



Grass Root Column



Lakeshore Garden Masters Gardening Club

www.lakeshoregardenmasters.org

June 2010 Edition

CHAT WITH THE CHIEF

Hi Gardeners,

I suppose that this jump into summer has stimulated all of us to go out and dig in the dirt. I just finished painting the Monet bridge and helped out the others in planting the flats donated to us. It is a major job to take care of a large garden, but many knowledgeable hands have made the work go easier. I understand that the Howmet Garden is flourishing as well. I like being connected to wonderful public gardens.

I feel very good lately--concerning Lakeshore Garden Masters. My goal of getting through all the negative items and into a sustainable, fun organization of gardeners has been realized. I really wanted to have this happen so that I could "pass the baton" to my predecessor and have no negative items for her/him to deal with. Please spend a few moments considering a leadership position on our Leadership Council, or let members of the Nominations Committee know of your thoughts of who would be good to serve. The new members on the Council will have the fun of deciding where we want to go as a gardening club. I think there are exciting things ahead for our new organization.

Rick Peters



2009-2010 Leadership Council Officers

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Gardening Tibits!

Book Review
Cindy Cline



All New Square Foot Gardening by Mel Bartholomew is his updated version of the best selling gardening book Square Foot Garden. In the original book, SFG, Mel instructed readers to plant a 4' x 4' garden, divided up into sixteen 12" inch squares. Ten major new improvements to the original square foot gardening method discussed in this revised book included:



1. New Location--Close to the House
2. New Direction--Up, Not Down
3. New Soil--Mel's Mix
4. New Depth--Only 6 Inches Deep
5. No Fertilizer--You Don't Need It
6. New Boxes--Above the Ground
7. New Aisles--Comfortable Width
8. New Grids--Prominent and Permanent
9. New Idea--Don't Waste Seeds
10. New Opportunities--Tabletop Gardens



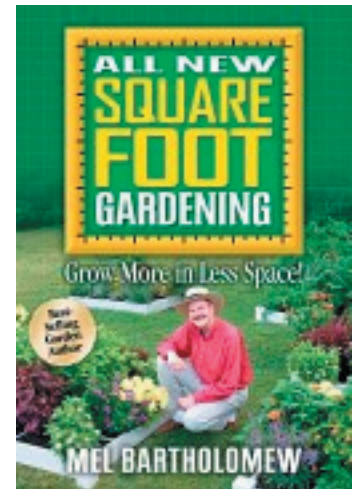
Mel's soil mix is the most important part of the Square Foot Garden. A simple formula of 1/3 blended compost, 1/3 peat moss and 1/3 coarse vermiculite is recommended by Mel for your Square Foot Garden. Since this mix has all the nutrients that plants need, no fertilizer is needed.

Up to sixteen plants can fit per square foot, depending on their size. Small plants such as carrots, radishes and onions can hold 16 plants, placed 3 inches



apart, per square foot. Medium size plants such as bush beans, spinach and beets can hold 9 plants per square foot, placed 4 inches apart. Large plants such as lettuce, swiss chard, and marigolds can hold 4 plants per square, place 6 inches apart. Extra large plants such as broccoli, cabbage and pepper can only hold one plant per square footage.

With a square foot garden box, a vertical frame can be mounted to the back of the box for watermelons, squash, cucumbers, pumpkins, or any other vine growing plants. Growing plants vertically saves space and is also



attractive. Mel recommends taking the new growth of the vertical crop and gently weaving it in and out of the netting on the vertical frame at least once a week.

In this book, Mel shares many other ideas such as raising the square foot garden up to a tabletop in order to avoid difficult manual labor like digging. This book is full of easy ideas on how to simplify gardening techniques.



Garden Schedules

Howmet Garden Maintenance Schedule 2010



Mon., June 7th	10:00 am - 1:00 pm
Thurs., June 24th	5:00 pm - 8:00pm
Tues., July 6th	10:00 am - 1:00 pm
Thurs., July 22nd	5:00 pm - 8:00 pm
Mon., Aug. 2nd	10:00 am - 1:00 pm
Thurs., Aug. 19th	5:00 pm - 8:00 pm
Tues., Sept. 7th	10:00 am - 1:00 pm
Thurs., Sept. 23rd	5:00 pm - 8:00 pm

Maintenance includes weeding, raking, deadheading or whatever else needs doing. Please bring your own tools.

