com/blogs/garden-wisdom/good-watering-practice> For more tips on

maintaining a garden, sign up for their newsletters at

www.westcoastseeds.com

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1. Whenever possible, water early in the morning. This is when the soil is coolest, so the water can be delivered to the crop with minimal waste to evaporation. By watering earlier in the day, the garden will not be damp or wet at night. A wet garden at night is the perfect place for woodlice, slugs, and snails to breed and prosper.
2. Water less frequently, but more deeply. Plants get water through their roots, and less frequent watering encourages them to build deep root systems. If you water lightly, a lot of the water that goes onto the soil will evaporate right back out into the atmosphere again, especially if you're watering on bare soil. How can you find out if you're watering deeply enough? At the beginning of the summer, water your plants and dig into the soil to see how deep the water has gone. If you only see a centimeter or two of damp soil, continue watering.
3. Water close to the soil, and avoid overhead watering. Place your irrigation near or beneath the soil surface rather than spraying the top of the plant. The plant's leaves will act as a sun umbrella, reducing evaporation so that more water has an opportunity to soak into the soil. Many plants, like tomatoes and squash, will be at increased risk to diseases like Late Blight and Powdery Mildew if their leaves are frequently soaked by overhead watering.
4. Know your plants. Established perennial plants may only need a few centimeters of water once a week, but other plants like tomatoes are water hogs. It's alright if plants droop a little in the intense heat of the day, but it's a clear sign that more water (or deeper watering) is needed in the morning. Containers and raised beds tend to drain faster than garden beds set in the ground. Be sensitive to drainage and evaporation as natural processes, and plant accordingly.