

# The Garden Master News

## Newsletter of the Atlantic Master Gardeners Association

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### AMGA



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- by Phyllis Sutherland

Spring brings many things.

Like **dandelions**.

Not welcome by many.

But every cloud has its silver lining.

And you may think of the seeds....

But look at the beauty!



### WANTED!

### MASTER GARDENER

A group of parents and teachers from **Oxford School** in central **Halifax** have been running a school garden and are keen to continue and expand. While their enthusiasm is great, they feel they have minimal training or experience with gardening. They are looking for someone who could volunteer an hour or so to look at the grounds and advise them while they plan the garden. The school community has been growing vegetables, herbs and flowers for two years but feel that they could be doing a much better job with a little more knowledge. If any Master Gardener is interested in helping out this parent/teacher group please contact:

Carolyn van Gorp  
(Parent volunteer)

Email : [cvangurp@gmail.com](mailto:cvangurp@gmail.com)



# GARDENING WITH CHILDREN



- Brenda Hiltz

A reminder to all with little ones in our lives that starting seeds with them is such fun and a great experience for them.



February 28th



March 3rd



February 29th



March 20th

A cartoon illustration of a large orange pumpkin with a green stem and leaves. A yellow banner with the word "PUMPKIN" in black capital letters is draped across the top of the pumpkin. The entire illustration is enclosed in a decorative purple and yellow border.

## What does Nutrition have to do with Gardening you may ask?

- Possibly more than we realize!

We hear about the benefits of fruits and vegetables in our diet. Researchers are constantly discovering more and more health benefits of nutrients in fruits, vegetables, whole grains, etc.- micronutrients that help the body function normally and protect us from disease!

The saying goes "Variety is the Spice of life!"

Lots of variety is available to us in the grocery store these days. But wow, the grocery bill! Why is it costing so much?

Most of the food we find in the grocery store this time of year in particular comes from the US, Mexico, China - very long distances. Long distances mean long travel time and lots of **fuel**. Oh yes, the cost of fuel - going up, up, up! As we start thinking about the usage of fuel for our own vehicles and cutting down on travel, the cost of imported foods keeps going up and up to balance that fuel cost as it becomes less available.

In addition, with "climate change", "global warming" or whatever we call it, there is more crop failure or damage due to too much water, or not enough water, or too much wind, snow, heat, fire, etc.

So the question becomes: How can we maintain a Healthy diet when the cost of so many foods is rising beyond our reach?

As Gardeners, any chance to get into the garden is a worthwhile effort! It's a stress release when the bills become unbearable, we get out in the fresh air and as an added bonus gardening is a good source of exercise (activity).

So, how about fruit & vegetable gardening for a start. If you prefer flowers, many of our fruits & vegetables can be intermixed with flowers - in fact there may even be some beneficial interaction there such as attraction of beneficial insects, deterrence of damaging insects or other "pests". Start with a few vegetable plants - before you know it you might just find you have a haven of beauty and productivity - tomatoes, cucumbers, squash, potatoes, peas, beans, salad greens, strawberries, blueberries, blackberries, elderberries, apple trees. Many of our native fruits are already in our yards waiting for us to care for them and let them produce!

So there you are in the midst of a lush, thriving little ecosystem all your own, that you don't have to mow. You may find yourself having to tear yourself away from your yard. You can have homegrown, home-made preserves, jams, juices, wines, etc. Save seeds for next year. Encourage your family and neighbours to get involved, and show your community the benefits you've discovered.

There you are with a stockpile of nutritious food grown in your own yard. It provides you with at least a portion of your daily nutritional requirements, fresher than anything you could buy in a store. As an added bonus you are getting regular exercise. Nutrition and Activity - two of the most important components of a Healthy Lifestyle!

## GARDEN!

## EAT WELL!

**LIVE WELL!**



# The Queen of Flowers

- By Heather Connors-Dunphy



## We all admire the fragrance and elegant beauty of roses.

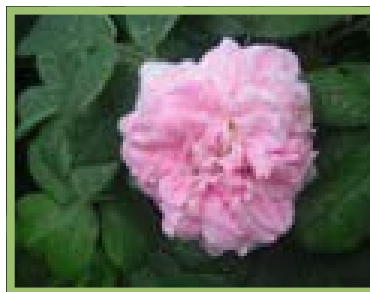
As a child I remember rugosa and cinnamon roses. As a beginning gardener I had several rose gardens, with hybrid tea, floribunda and grandiflora roses. I particularly loved standard rose trees. They were a lot of work and difficult to maintain.