Days and times are subject to change because of weather. I will send out an email a few days before scheduled dates as a reminder and to confirm dates and times or any changes because of weather. This schedule is also on our website at www.lakeshoregardenmasters.org

Directions to Garden

Drive North on US 31.
Take the White Lake Drive exit
Turn right on White Lake Drive.
Drive 3.5 miles to Zellar Rd. or first stop sign.
Turn right on Zellar Rd..
Drive .2 tenth of a mile.
Turn right onto gravel drive.
Travel about .1 tenth of a mile.
You are there! Garden on the left of drive.

If you have any question call me at 231.670.9898 or email me at onesister123@gmail.com

Sharon Rubelman
Howmet Woodland Garden Chairperson



2010 Monet Garden Schedule

Wednesday, June 16, 1-5 p.m.
Monday, July 12, 10 a.m. -1 p.m.
Monday, July 22, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.
Wed Aug.11 12:30-2:30 p.m.
Mon Aug.23 10 a.m.-1 p.m.
Mon Sept 13 4-7 p.m.
Mon Sept 27 4-7 p.m.

Garden Planting will be held on Tuesday, June 1, from 3 to 7 p.m. All other dates listed above are for general maintenance of the Monet Garden and include weeding, deadheading, skimming the pond, replacing rocks around the pond, breaking down items in the compost bin and straightening up the garage.

Dates and times are subject to change due to inclement weather. Volunteers are not limited to work only the scheduled times. Don't forget to log your hours on the sign-in sheet in the garage. If paper bags are filled, please put the bags on the curb and call Connie at 798-1621 or 557-0035, so she can contact the city for pick up.

Questions? Email Connie at cvgecko@hotmail.com.



DON'T MISS OUR NEXT MEETING!

JUNE 28, 2010

6 P.M.

**STU SCHOLL'S ORGANIC
VEGETABLE FARM**

2010 Meeting Schedule



**Field Trip to Cherry Point Farm
Market in Shelby
Incredible Lavender Labyrinth
and Garden**

Monday, July 26, 2010

**7:00 p.m. Potluck (should leave
Muskegon around 6:00)**

Rain or shine

**Please bring a dish to pass, your
own table service and folding
chairs.**

Plant/seeds to share (labeled)

Directions:

US 31 N to Shelby Rd. exit.

Turn left (W).

**Go 6.2 miles to S. 16th Ave. This
is the dead end,
Turn right (N).**

**Go 1.2 miles to the dead end and
the red petunias.**

This is 9600 W. Buchanan Rd.

Barbara Bull (231)861-2029

www.cherrypointmarket.net

**We may want to car-pool from
several different locations.**

**October 25 - North Muskegon
VFW 6 p.m. Potluck**

Don't Miss Our Next Meeting!

Date: Monday, June 28, 2010

Time: 6 p.m. Potluck

Location: Stu Scholl's Organic Vegetable
Farm in Montague

What to Bring: Please bring a dish to
pass, your own beverage, folding chair,
your own table
service, and plant exchange items.

Rain or shine - if it's raining we can go in
his barn.



Directions:

Take US 31 to Fruitvale Road exit.

Go approximately 2 miles west to

Whitbeck Rd.

Turn left (S).

Go 1 mile S to Eilers Rd.

Turn right (W).

Go 3/4 mile. Turn left at dirt drive to
parking - 5955 Eilers Rd.

(231)893-1311

PLANT SHARING RULES

1. BRING A PLANT, TAKE A PLANT.
2. BRING ONLY HEALTHY PLANTS WITH
NO SIGNS OF DISEASE OR INSECTS
ATTACHED.
3. PLEASE LABEL EVERYTHING.
4. PLEASE PUT SEEDS IN A PACKAGE
SUCH AS A ZIP-LOCK BAGGIE OR
ENVELOPE.
5. WHENEVER POSSIBLE, PLEASE BRING
PLANTS IN POTS; OTHERWISE, BRING A
CONTAINER TO TAKE HOME PLANTS.
6. REMAINDER OF PLANTS ARE SPLIT
AMONG ALL, WHILE WE ENCOURGE
NEW GARDENERS TO TAKE PLENTY!

