

THE DIRT

Long Beach Community Garden Association



HEALTHY & FRESH

COUNTDOWN...

THE BEST OF GARDENING

Spring is right around the corner. Time to start planning our summer gardens. Squash, corn and TOMATOES!

MARCH 2013 ISSUE

Upcoming Dates

MARCH 2nd, 2013



Work Party

The monthly work party will be held from 7:30 - 9:30 am on Saturday March 2, 2013.

March Board Meeting

The monthly Garden Board Meeting will be held after the Work Party, on February 2nd. The meeting starts at 10:00am at the barn in the garden. All are invited to attend!

Upcoming

March 2, 2013

Special Meeting of Membership

The purpose of the meeting is to discuss and vote on some changes to the garden by-laws.



March 14 & 28, 2013

Plot Inspection Walks

March 1, 2013

Just a friendly reminder that tomatoes, eggplant and peppers can be planted in your gardens starting March 1.

Bulletin Board

Friendly Reminder

Just a friendly reminder that only Work Party attendees are allowed in the garden during a work party. This is so we can track your community service hours accurately and fairly.



PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

It's almost tomato time! I can't wait until the warm days of spring warming the air and soil.

I am in the middle of a conundrum that I put myself into every year. What to plant and how much. I spent an entire evening last week pouring through the seed catalogs planning on what I wanted to plant. At last count it was over 325 items that would take over an acre to support!

5 corn types, 14 tomatoes, 11 squash, I just could not stop! Maybe its time to try some new types of plants. Why plant the same year after year? Why not take a chance on something new? But what if it would not grow?

So with this fresh outlook, I took another look. The decision would be for every new

variety, I would hedge my bet with a known entity.

So for my tomatoes I plant what I know grows great, like Big Beef, then I'll try something new like a Russian Black Pearl. If it grows great, wonderful if it doesn't, it doesn't, I tried and now I know.

I had great success last year with a very old planting technique called the three sisters. I'll write about this early colonial planting technique next month. It made my summer growing season care free and a breeze with my sweet corn, pole beans and vine squashes.

I can be reached at the following email:

garden@pagemartin.net

Joanne's Hints - Its Tomato Time

TOMATO TIME!!!!!!

Almost. The first day of March the ban comes off planting tomatoes, egg plant and peppers. In the last newsletter, some recommendations were given to protect your plants from the wind, cold and frost that surely will be with us for most of March. March 17th is usually the last frost date but USUALLY doesn't mean for sure.

If you really can't wait, then you stand the chance of losing your vegetables. Wait until around the 25th of March and then still protect your plants for a few weeks with row cover, walls of water or by merely wrapping your cages with some clear, thick plastic. Do not completely enclose the cages at the top. Allow the plants to breathe.

If you wait, your plants will catch up. Remember, the soil will still be cold in March.

What you can do from this point until you are ready to plant your Spring Garden is get your soil ready. Do this every season over the entire 600 square feet of your garden.

1. Weed your garden
2. Spread approximately two inches of our manure or whatever SOIL amendment you want to use on the soil.

3. Use one entire box of Sul Po Mag spread evenly on the soil. One box is enough. Armstrong Nursery carries this.

4. Sulfate of Ammonia—pelleted (NOT POWDERED) 30 pounds spread evenly over your entire garden. Lowe's

Note: If you are not dealing with an entire vacant garden, try and estimate how much of the above you need.

Now you can water all of the above in and a couple of waterings won't hurt. Let sit for a week or two and then till in.

ONCE EVERY FIVE YEARS,
BUY SOME SUPER
PHOSPHATE AND SPRINKLE
OVER YOUR ENTIRE
GARDEN LIKE YOU WOULD
BE SALT AND PEPPERING
SOMETHING YOU WOULD
EAT. IT DOESN'T TAKE
MUCH AND NO OFTENER
THAN EVERY FIVE YEARS.

Since we have cold nights and windy days in March and Early April, it IS important to protect your plants from the wind. The wind can suck the life out of your tomatoes.

So, protect, protect.

There is still time to buy Walls of Water and Row Cover via mail.

