

Gardeners in
Community
Development



GICD COMMUNITY GARDENING EDUCATION

Gardening Priorities for Hope Community Garden

June 2, 2004

Workshop: Hope 1b

GARDENING BASICS

We have made a great start, but the garden needs to have some high quality gardening done fairly quickly or there will be some dire consequences due to weed growth, and declining soil quality and productivity.

NEEDS IN THE RAISED GARDEN BEDS:

1. Hand weed Bermuda grass from all beds (within next 5-7 days)

Method: Use long bladed weeder to get all roots out

Follow-up: Repeat weekly until all Bermuda is extinct

2. Fertilize all beds (within next week to 10 days)

Use: Cottonseed meal (cheapest, and very good, 6-2-1)

Rate: 10 lb/100 sq ft

each bed is 4 x 16 = 64 sq ft $64/100 \times 10 = 6.4$ lb/bed

Method: Weigh meal and spread evenly on soil by hand, use hand scratcher, or rake to lightly stir into top ½ inch of soil, water gently, cover with mulch (see below)

Follow-up: Apply at 10 lb rate again before fall planting, or about 3 times per year

Other organic fertilizers: alfalfa meal, mixed organic fertilizers like: GreenSense, Texas-Tee, Fertilaid, Sustain (use at recommended rate)

3. Mulch bare soil with lawn clippings /chopped leaves (within next 2 wks)

Method: Apply mulch to cover 2-4" deep, be careful to leave space around plant stems. People with ground wood mulch should remove it and replace with lawn clipping or chopped leaves (wood breaks down too slowly, and will damage soil).

Follow-up: Add additional mulch if weeds appear throughout summer

4. Plant all beds, and any open areas, completely to summer hardy plants (by end of June)

Plants that can be planted in early summer:

Asian or water spinach	
basil (plants)	
cucumber (better in cooler weather)	
cucuzi, Italian squash	
eggplant (plants)	
garlic chives	
gourds, edible	bottle, ivy, bitter, loofah, wax, snake

greens (better in cooler weather)	mustard, turnip, collard, amaranth
long beans	
lima beans	
Malabar spinach (plants or seed)	
millet and sorghum	
okra (plants or seed)	
peas, southern	blackeye, zipper, purple hull, cream
pepper (plants)	
plants to attract beneficials	zinnia, cosmos, sunflowers, buckwheat, thyme, almost any herb or native plant that flowers
sunflower	
sweet potato (stem cuttings)	
taro (tubers)	
tomatillo	

5. Water deeply depending on plant needs (every 2-5 days)

Method: *be careful to follow Dallas watering restrictions—water before 10 AM or in evening, no standing water or runoff.*

Apply water only when needed (check for wilting, dry soil) Plants need the equivalent of 1-2 inches of rainfall per week. Hand water with hose or use soaker.

NEEDS IN MASS PLANTED BEDS:

1. Weed out Bermuda grass digging out roots (within next 5-7 days)

Method: Use long bladed weeder or narrow shovel to get all roots out

Follow-up: Repeat weekly until all Bermuda is extinct

2. Fertilize between rows (within next week to 10 days)

Method: Apply at about the same rate as the raised beds

3. Water deeply depending on plant needs (every 2-5 days)

Method: *be careful to follow Dallas watering restrictions—water before 10 AM or in evening, no standing water or runoff.*

Apply water only when needed (check for wilting, dry soil) Plants need the equivalent of 1-2 inches of rainfall per week. Hand water with hose or use soaker.

4. Thin greens to about 2" spacing (within next week to 10 days)

Method: carefully go down each row and hand pull extra plants. Take the biggest thinnings home and eat them! If thinnings are large enough donate to the Breadbasket.

5. Harvest greens (start in about 2 weeks, about June 10)

We want to harvest all through the summer and early fall, so please learn to harvest so that plants continue to grow strongly! Ask Don for a demonstration.

Thinnings harvest: Harvest by thinning, as above, leaving better plants to grow with a good spacing of 4-6".

Main harvest: Remove a few outer large leaves from each plant, using a knife to slice close to stem, or breaking by hand close to stem.

6. Process and transport donated vegetables to distribution sites.

Breadbasket, Wilkinson Center, Wilshire?? Elsewhere?