I worked to control black spot and rust all summer and then dug them up and stored them underground for winter. This produced mixed results! About twenty or so years ago, I “discovered” hardy roses. They have their own charm. As time has gone by much has been accomplished with the breeding of roses hardy for Canadian climates.

This article is about hardy roses, their history, the variety currently available and where the breeding of hardy roses is heading in Canada.

Roses that are winter hardy have been developed from families of roses such as:

***Rosa alba*** which are healthy and hardy to Zone 4, some to zone 3.



**Queen of  
Denmark,  
*Rosa alba* hybrid**

***Rosa centifolia***, the cabbage rose, is hardy too and has in its background, the moss rose

***Rosa foetida***, the source of much of the yellow colour in today's hardy roses.

*(Continued on page 5)*

# The Queen of Flowers

(Continued from page 4)

***Rosa gallica***, most are hardy and have strong perfume, many are quartered, they brought strong colours to the genetic mix.



**Charles de Mills**  
*Rosa gallica* hybrid

***Rosa rugosa***, native of Northern China and Japan, many will be hardy to Zone 2. These were originally roses growing by the sea-shore.

***Rosa spinosissima***, the moss rose, a hardy native of Europe and Asia.

Among rose breeders there was a quest for winter hardiness. Breeders such as the Kordes family in Germany bred for winter hardiness, disease resistance and repeat blooming. In Canada, Agriculture Canada was in the forefront as the Explorer (developed in Agriculture Canada's Central Experimental Station in Ottawa) and Parkland (developed at the Agriculture Canada Experimental Station in Morden, Manitoba) series were developed. Morden's first introductions were launched in the 1970's. Ag Canada was most interested in "own root" roses.



**Morden Sunrise**

Several years ago, Ag Canada moved its focus away from roses. The Canadian Nursery and Landscape Association has taken over the growing of hardy roses. They selected about 100 varieties from the fields in Morden for further development. Of these 14 were selected this year for development. The latest introductions are the Canadian Artists' series. These are Emily Carr, a deep red shrub and Felix Leclerc, a pink climber. There are others being trialled across the country for later introduction. Priority is on bloom, repeat bloom and disease resistance.



**Canadian Artists' - Emily Carr**

(Continued on page 6)

# The Queen of Flowers

(Continued from page 2)



**Explorer series, John Cabot**

Cornhill Nursery is the only trial rose site in Atlantic Canada.

The following items were presented as “must haves” for rose growing by Robert Osborne of Cornhill Nurseries, at a seminar last fall.

- Drainage is critical.
- Soil pH from 6.5 to 7.
- Nutrient availability crucial.
- Roses need sun.
- Readily available water in the soil.
- Mulch will work, but take care not put it on too thickly, as mulch will retain water.



**Explorer series, Frontenac**

The roses pictured in this article are in my gardens.

Look for hardy roses this spring!





# Heavenly and Hardy Hibiscus

## ...from seeds too!

— by Rodger LeDrew, NS Gardener

Last August I was taking one of my regular strolls through the Halifax Public Gardens and I was smacked in the face with a splash of colour, so much so that I could not draw my eyes away. Giant, fireball red, crepe like flowers the size of dinner plates turning gently in the wind, beckoning me to come closer. So I did.

As I approached I was delighted to see Helen working away in the same large flower bed just a few steps away. Helen whom I have spoken to many times before, is one of the nicest gardeners you will ever meet in the Public Gardens. She was surprised that I hadn't noticed this Hibiscus before, but admitted that I could easily have missed them as they are only in this location. She also told me they brought them in from the USA and gave me this information.

*Hibiscus moscheutos* 'Fireball'  
Fleming Flower Fields Patent  
Common name:

Hardy Hibiscus

Type: Herbaceous perennial

Family: Malvaceae

Hardy Zone: 4-9

Height: 3-4 feet

Spread: 3 feet

Bloom time: July -September

Bloom description: Bright Burgundy Red

Full Sun and water medium to wet

Maintenance: Low; Attracts Butterflies & Hummers  
Tolerates wet soil, deer and rabbits.

What's to like...? Everything

I am sure most gardeners feel as I do, that when a plant with spectacular beauty catches your eye... it is hard to resist thinking about having one of your own. I was hooked again on Hardy Hibiscus.