Board Meeting Agenda

This is the agenda for the upcoming March 2, 2013 Board Meeting. All are welcome to attend! It will be held at 10:00 am at the large barn in the garden.

- Call Meeting To Order
- Approval of Feb. Meeting Minutes
- Announcements
- Report of President
- Report of Treasurer
- Report of 1st Vice President
- Report of 2nd Vice President
- Old Business
- New Business

Call To Membership

Believe it or not we are only four months away from our annual elections. Over the past few years we have had abysmal turnout to the Annual Meetings / Elections.

This year we are looking to handle this required process a little differently. It's your garden and if you want to see change, you need to speak up.

We will be looking for at least four, non-board members to head up the Nominating Committee.

This will not be a time consuming project. If you are interested in taking part of this required Bylaw process, please drop me a note at:

Garden@Pagemartin.net

Garden Walks - Gardens Noticed

Gardens To Be Proud Of!



Garden O-01
Lisa Owen



Garden K-03
Maryann Jarvis

Information To Have

Board Of Directors

We are continuing to introduce you to the current LBCGA Board . All are garden members, just like you, who contribute extra time to ensure that we have a successful and thriving non-for-profit organization.

The Board of Directors consist of the the officers, namely President, 1st Vice President, 2nd Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and ten Directors.

Officers and Directors are elected to serve terms of one year or until their successors take office. A Nominating Committee presents a slate of candidates for elective office at the Annual General Meeting.

Nominations can also be made from the floor for any member in good standing as defined in the LBCGA Bylaws.

Board members are required to attend monthly Board meetings as well has take on special assignments such as food bank, common area maintenance, materials printing and many more.

Your 2012 Long Beach Community Garden Association Officers and Board Members are as follows:

Page Martin - President

Joan Criswell - First V.P.
(Head of Membership Committee)

Sher Meyers - Second V.P.

Carol Meyer - Secretary

Mary Rasmussen - Treasurer

Chuck Davis
(Borders Committee)

Frank Dayak
(Critter Control)

Kevin Holman
(Flower & Landscape)

Michel Roide
(Mailing)

Joanne Rice
(Gazebo, Disease control)

Gary Sarka
(Water Systems)

Ernie Trait
(Orchard)

Nancy Bernstein
(Maintenance)

Vicki Storberg
(Commodities Manager)

Lonnie Brundage
(Food Bank)

Each month we will feature one or two directors on the back page of the newsletter. Please feel free to contact me if you have a question for any of them. We have also posted their direct phone numbers on the website.

WWW.LBCG.Org



ON THE WEB

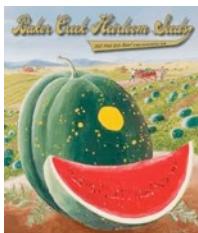


Burpee's Seeds

A wide variety of vegetables and flowers. Available either by mail order or online.

Catalog Available.

<http://www.burpee.com>



Baker Creek Heirloom Seeds

This is it! The best catalog out there. Nothing but heirloom seeds for both veggies and flowers. The catalog is stunning!

Catalog Available.

<http://www.rareseeds.com>



Park Seed Co.

More than just seeds. Great resource for hard to find tools and gardening information

Catalog Available.

<http://parkseed.com>



Gardeners Supply Company

They have it all. This is a must for any serious gardener!

Catalog Available.

<http://www.gardeners.com>

LONG BEACH COMMUNITY GARDEN

Reminders

Hang Tags / Speed

Display Your Tags

Please have your garden hang tags displayed at all times when in the garden. Some members have been ticketed by the Park Police because the officers didn't see a hang tag.

Speed Limit in Garden

Please be very conscious of your speed when driving in the gardens. A child of a member was almost hit by someone going way too fast. Posted speed is 5 MPH. Thanks for caring!

Work Parties

Insurance Restriction

Due to recent changes in our insurance policy, we can no longer have any children under age 16 partake in garden work parties. This does not affect working in your own gardens.

Work Party Hours

Your neighbors come to work parties and work very hard. In the past some members show up with a whole team of people and divide the number of people into the time that they have left to accrue for the year. (We have actually had a group of people show up and felt they only needed to work 10 minutes then they could leave!) Some of your fellow gardeners have approached me as this being a tad unfair.