Summer with Lakeshore Garden Masters!

Membership

Membership dues are \$15. If you have not officially joined our garden club, we hope you will soon. Membership dues can be paid at any club meeting. Checks are payable to Lakeshore Garden Masters. Please join and help us to continue to grow!

Membership



Check out our web site at:
www.lakeshoregardenmasters.org

Thank you to Jerry Grady, our web master, for volunteering his time to put together this site for our garden club.



Non-members may attend garden club meetings at a cost of \$5.



Our Purpose

The purpose of the Lakeshore Garden Masters is to bring together gardeners who have successfully completed the Master Gardener course. The organization is provided for fellowship, plant exchanges, educational programs, and support for volunteer garden projects.



Articles are needed from our members for future newsletter. If you would like to submit information in the fall Grass Root Column, please submit your articles to Cindy Cline@clinecane307@comcast.net by October 1, 2010.



Nominations for the 2011-2012 Leadership Committee

Interested in Serving on the Lakeshore Garden Masters Leadership Committee?

The leadership committee is made up of both elected and non-elected positions. According to our LGM bylaws, new officers for the positions listed below should be in place by January 2011. Please submit nominations for these two-year elected positions to Joni Rosen, Nomination Committee Chair, by October 1st via her email at jrosen7@verizon.net. Voting for the newly elected officers will take place at the October 25th meeting. Nomination Committee Members consist of Kathy Neff, Ray Veeder, Denise Thompson, and Jean Baker. You can find their emails on the first page of this newsletter.

President
Vice-President
Recording Secretary
Corresponding Secretary
Treasurer
5 Trustees

Growing Celery

Source: http://www.harvestwizard.com/2009/01/how_to_grow_celery.html

Celery is a member of the same family as carrots, parsley and parsnips. It is used as a seasoning and as a food. Celery is considered an herb and contains boron, calcium, iron, zinc, and the following vitamins: A, B-complex, and C. Celery Seed is most often taken to aid in the maintenance of healthy joints. Although celery is considered a biannual, it is treated as an annual in the North. It requires full sun and a rich soil to grow. Celery grows up to 12 to 16 inches.

Celery prefers a long cool growing season and plenty of moisture. Plant celery in the early spring. Celery is a cold hardy plant and light frost does not usually harm the plants. Celery prefers a soil with a pH between 5.8 and 6.8. The plants are spaced about 10 inches apart in a row. Double rows are about a foot apart. Set celery on a cool or cloudy day, if possible; and if the soil is at all dry, water the plants thoroughly. Celery requires more frequent irrigation than most vegetables because of its shallow root system. Plenty of organic material in the soil is necessary for growing celery. Companion plants for celery include lettuce, peas, and spinach. Avoid planting celery next to cucumbers, squash, and pumpkins.

As soon as the plants attain some size, gradually work the soil around them to keep them upright. Be careful to get no soil into the hearts of the plants. Blanch celery up to 10 to 14 days before harvesting. You can blanch your celery by covering up the stems to prevent light reaching them. Blanching celery will reduce bitterness in taste and will make the stalks paler. Blanching is

achieved by covering the stalks with soil, straw, or paper cylinders rolled up to the top of the stalks to protect them from the sun, which encourages them to produce chlorophyll and turn green.

Harvest celery when it has reached the desired size, cut the plant off above the soil line so that all stalks are still as one unit. Wash the stalk bulb in cold water and dry. Celery will keep in the fridge for a couple of weeks. Celery will blanch naturally when in storage.

You can if you desire remove a few stalks at a time rather than harvesting the whole plant. If doing this remove the outer stalks first and let the less developed inner stalks continue in their development. Take care not to damage the rest of the plant if removing individual stalks.



Past Meeting Highlights



DUES

Please plan to renew your membership with Lakeshore Garden Masters by making a payment of \$15 at our June 28th meeting. If you can't make the meeting, please mail your dues to:

Sharon Rubelman
1599 Peterson Road
North Muskegon, MI 49445



Thank you, Roxie, for hosting the May LGM meeting!
Lots of fun!