When the name Hibiscus is mentioned many think of the tropical Hibiscus, perhaps a Hawaiian maiden with a colourful blossom tucked enticingly in her

hair. The *Hibiscus rosa-sinensis* is not hardy, especially anywhere in Canada, but we do have simply wonderful blooms suitable for our region.

The US National Arboretum introduced four distinct desirable single flowered cultivars dating back to 1980's and are named for mythological goddesses. All do well in hardiness zones 5-8.



*Hibiscus syriacus* L 'Aphrodite'  
the Greek Goddess of love is surely mystical but you will love the beauty of large heavily ruffled flowers of clear pink with a prominent dark red eye spot radiating along the veins to mid petal.

Grows to 9' tall with a spread of 8'. Matures at 14 years.

Helen of Troy, the daughter of Zeus and whose mother was a mere mortal has a beautiful cultivar named after her called 'Helene'.

*Hibiscus syriacus* L 'Helene'

It has dainty white flowers each with a brilliant red center that radiates along the veins out to mid-petals. Released in 1980, I am proud to have one of these in my side yard and last year the blooms were spectacular and lasted right up until October. This plant was my first experience with Hibiscus and I must say it has been easy to look after. It stands about 6 feet now and can reach a height of 8 feet with a spread of 6 feet when mature at 9 years.



Minerva, named for the virgin goddess of warriors, poetry, medicine, wisdom, commerce, crafts, and the inventor of music, is lavender with traces of pink overlay toward the centre and reverse of petals.

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## Heavenly and Hardy Hibiscus...from seeds too!

(Continued from Page 7)



It is a delightful bloom with a dark red eye. It grows to 9 feet with a spread of 8 feet. Flowering is heavier and the growth more compact when grown in full sun. It matures at 14 years.

The fourth and very impressive Hibiscus is the *Hibiscus syriacus* 'Diana', a Rose-of-Sharon introduction with a flower as lovely as the Greek goddess for which it is named. Lovely, large, pure white flowers produce little or no seed.



This amazing hybrid shrub has excellent, dark green, pollution-resistant foliage. It tolerates extreme heat, drought, and poor soils but will grow best in soils with moderate fertility and moisture. 'Diana' is distinct because of its waxy, heavy-textured, wide-spreading, ruffled pure white flowers that remain open for more



than one day, heavy dark green leaves, dense branching, and compact, upright growth habit. In addition, since 'Diana' is a triploid, there is little or no seed production, thus enabling the plant to flower freely from late June until

autumn, a time when few woody plants are in bloom.

The hardy hibiscus is native to North America and found in marshy areas. They sometimes go by the common name Mallow. You may recognize them as the close relative Rose of Sharon and in the same

family as Hollyhocks and Malva. The hardy hibiscus is a perennial. They do have woody stems but they die back to the ground in the winter, so they are considered perennials.

Hibiscus are slow to start in the spring so one must be patient and don't expect to see any blooms before July. My Rose of Sharon "Helene" is the last plant that I have to show promise a new season is underway.



Most hardy hibiscus are propagated from cuttings and sold as potted plants in two or three gallon containers. Only a few are grown from seeds.

So, what am I doing growing hibiscus from seeds? I want a dinner plate size flower like I saw in the Halifax Public Gardens. I want to see the giant bloom in my yard (even if it is not true to colour) as can happen. The reason I am growing from seed is I cannot find a source locally that sells this potted gem.

The challenge of growing hibiscus from seeds is now mine. I have everything I need and I am anxious to get started around the first of April.



I bought my seeds from JL Hudson Seeds in California and I have three cultivars. One is the *Hibiscus Moscheutos* mix which will produce giant 8-10" flowers that range from pink to dark rose. They are a bushy Southern Belle perennial that grows to five feet with large maple like leaves and zone hardy 5-8.

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## Heavenly and Hardy Hibiscus...from seeds too!

(Continued from Page 8)



The second gem is *Hibiscus militaris* commonly known as Soldier Rose Mallow. The blooms are not as large but they are lovely and dainty with 4-5" flowers. The blooms are wide with dark

maroon centres. It is a hardy perennial and will grow to 4 - 7'. It has heart shaped basal leaves with three lobed upper leaves. The flowers close at night.



Although I wasn't looking for an annual I am excited about

this amazing *Hibiscus trionum*.

It is commonly called "flower of the hour". It has showy yellow 1 1/2 inch flowers with a purple eye followed by interesting inflated, almost transparent, inch long calyces. It has deeply divided leaves and grows to 2 feet. It will make a wonderful accent to any garden or make a great container plant.