So, this may not be popular with some gardeners, but from now on, if you come to a work party, please plan on staying the entire two hours. (No matter how many assistants you bring)

The garden needs your help, your fellow gardeners need your help! We estimate as to how many people show up each month and we base the amount of work that needs to be completed on those estimates. It really is unfair to your fellow gardeners when some people show up and then leave right after they arrive. After all, the members that stay end up picking up the chores that were unfinished by the early departures, this after they have already worked their tails off.

"I have never had so many good ideas day after day as when I worked in the garden."

John Erskine
Author, Composer and Educator



Local Growers and Nurseries

We are very fortunate to have a wide array of excellent growers and nurseries located in and around Long Beach. Some places only take cash. Here are a few:

Armstrong Garden Supply

Armstrong Garden Supply carries a wide variety of seeds and plants for your garden.

3842 East 10th Street
Long Beach, CA 90804
(562) 433-7413

Cost: Moderate

Lowe's

A standby of home and gardens. Good assortment. Great return policy if plant dies.

Closest to garden:

2840 North Bellflower
Long Beach, CA 90815
(562) 496-8120

Cost: Expensive

H & H

An old time Lakewood nursery and great friends of the garden. Wonderful selection of fruits, vegetables and flowers. Great customer service!

6220 Lakewood Blvd.
Lakewood, CA 90712
(562) 804-2513

Cost: Moderate

Garcia Brothers Growers / United Plant Growers

This is a find! Wonderful selection of veggies. Buy by the plant or the flat! FYI: THEY ONLY ACCEPT CASH

Corner of Caspian & Wardlow
Long Beach, CA

Cost: Cheap

Home Depot

Pretty generic selection of vegetables. Great return policy if a plant dies. Closest to garden is at

2450 Cherry Ave
Signal Hill, CA 90755
(562) 595-9200

Cost: Expensive

Bonita Nursery

Pretty generic selection of vegetables.

3510 Santa Fe Ave
Long Beach, CA 90810
(562) 426-6777

Cost: Moderate

Centrose Nursery

Been in business since 1954. A bit of a drive but worth it. Good selection and great customer service.

525 East Rosecrans
Gardena, CA 90248
(310) 324-2004

Cost: Moderate

Certified Growers

Great vegetables!

10524 Firestone Blvd
Cypress, CA 90650
(562) 864-9448

Cost: Moderate

Lakewood Nursery

Selection can be spotty early in seasons.

4114 Lincoln Ave.
Cypress, CA 90614
(562) 596-8514

Cost: Moderate

We'll keep searching out new places to find plants. We'll update this list in the Spring!

Ask A Master!

If you have questions on planting, harvesting, bugs, slugs even bad rugs! (sorry, got carried away), please drop us your question and we'll match it to the proper Garden Master.

Our Masters are always willing to help, both new and old gardeners alike, if you have questions, problems or just need that bit of reassurance that you are doing it right.

We've all been there! Give it a try!

GardenMasters@Pagemartin.net

Good Fences Make Happy Gardeners

LBCGA PLOT FENCING SUGGESTIONS

In addition to the guidelines provided in the LBCGA Rules and Regulations, the following is helpful information regarding fencing of individual plots:

Optimal Fencing

To ensure stability, a series of rectangular sections are ideal. Preferred materials for fencing framework are PVC tubing or wood 2 X 4s. Fencing used over the frame can be galvanized chicken wire, wire mesh or a similar material. Plastic fencing is prohibited.

The fence should have an upper horizontal rail that will define the overall height of the fence (recommended at approximately 2 feet) and a matching lower rail resting on grade that will support the upper rail by vertical supports. The fence cannot be attached directly to the border boards. To prevent excessive sag in the upper rail, the vertical supports should be installed with spacing not to exceed 4-5 feet. The fence should be secured in a vertical and rigid manner by using

supports, such as fence pots, rebar, etc.) driven into the ground at sufficient depth to provide rigid members to secure the fencing to and to prevent leaning into common walkways, which creates danger when walking in the paths. Sections can be installed semi-permanently or in a manner that allows section removal for ease of garden access (bungee cords).

