

What Do We Do In the Garden?

Here's a brief calendar of the gardening season. Members will get detailed calendars when we've settled on dates for workdays, events, workshops, etc.

MARCH and APRIL. Applications, orientations and plans

Applications for garden membership are accepted at any time. If you want to rent a plot, you should get an application in by April 22, the date of our Orientation Meeting and first work day.

April 22. Orientation Meeting. A lot of planning happens in the spring! Crop plans will be made, seeds will be ordered, seedlings will be tended to, new gardeners will want to learn about the garden and its procedures. We will orient you to the MARC Garden space at this meeting, answer any questions you may have about supplies or garden regulations, and start to get our work and play schedules set for the season. All gardeners are invited to this meeting to meet or reconnect, get started working on their plots, or on shared spaces (where things are already growing!).

Some of our spring garden tasks. Take note of and organize maintenance tasks, acquire and spread compost and wood chips, start and tend spring crops (peas, salad greens, garlic), harvest overwintered greens in the hoop house and start seedlings, prune and tend berries and shrubs, plan and organize summer workshops and events.

MAY. The real work begins!

Regular twice-weekly shared work sessions begin.

Summer workshops begin. TBA, Once/twice a month, planned according to gardener interest.

May Garden workday and opening party. Date TBA

Gardeners are encouraged to share potluck dishes and extra seedlings they may have at the first big social gathering of the year. For work, we may tend the perennial plantings around the perimeter of the garden, weed and mulch paths, or ready our beds for planting.

New for 2023. Weekly Gardening 101 begins in May, a work/learning session for new gardeners with Head Gardener Robin Orttung. Each week we will combine tending the shared spaces with a lesson on a gardening topic, such as growing from seed, fostering healthy plant growth, dealing with diseases or pests, and essential plant biology for gardeners.

May garden tasks: harvest early crops; clean up, dig, and plant shared vegetable beds; fill and turn compost bins, weed and mulch garden paths, herb and flower garden maintenance. Community outreach through tables at the Market House and Second Saturday.

JUNE, JULY, AUGUST: busy busy busy

Summer is of course the busiest time in the Garden. There is always something to do and something delicious to eat.

Workshops, shared work, and monthly potlucks continue.

Late July: the ReMARCable fundraising event, where we show off our garden to the town.

Summer garden tasks: final harvest of the spring crops (peas, salad, garlic); tending and harvesting the summer crops (tomatoes, squashes, peppers, cucumbers, you name it); keeping up with mowing and maintenance; planning for fall crops (carrots, beets, salad); planning for late-summer fundraising efforts.

SEPTEMBER and OCTOBER: reaping our rewards

As the weather gets cooler, we enjoy our harvest and plan for winter and next year.

End of season planning meeting, mid-fall. Though the planning meeting's format may change depending on the suggestions being discussed, we cover these topics and more: how did the season go? Are there improvements we could make, to our organization, our landscape, our events? What resources will we need to make these things happen, and how do we get them?

Fall garden tasks: Harvest, harvest, harvest! Pull out spent summer crops and replace with hardy fall crops or cover crops; ready the hoop house for winter crops, keep the landscape maintained, turn and organize the compost for winter. Thinking ahead to next year!

GARDEN COMMITTEE CONTACTS

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