Planting from seed is not all that difficult.. The seeds should be scarified (nicked) or abraded to permit moisture to enter and start the germination process. Using



your fingernail to hold the seed and a sharp razor, cut the smallest amount off the round end of the seed coat. The pointed end is where the roots grow. Although some will germinate sooner, most will germinate within 1-3 weeks. The seed can also be soaked in warm water overnight which will aid in the germination process, but not be as effective as nicking.

The planting mix is not that critical. Any commercial seed raising mix should be adequate. Plant the hardy hibiscus seeds by pushing them down into the soil. Cover each seed with no more than one half inch of the potting mix. Water gently and thoroughly. The media should be damp and not soggy.

Hibiscus, even the hardy ones, germinates best with bright shade to full sun and maintained at a minimum temperature of 70-80°F (21-27°C). Use a grow light for 10-12 hours a day if you don't have a bright location. I will be using a heating mat to keep the temperature warm and steady. Also, Hibiscus prefers a humid environment so cover with plastic or use a plastic dome to cover your tray.

When the first two or three first true leaves appear it will be time to transplant.

### Credits:

US National Arboretum  
International Hibiscus Society  
Bachmans



# MASTER GARDENERS' CHRISTMAS EVENT 2011

- by Bonnie Snow



## MASTER GARDENERS' CHRISTMAS CREATIONS

On Saturday, December 10 a cheery group of Master Gardeners gathered at Lakeland Plant World . Their mission - turn the variety of plant materials gathered from their own gardens into festive wreathes, swags, and centrepieces to decorate the homes of family and friends. Our hosts at the nursery also provided fresh fir boughs, forms and ribbons. The heady scent of evergreens filled the air and inspired everyone.

Several customers of the nursery stopped to observe the activities and even to inquiry if any of the items could be purchased!

You can see from the faces in the photo, everyone was well pleased with the afternoon's work.

These gatherings certainly create warm memories of good times spent with other Master Gardeners. We'll look forward to seeing more of you at events in 2012.



Back Row: L-R: Jane Plant, Anita Sulley, Emily Miller, Lynn Brooks and Bonnie Snow  
Front Row: L-R: Carolyn Downie, Carol Goodwin, Sue Stuart



# Lavendar Shortbread

- Jane Plant

For those of you who can't get enough lavender and have a weakness for shortbread, welcome to my world!

At the Wreath/ Centrepiece Making Workshop at Lake Land Plant World in December, 2011, I brought a plate of Lavendar Shortbread to share. The shortbread recipe comes from my mother, Ann Plant who studied Institutional Management (Food Service) as a young woman in England. Shortbreads have been prepared by my Mum every Christmas since I can remember and to my mind this recipe is a keeper for sure!

Recently, I've been adding some dried lavender flowers from the garden as a reminder of its growing during summer months for everyone to savour during cold winter months of eating.

## Scotch Shortbread

(Edinburgh School of Domestic Science)

**1 lb. butter**

**1 cup white sugar**

**3 cups all purpose flour**

**1 cup rice flour**

Work butter with heel of hand adding sugar and flour a small quantity at a time. Work until mixture is stiff and does not stick to the hands. Refrigerate if dough becomes too soft. Press dough evenly on wax paper until ½" thick. Cut into desired shapes. Place on ungreased cookie sheet. Bake in a slow oven until pale brown about 25-30 minutes. Cool on pan. When cold store in airtight tin. Keep about one week before using.

Jane Plant,  
March 2012



# Spring Has Sprung @ BTN Atlantic

- by Barb Polley

BTN Atlantic is located just outside of Sussex NB on the #10 Hwy towards Fredericton. We are a wholesale company that grows annuals, perennials and nursery stock for retail suppliers within the Atlantic region.

Currently we have approximately 30 seasonal workers employed.

At BTN, we have been busily planting thousands of hanging baskets and planters for the past couple of months.

In total there are thirty-three greenhouses on site, twenty-two of which are heated. The remaining eleven are under cover, but currently do not have furnaces.

Most of our nursery stock had been under winter blankets and plastic since mid December. Approximately eighteen beds of shrubs are put to "bed" outside each winter, over 60,000 plants.



After uncovering each bed, everything has to be stood up. Then the regular maintenance begins; bringing the once dormant plants to life. Thousands of plants to be cared for before the tagging and shipping process begins which can be as little as two weeks from now.



