

The Turnip

Fairfield Glade Community Gardens Newsletter

Important Garden Dates

The annual gardens will be tilled as soon as possible in April. It's all weather and soil condition dependent. As soon as the gardens are tilled and the plots are staked you will receive an email letting you know. The water is typically turned back on around mid-April.

USDA Plant Hardiness Zones

[USDA Plant Hardiness Zones](#) were updated in November of 2023. The 2012 map placed the TN Plateau in zone 6b (-5 to 0 degrees Fahrenheit). The 2023 map places the Plateau in zone 7a (0 to 5 degrees Fahrenheit). Plant hardiness zones give the average annual minimum temperatures for each zone.

This small change may make a difference for some tender perennials like fennel and lisianthus. If you have had any plants surprise you with their hardiness let us know.

The average annual minimum temperature does not change the last frost date, May 8 or the first frost date, October 4. There are cold hardy plants in the brassica family and some greens that do well with light frosts. However, beware of planting those summer vegetables before Mothers Day.

Welcome New Gardeners

We have 13 new people joining us this year. That brings the total number of gardeners up to 59 for 2024. Although if we count spouses and partners we have 86 gardeners. Please give our new gardeners a warm welcome when you meet them this season.

Garden Calendar

Garden Planning

Sharpen up that pencil and get some graph paper out. It's time to put your garden dreams on paper. Start by taking inventory of the seeds from previous years. Study seed catalogs to find vegetables, herbs and flowers you want to grow. Make a scaled drawing of the garden and think about the needs of the crops.

Plan on growing a diversity of crops. Some of the benefits of diversity include having a more varied diet, longer harvest season, and insurance against inevitable crop failures. Growing from seed opens up a large selection of crops and is economical.

Winter is also a good time to inventory, repair, and replenish garden supplies and tools. So when you sharpen that pencil, also sharpen your hoe.



For more garden planning tips refer to the [garden calendar](#) on the gardeners page of our website and the [UT Extension 2024 Garden Planning Calendar](#).

In the works

In November we had the trees trimmed along the garden roads on sites A and B by 1st Choice Tree Service. This will greatly improve the amount of sunlight for garden plots along the perimeters.



Site A Perimeter Road



Site B Perimeter Road

Some Seed Sources

To get you started, here are a few of the many seed companies to check out.

[Baker Creek Heirloom Seeds](#)

[Burpee's](#)

[Gurney's](#)

[Johnny's Select Seeds](#)

[Seed Savers Exchange](#)

Thank you volunteers



Ron Burchette & the new garden kiosk

Our Community Gardens now have a kiosk for displaying information. Ron Burchette donated materials and skilled craftsmanship to build this beautiful kiosk. Cary Woolard donated materials as well as labor. Jeff Nagy provided his pickup truck for transporting the kiosk to the site as well as much needed muscle. Dale Soblo designed the kiosk and provided logistical support and manual labor.

If you have any garden information that you would like displayed in the new kiosk let us know.

Featured Article

Building Soils & Moisture Control

By Brian Dilts

Our community garden's soil is classified as sandy-loam. It erodes with heavy rains, dries out in summer, and turns rock hard when dry. The top few inches of the soil profile is known as topsoil. This topsoil contains the organic matter known as humus. In nature it can take 200 to 400 years to create 1 inch of topsoil. Gardening can deplete the soil's organic matter, nutrients and topsoil unless we practice good stewardship of the land.

One way we can be better stewards is by adding organic matter to the soil. The humus will hold moisture for plant roots, aerate the soil to fight compaction, and reduce erosion. The easiest way to improve the soil is by adding mulch, which turns into humus as it decays. And an added benefit of mulch is that it reduces weeds. By adding grass clippings, leaves, composted horse or cow manure, sawdust, and / or well rotted wood mulch, the humus content can be increased. Green cover crops such as clover can also increase organic content and improve soil fertility.

Nutrients are also an important aspect of good soil management. With the addition of organic matter, nitrogen fertilizer will probably need to be added. Because our garden soil tends to be acidic, the addition of lime can also greatly improve productivity. Before adding fertilizer to soil it is a good idea to have the soil tested. The University of Tennessee Extension provides soil testing services for a small fee. For more information about garden soils click [here](#) for the UT Extension Publication, *Getting the most out of your home vegetable garden test report*.



Fairfield Glade municipal compost pile.

Some sources of mulch and organic material

One source of free compost is the Fairfield Glade municipal compost pile located across from the dog park off of Maintenance Blvd.

The Wildwood Stables allows our gardeners to take buckets full of horse manure. However remember this fresh manure needs to break down for at least 6 months before planting in it.

Straw that can be bought by the bale from local garden centers is an excellent mulch.

Grass clippings and leaves are great sources of organic matter to use as mulch.

Bagged mushroom compost and composted cow manure is also available at local garden centers. Make sure to read all labels to be sure the product is not loaded with unwanted fillers..

Residential kitchen compost is also a good source of organic matter. The key here is to make sure it is composted. Raw vegetable and fruit waste is not acceptable. It will attract pests.

Fairfield Glade					
Community Gardens					
Treasurer's Report					
December, 2023					
Year to Date					
					YTD
Beginning Cash					\$3,864.96
Deposits					
	Garden Rental 2023				\$225.00
	Garden Rental 2024				\$2,160.00
	Collection - G. Miller Gift				\$60.00
Total Deposits					\$2,445.00
Expenses					
	Tilling				\$240.00
	Water				\$476.88
	Trimming - Trees				\$300.00
	Kiosk				\$207.45
	Gift Card - G. Miller				\$100.00
Total Expenses					\$1,324.33
Ending Cash Balance 12-31-2023					\$4,985.63
Reserves					
	Faucet/Water Line				
	(Repair and Replacement)				\$1,670.00
Net Cash					\$3,315.63



Wildwood Stables pasture across Westchester from the Community Garden's

Status of the Garden's in regards to the expiring lease between Fairfield Glade and Wildwood Stables

The Community Gardens are located on property owned by the Fairfield Glade Community Club (FGCC) but leased by the Wildwood Stables. The garden sites are guaranteed by a provision in the lease between the Stables and the FGCC which means that the Community Gardens and all gardeners are guests of the Wildwood Stables. The relationship between the Community Gardens and the Wildwood stables is a valued one.

As you may have read in the Glade Sun, the lease between Wildwood Stables and FGCC will expire in December of 2024. Dom Janusky, our Garden Coordinator has met with the FGCC Board in regards to this transition. This change will not affect the Fairfield Glade Community Garden's.

The FGCC Board view the Fairfield Glade Community Garden's as a valued and treasured resource for the residents of Fairfield Glade.

Contact Us

The gardens committee can be contacted at: communitygardensoffg@gmail.com

Dominic Janusky - Garden Coordinator & Treasurer

Cary Woolard - Assistant Garden Coordinator & Irrigation Management

Jim Burwell - Wait List & Plot Assignments

Brian Dilts - Bee Keeper & General Support

Jeff Nagy - Land Management

Dale Soblo - Marketing, Web Meister & Newsletter

Visit our website to see the Gardeners Handbook and more.

"<https://sites.google.com/view/ffg-community-garden>"



The Community Gardens website is now linked to the main Fairfield Glade website on the lifestyles page under useful links.

The Garden Classified Ads

If you would like to offer something in the Garden Classifieds or on the Kiosk please send details to the Garden Committee.

The Turnip is a newsletter for, about and by the gardeners of the Fairfield Glade Community Gardens. Please send us your stories to be included in future issues. The Turnip is published in February, April, July and October.