

THE GRF MINI FARM

Newsletter

March 2021



Plot Guidelines

Grow Something!

Plant what you can grow successfully and will enjoy eating—without it overtaking your plot. If planting vegetables with climbing vines, take care to not overshadow or intrude upon on your neighbors' gardens. Avoid invasive species. Mint, for one, easily could overtake your plot and your neighbors' plots!

No Empty Plots

An unattended, overgrown, or barren plot hinders the well-being of other plots. Plot must show evidence that active gardening is occurring. Lease holders must do their own gardening and cannot sublease plots. Remove all weeds from individual plot and adjacent paths. Keep only gardening essentials and make sure to store them in a neat and orderly manner or in an appropriate storage container.

Respect Your Environment

Remember that whatever you do can affect your fellow gardeners and surroundings. Be water wise and conservation minded, do not overwater, or leave water running unattended. Do not block pathways and remember pets are not allowed.

Master Gardener Lectures

Zoom links for the following presentations will be posted on www.lwsb.com/mini-farm/ day of the lecture. Lectures take place Thursdays at 10 AM.

March 11th – Tending my Soil

April 8th - Gopher Management

May 13th – Terrific Tomatoes

June 10th – Insect Management



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A staff member will get back to you within 48 hours.

<http://www.lwsb.com/mini-farm/>

Natural Ways to Kill Weeds

Cornmeal

Did you know that corn gluten meal is birth control for seeds? Sprinkle it on your garden and it will keep weed seeds from germinating and growing into plants. Of course, corn gluten meal will keep any seed from germinating, so do not try this on your vegetable garden until your plants are established and you've finished planting seeds.

Newspaper

Smother weeds and prevent new ones from growing by covering them with old newspapers. A thick layer of newspaper will keep sunlight from reaching weed seeds, so they can't sprout. Wet the soil first, and then lay your newspaper down, wetting it thoroughly again before covering with mulch. This is a great way to recycle, and as a bonus, you'll encourage earth worms to come and stay.

Herbicide Soap

Make your own DIY herbicide soap by mixing equal parts vinegar, salt and dish soap. Put the mixture in a spray bottle and apply it to your offending weeds. But be judicious. This concoction will kill whatever plants it touches, so be careful not to get it on your prized perennials.

Flowering Herbs for Bees

Bees and other pollinators are responsible for pollinating one third of the food we eat. Loss of habitat, disease and Pesticide exposure are contributing to die off at alarming rates. Studies show that bee colony decline is a result of the use of pesticides containing **neonicotinoid**. Please remember DO NOT USE Roundup. Roundup is not not permitted for use on any GRF Property. Pesticides kill bad insects, but they also kill beneficial insects like bees, ladybugs, and other garden pest predators.

You can find a list of recommended and non-recommended pest control posted on the mini farm bulletin board and webpage: <http://www.lwsb.com/mini-farm/>

There are several herbs recommended for honeybee gardens. Some of the more common include Basil, Lemon balm, Chives, Catnip, Chamomile, Coriander/cilantro, Fennel, Lavender, Oregano, Rosemary, Sage, and Thyme. To benefit honeybees, plant in groups with a variety of herb species so the bees don't have to fly so far and use precious energy.