**Some of our Hanging Baskets and Planters.... The grower's dilemma where is it all going to fit?**

*(Continued on page 13)*

# Spring Has Sprung @ BTN Atlantic

*(Continued from page 12)*



Some of our planting crew, 8 Newfoundlanders embrace us with their presence every year



Wow, what a beautiful start to spring!  
All of us are savoring this gorgeous  
weather... With above average  
temperatures, t-shirts it is!  
Is it only March?



**LNB: grading and drainage**



**LNB: plan reading and interpretation**



**LNB: retaining walls**



# Verbascum Thapsus

- by Phyllis Sutherland



**Verbascum Thapsus:** This picture was taken in November, 2011 in my opaque vinyl / plastic storage/greenhouse. This plant appeared in a clay pot and got this big with no watering...shows the lush rosette young plant.



This closeup of the leaf shows the milky white hairy upper surface.



An adult plant over 3 feet high that started from a visiting seed in August, 2011. Picture taken in late October, 2011.



In October, 2011, this young plant graced my fake brook/drainage area.

*(Continued on page15)*





## *Verbascum Thapsus*

*(Continued from page 14)*

About 5 years ago, a beautiful visitor, a rosette with lush hairy leaves appeared in my garden. I often let intriguing or attractive wild plants grow and was impressed as it eventually topped 5 feet and formed a tall spike with yellow flowers. It was so striking that more than one person asked me what it was and one day a young couple driving by stopped to ask me what it was. Last fall, the horticulturist from Fundy National Park told me that people have asked him what the plants were. They have noted them while driving by.

I soon identified it as *Verbascum thapsis* or as many know it, the Common Mullein. Since that time I usually let any seedlings grow that may appear and at times have transplanted seedlings to a different spot. They make a beautiful accent plant and add interest to many areas. They have become one of my favourite plants for many reasons.

The Common Mullein is described in the Peterson Field Guide, *Edible Wild Plants* as a biennial “producing a low rosette of leaves the first year and a stout stalk topped by a club-like flowerhead in the second. Leaves are dense, large and hairy, woolly green and taper at the upper part of the stem into the stem.”

This guide also notes the dried leaves can be used to make tea.

I have a beautiful little Nature Book that was used in Grade 5 and 6 over 60 years ago to teach Field Flowers and this book notes that Mullein is an immigrant from Europe. Alma Hogan Snell in her book, *A Taste of Heritage, Crow Indian Recipes and Herbal Medicines* describes many ways the Crow Indians used Mullein. Some called it “Farmer’s Toilet Paper” as it grows along the roadside and can be used for hygienic purposes. ☺ As well, it was used during menstrual cycles and to line baby’s cradles. Crushed moistened leaves were used on breasts of lactating women for better flow and more milk for the baby. Boiled twice they can be eaten when you are really hungry.

I often stop by my Mulleins to smooth my hands over the leaves. They are so soft and soothing. I can certainly understand that they would be great for babies, especially for diapers, as they are as soft as velvet. My “visitor” has turned into an important part of my garden.

# NATIONAL AWARD

## WENTWORTH PARK REVITALIZATION PROJECT – SYDNEY, NOVA SCOTIA

- by **Thelma MacKillop**

One of our Master Gardeners from Sydney, Christene LeVatte, and David Stenhouse, of Highland Landscapes for Lifestyles accepted the award for commercial design at Landscape Nova Scotia Horticultural Trades Association's annual awards of excellence gala in Halifax last month. Attended by more than 150 industry professionals, local government officials, educators and association staff from across the country, it was held in conjunction with the Canadian Nurseries Landscape Association National Awards on February 8<sup>th</sup>, 2012.

The Wentworth Park project in Sydney earned her company "Highland Landscaping for Lifestyles" one of the most prestigious awards for landscape excellence. Christene stated in a news release that her company had submitted the park project on behalf of the Cape Breton Regional Municipality and the design and installation teams.

"We felt the enormous efforts and success of CBRM, the funding partners, the design team and the installation contractors to renovate this historic Sydney jewel deserved to be shared and celebrated," she said.

This project also took home the Shaw Brick Award for excellence in interlocking concrete and segmented retaining wall installation for the use of these products throughout the park and also won the Nova Scotia Power Right Tree in the Right Place Award for the extensive work done to preserve existing tree inventory and plant for the future.

"We are grateful to have had the opportunity to work with everyone involved in this project and especially proud to bring these awards home to Cape Breton," LeVatte stated. The Sydney-based Highland Landscapes for Lifestyle, with landscape horticulture journeyman on staff, has been in operation since 1970.

