

Roots and Shoots

The Newsletter of the Community Garden Network
of Edmonton and Area



OF EDMONTON AND AREA

“...the voice that promotes and supports community gardening”

May 2007

Healthy Hydration—Watering Your Garden Wisely

Upcoming Events

In This Issue

- Watering tips for a healthy garden
- Partnership with EFCL
- Upcoming Events
- Feature on Alex Taylor Community Garden
- Rose Pogonias by Robert Frost

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

Many things grow in the garden that were never sown there

~ Thomas Fuller,
Gnomologia,
1732

As summer approaches and the sun rises high into the sky we're all tempted to water our gardens more often, ensuring our plants don't suffer from the heat. Despite the compulsion to water frequently we should beware that we only water when we need to. We also need to ensure that we're using our water wisely, without pouring it on to excess.

The first thing you can do is to water in the coolest part of the day (before 10am) and on non-windy days to reduce the amount of water lost to evaporation. This will help your plants absorb more water and save you from the arduous task of unnecessarily hauling water.

Secondly, water directly on the roots. Water will be absorbed much more quickly.

Thirdly, watering about 1 inch per week is a standard rule of thumb. A single weekly

soaking is much better than daily sprinklings, because shallow watering encourages the roots to stay in the top 4 inches of soil. Shallow roots make plants more susceptible to water stress and weed competition.

Finally, a layer of mulch—straw, grass clippings, shredded leaves, bark chips—helps keep the soil consistently moist. Organic matter, such as compost, mixed into the soil when you plant helps to hold moisture, too. With these handy tips to help you out you're now ready to go out and make the most of the water in your garden. Enjoy!



U of A Campus Garden

- Garden Competition with Edmonton Horticultural Society—Entry date is July 11th, Judging on July 16th and 17th. Please contact Margaret Cann 433-9104
- We want to hear about what you are growing. Garden Surveys for the 2007 gardening survey should be filled out periodically. There's a chance to win a great prize in the fall!
- New gardens starting up in Bonnie Doon, Dickensfield, and Eastwood communities!

Special Thanks

- Thank you to Dan and Diana of Dun-Right trucking for all of their help with compost delivery over the last few weeks.



St. Albert Community Garden

Featured Garden – Alex Taylor Community Garden

The Alex Taylor Community Garden began in 2004 as an initiative of Edmonton's School Lunch Program, a program of Edmonton City Centre Church Corporation (ECCCC). The initial premise was that the garden would be utilized to support initiatives around food security, expand resources available to our food-based programs, and above all, to provide the opportunity for clients of inner city ECCCC programs to enjoy the benefits of gardening. Gardening space would also be available to community members, if not fully utilized by ECCCC programs.

In the first season, five programs gardened, as well as four community members. Three of the programs struggled in their efforts to involve clients, so decided to not garden in the 2005 season. This year, most of the gardeners are local community residents growing a wonderful mix of vegetables, herbs, fruit, and flowering plants. Each of the gardeners plants and maintains their own full or half garden bed.

Along with 10 raised beds, there is a 24 square-foot ground level garden area, which is a work in progress. It is a communal space, currently home to raspberry canes, black currant bushes as well as some rhubarb plants and vegetables.

So far the gardeners have been fortunate to have the resources to design and build the community garden in the way that they want it. The raised beds are ideal. They have great soil, a reliable water source, a garden shed with a variety of gardening tools, and a great mix of gardeners!

The garden is also very fortunate to have two Master Composters gardening at the site.

In the 2006 season, two compost bins were set up and have already begun producing usable compost. The sense of community is strong at Alex Taylor, with events coordinated for gardeners each month such as information sessions and potlucks.

Community Garden Network is currently seeking candidates to for its Board of Directors. It is expected that monthly meetings and additional committee responsibilities will be approximately 6-10 hours per month. Candidates are asked to consider a commitment to the Community Garden Network Board for a three year rotation. Please contact Susan Penstone or Trudy Spooner for more information, 447-9600.



Alex Taylor Community Garden

Our Urban Eden Garden Kick-Off



Join the gardeners at Our Urban Eden June 30th in celebrating the re-launch of their fabulous garden!

Rose Pogonias

A saturated meadow,
Sun-shaped and jewel-small,
A circle scarcely wider
Than the trees around were tall;
Where winds were quite excluded,
And the air was stifling sweet
With the breath of many flowers, --
A temple of the hear.

There we bowed us in the burning,
As the sun's right worship is,
To pick where none could miss them
A thousand orchises;
For though the grass was scattered,
yet every second spear
Seemed tipped with wings of color,
That tinged the atmosphere.

We raised a simple prayer
Before we left the spot,
That in the general mowing
That place might be forgot;
Or if not all so favored,
Obtain such grace of hours,
that none should mow the grass there
While so confused with flowers.

~Robert Frost



Edmonton Horticultural Society Workshops

Looking to expand your knowledge of gardening? Check out this workshop!

Common Pests and Diseases in the Garden with Gail Rankin

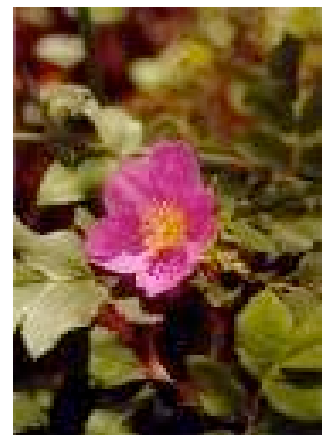
Date: June 22, 2007

Time: 7-9:00pm

Where: Selected sites - TBA

Cost: Members \$20/person, Non-Members \$25/person

Contact: Lucy Chang at 780-461-0757 or lucyrick@telusplanet.net



Community Leagues and Community Gardens....Naturally!

A new partnership between the Edmonton Federation of Community Leagues (EFCL) and the Community Garden Network (CGN) is working to promote and strengthen Community Leagues around Edmonton through encouraging the creation of community gardens. Both organizations are dedicated to community development in the city and are hoping that in working together they will be better able to meet the needs of the citizens.

The creation of a community garden at any location in the neighbourhood will encourage people to get outside and socialize with one another, provide an excellent opportunity for exercise and fresh air, allow children to learn about the food growing process, reduce crime in the area and create a beautiful space for all community members to enjoy. By creating a community garden with a Community League, leagues will be able increase their membership as well as capitalize on the already existing Community hub.

This could be an opportunity for your community to take on a project that will benefit the lives of community members for years to come. As a learning opportunity and a community development opportunity it can't be beat!

For more information please contact Trudy Spooner with the Community Garden Network at 447-9600 or info@edmcommunitygardens.org

Compost Update

This season gardens were hungry for compost! CGN Donated over 200 yards of compost to 13 different gardens.

Looking for Compost?

Clean it Green it – Trevor at 488-7926
City Compost – Brent at 554-0923
Dun-Right Trucking – Dan or Diana 960-2355
Canar – For soil/compost blend 466-6650

Thank you to our sponsors



Edmonton Horticultural Society



Edmonton Federation of Community Leagues

If you wish to submit articles or notices for the upcoming edition of Roots and Shoots, the next deadline is June 22. For newsletter submissions or inquiries, please contact Lindsey Mulkins at lindseymulkins@yahoo.com