STRAWBERRIES



Source: <http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2009/03/11/how-to-grow-strawberries>

Strawberries are one of the most rewarding food crops to grow in a small home garden. Homegrown berries taste far better than the store-bought ones and you can save money by not having to pay supermarket prices.

While most fruit trees take several years to begin bearing, you can harvest your own strawberries the very first summer.

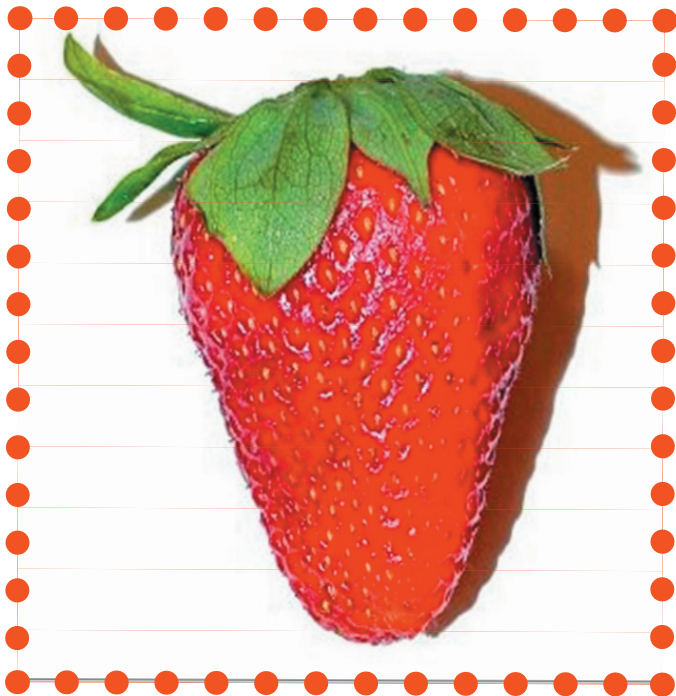


1. Decide Where to Grow Your Strawberries

Even if you live in an apartment, condo, townhouse, or small home, you can grow berries in a container on your balcony, rooftop, patio, or even doorstep. If your horizontal space is limited, consider growing strawberries in a hanging basket or stacked planter, which will allow you to take advantage of vertical growing space as the strawberry plants tumble out over the sides. A sunny spot outside your home is the best place to grow strawberries, though you can get a partial crop with less than a half day of direct sunlight.

2. Choose a Container

Give your plants enough room to grow. Whether you choose a container made of clay, plastic, wood, or other material, make sure it has a soil depth of at least 12-14 inches to give the plants' root systems space to grow. Space plants about 10-12 inches apart to allow them to spread horizontally.



3. Fill the Containers with the Right Soil

Strawberries like deep, loamy soil that drains well. This means that it should contain plenty of organic matter (such as compost, shredded bark or peat moss) as well as some sand. Most potting soil mixes sold at nurseries will be sufficient, and if you have access to compost, sprinkle an inch or so on top. Be sure the container has drainage holes in the bottom.

Before planting, buy a small bag of organic fertilizer from your nursery, mix it into your soil, and water this down. You can ask your nursery to recommend the right fertilizer for your soil type and region, but in general, strawberries like plenty of nitrogen plus balanced amounts of the other major nutrients. A 10-10-10 fertilizer is not excessive, especially since organic fertilizers have a slower release time.

4. Select Your Strawberry Plants

Want your strawberries this year, or can you wait?

Your next step is to find some plants and put them in the soil. There are two main kinds of strawberries available: "June-bearing" plants that will bear in spring or early summer, and "Everbearing" or day-neutral varieties that can bear from early summer right up until your first frost. While June-bearing varieties can take a year to establish, everbearing plants can give you fruit the very first year and may allow you to extend your harvest over a period of weeks or months. There are many varieties of strawberries.



5. Care for Your Plants

For optimum production, keep your strawberry plants well watered throughout the growing season. Plants should continue to be productive for at least 2-3 years, but will need to be replaced thereafter. To renovate June-bearing plants for next year, trim off their old leaves in July, making sure not to damage the center stalk (crown) of the plant. Everbearers do not need this trimming, but all plants should be given some top-dressed fertilizer again after fruiting.