Cost to build a stable fence will vary depending on materials used: basic wood fence with gate is estimate to cost a minimum of \$200; PVC will start at around \$350. Walk around the gardens and look at existing fences but a few optimal examples are:



Example of Optimal Fencing #1

Adequate Fencing

If you are unable to install the fencing described above, modified fencing forms can be used, such as simple stakes and fencing. However, consider the safety and durability of these types of fencing. For example, rebar alone can be dangerous if someone falls on it so cover it with PVC or other material. Plastic fencing is prohibited and fencing cannot impede the pathways.



Example of Optimal Fencing #2

LBCGA PLOT FENCING SUGGESTIONS

KEY POINTS REGARDING FENCING:

- 1) Place stakes close enough to prevent sagging of fencing; consider a rigid upper bar,
- 2) When securing fencing to stakes do not allow sharp wire to stick out into the pathways,
- 3) Cover any stakes that are sharp or dangerous, for example, rebar, with PVC or other material,
- 4) Fence should be as close to 2 feet in height as possible and can not be attached to the border boards.

5) Immediately replace fencing material that sags into pathways.

6) Any new plot fencing must be pre-approved, both in design and materials, by the 1st Vice President



Example of Optimal Fencing #3

Example of Adequate Fencing



Special General Meeting Called for March 2, 2013 at 9:45 am in the Garden

Membership Special Meeting

ARTICLE VIII - AMENDMENTS AND PROCEDURES

Proposed amendments to the bylaws shall be posted at the Community Garden site at least 14 days prior to voting thereon. Such proposed amendments may then be adopted by a majority vote of the Association members present at the Annual General Meeting or at any general meeting called by the President.

For your consideration at the special general session.

The Board would like to propose the following change from:

Current Article

ARTICLE VI - ELECTION

Officers and Directors shall be elected to serve terms of one year from July 1 to June 30th or until their successors take office. The Nominating Committee will present a slate of candidates for elective office at the Annual General Meeting. Officers and Directors shall be elected by secret ballot. In any nomination from the floor, the nominee must be present to accept or decline.

We would like to change to:

Proposed New Article

ARTICLE VI - ELECTION

Officers and Directors shall be elected to serve terms of one year from July 1 to June 30th or until their successors take office. The board of directors, with notice to the membership, can determine whether the election will be held at the June annual meeting or by mail in ballot.

If by mail in ballot the Nominating Committee will present a slate of candidates for elective office via mail with the annual renewal notices. Officers and Directors shall be elected by secret mail-in ballot. These ballots should be returned with your garden renewal by the indicated date on the supplied paperwork. Results will be communicated to the membership.

Meet Your Garden Board Vicki Storberg - Commodities Manager



Vicki Storberg is the newest member of the Board. She joined us last July and recently took on the role of Commodities Manager.

She is responsible for arranging for the pathway chips, the ever-important manure and monitoring the Port-a-Potties.

Vicki says her father was her inspiration to have a garden. He had a large back yard garden and she was one of six children who all

participated in the weeding – by desire or assignment!

She said that got her inspired to garden. Her best advice to new

gardeners is: If at first you don't succeed; try, try again! Even long time gardeners have seasons where crops don't grow but the most important is to have fun! Her favorite vegetable to grow is beans. She either harvests them and eats them fresh or dries them for soups and other dishes. Her favorite tool is her hands because she enjoys feeling the soil between her fingers – "It's Therapeutic!"

Vicki has many other interests, including pets, vacations and Las Vegas! You can find her at her garden, Plot-16, and she says, "Stop by and say hello!"

ballot. These ballots should be returned with your garden renewal by the indicated date on the supplied paperwork. Results will be communicated to the membership.

Evening Work Parties

For those members who are unable to complete their community service work hours during a weekend work party, Nancy Bernstein has scheduled a series of evening work party dates. Please confirm with Nancy that there is a spot available before you attend.

Nancy's midweek work parties for the remainder of February are:

Please call Nancy 477-1598 for a place.

Tuesdays in the morning 10 am to 12 am. No partial hours please. Feb. 5, 12, 19, and 26

Thursdays in the afternoon 2 pm to 4 pm. No partial hours please. Feb. 7, 14, 21, and 28