

Hello Gardeners!

Welcome to the garden! I hope you all have a great year!

Just a few items to help you as you get ready to plant.

The pile of dirt at the front of the garden is for your use. A wheelbarrow will be in the end of the building. The yellow bag of soil belongs to the Moreau Community Center Children's Garden Program. Please do not use it.

We are recommending that you add 2 bags of composted manure to each of your beds. Peat moss and vermiculite are also great additions to your soil structure and they improve water retention. If you want the same bed next year, sign up early and we will do our best to honor that request.

This is an organic garden so please use organic fertilizers and pesticides. Osmocote dry granular organic fertilizer is available at most garden centers. You should only need a small bag. There are application instructions on the back of the bags. If you would like to also use a liquid fertilizer that you can add to a watering can there are organic options available. The garden center staff will be able to help you with your selections.

Keeping your garden free of weeds helps with pest control. Insecticidal soaps are available locally. If you see a pest problem please take care of it immediately so it does not spread throughout all the gardens. Sometimes larger bugs can be removed by hand.

There are plants and herbs such as marigolds and dill that help deter pests from your garden. Watch for a list on the bulletin board and on Facebook.

There are trash cans at the side of the garden. One is for trash the other 1 or 2 are for your weeds. When weed cans 2/3 full please let the staff know so that they can empty them.

Please keep the path around your beds free of weeds and well mulched. Rake back your existing chips and weed well. Put a layer of newspapers down. Use a full section of the paper and overlap the edges by 5 to 6 inches. This will give you good weed prevention that should last all summer. Once you have weeded and spread out the newspaper rake the existing chips back over the newspaper and add enough new chips to bring it to a depth of 5 to 6 inches. Weeding well now, applying a good layer of newspaper and then chipping fairly thick is the key to only having to do this once a year.

If you would like to be in the garden with other gardeners please join us on Wednesday's between 5 and 6:30. I will try to be there each week with a cool drink to share. If you complete planting your bed and find that you have surplus

seeds or plants we welcome sharing with other gardeners. Someone is always glad to have them. You can bring your surplus with you on Wednesdays or post your surplus items on the bulletin board with your contact information.

Please check the bulletin board for garden tips and information. You can post garden related items there. We also have a Facebook page, "Moreau Community Garden"

After this newsletter I usually use the Facebook page and the bulletin board to get information out to you.

Please join me in planting the new flowering pollinator and herb gardens that I am trying to get established at the side of the garden. Once the herbs are big enough I will share them with you on Wednesdays. I will try to also bring some samples of ways to use fresh herbs.

If you are new to gardening and need some help on getting started planning, planting and caring for your garden I am happy to help you. Please let me know and I am glad to meet you in the garden or in a local garden center to help you make selections. There seem to be several of you gardening with children. Please let me know if you need any additional assistance. We want this to be a great experience for everyone.

If you are interested, I am glad to arrange a visit to a local greenhouse for a tour to help you with selecting plants and seeds. Please let me know asap on this so I can get it set up some time in by the middle of May. Email me your interest, and the time and days of the week that work for you and how many of you there will be. Your friends who do not have a bed area also welcome to join us.

I will try to gather the tools we have left from last year. They will be in the end of the building. If the door has a locked on it please find the staff to open it. Please return the equipment there when you are done using them. Please also rewind the hose and hang it when you're done.

Please let me know if you have any comments and ideas. If at any time you decide that you no longer want to continue with your bed please let me know asap. Thanks

I am looking forward to meeting you all.

Gina LeClair
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