# MG VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

## NOVA SCOTIA PLANTWATCH

If you have an interest in Nova Scotia Plant-Watch, we need people like you to take an active role in monitoring our spring blooming plants.

We're just days away from the first blooms of the season for 2012. Last year our first report was of Coltsfoot blooming March 31<sup>st</sup> in Belmont NS. With this mild winter we've had, it could be even earlier this year. So get out there and start watching for signs of spring!

If you need help getting started with Plant-Watch don't hesitate to contact me. It's easy. You just need to choose a patch of plants or a specific tree to watch from our list of 16 species and start watching them. When you see the first bloom send the data into the website. For a complete guide on how to make your observations go to our website:

<http://www.plantwatch.ca>

Be the first to report your data to our new PlantWatch Nova Scotia Facebook page and join us while we track spring across the province!

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/PlantWatch-Nova-Scotia/263160873759914>

Thanks so much for your time and dedication to monitoring the changes in our environment,

**Melanie Priesnitz, Conservation Horticulturist**

**Nova Scotia PlantWatch Coordinator**

**Acadia University**

**52 University Avenue, Box 48**

**Wolfville NS B4P 2R6**

**Phone 585-1916 Fax 585-1034**

## BRIDGEWATER COMMUNITY GARDEN

Hello Master Gardeners,

We at the Bridgewater Community Garden Network, BCGN, a program of the town of Bridgewater, organized and facilitated by Volunteers, are requesting assistance in our first community garden, "Hodge Podge" at the Aberdeen Green Park, at the corner of Elm and Aberdeen Bridgewater, 2012 will be our 3<sup>rd</sup> gardening season, the core team has been pleasantly surprised at the response to their efforts to establish a place where people can grow their own food, meet community members and participate in workshops and garden parties. The gardens began as 16 raised beds and grew last year to accommodate 20 beds, filled with herbs and veggies, and a few annuals. The garden is fortunate to have a shed equipped with tools for all to use, cubbies for containing items, notice board and water. We will be building a compost system this year with the aid of a Youth Group, during March break. We host an open house in July and are part of various events, festivals and other community events. We are seeking someone to aid the gardeners on a regular, consistent basis. We need a mentor and perhaps some small program, workshop sessions tuned to what the gardeners need, timely and seasonal. The core team is looking to grow the availability of growing in the Incredible Edible Bridgewater project, and would also seek



## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES BRIDGEWATER COMMUNITY GARDEN

*(Continued from page 17)*

input and assistance on that.

We are growing and require the input of those with expertise and a desire to serve. This position could be filled by several MG's whom could take turns participating, or another arrangement. The MG would volunteer and have a nominal Honorarium

for certain aspects, all supplies and materials would be made available by the BCGN. Please see the attached information and feel free to connect with Rosmarie at your earliest convenience .

**Naturally,**  
**Rosmarie Lohnes BA, CoEn**  
**President, Helping Nature Heal Inc.**

### HODGE PODGE COMMUNITY GARDEN

Have you always wanted to grow your own vegetables but are not sure how to or do not have a place to do it? Have you felt your mobility issues might be a barrier to gardening? Do you belong to an organization who's clients might benefit from gardening? The Bridgewater Community Garden Network is gearing up for it's third growing season at the Hodge Podge Garden and we are looking for enthusiastic gardeners of all skill levels and abilities.

Garden plots (4'x8' raised beds), located on the corner of Aberdeen Road and Elm Street, are free and are under the care of the individual, family or organizations between April and October. Tools, water, and compost facilities are supplied. Instruction and support with gardening, composting, and harvesting are available.

Gardeners will have the opportunity to grow their own organic produce, herbs and flowers, as well as join a community of others interested in local healthy food.



In exchange for a free garden plot, gardeners are required to:

- Attend three mandatory seasonal work parties to do a full garden maintenance
  - April, plot registration and bed opening
  - July, mid season clean up, preparation and attendance at Open House
  - Late October garden closing
  - other dates may arise depending upon the growing season and gardeners will receive communication about these days
- Agree to the terms and conditions in the gardener agreement
- Provide a \$15.00 key deposit for the garden shed, refundable at the end of the season

No previous gardening experience is necessary and support for new gardeners is available upon request. If you are interested in a garden plot or interested in becoming involved in the Bridgewater Community Garden Network as a volunteer please contact: [bridgewatergarden@gmail.com](mailto:bridgewatergarden@gmail.com) or call Ernie O'Neill at 543-8330.

