

# GROWING TIMES

## Growing Places Garden Project, Inc.

Hello Gardeners,

We're taking on a slightly different form this week so that we can give you plenty of information on getting your gardens ready for winter. These cooler nights and now cooler days will cause your vegetables to ripen much more slowly and there are a few things to watch for as fall progresses.

We have delivered compost to many of you already. The rest of you will be seeing it very soon. You should also have found a note with instructions on preparing it for the end of summer. In case it was lost, we have included it below.

All GPGP gardeners will be receiving a survey with the next newsletter. We greatly appreciate your feedback, because it helps us to improve our work. **Also, for those of you first-year gardeners who are interested in gardening with us again next year, this survey is your order form for the plants that you would like to grow next year.** Without this survey, we will not be able to supply you with what you want, so please take the time to fill it out and return it. For you second-year and more senior gardeners, please fill it out too. We may have seeds to share and the survey will let us know you are interested in receiving them.

Thanks!

*Cindy and Kate*

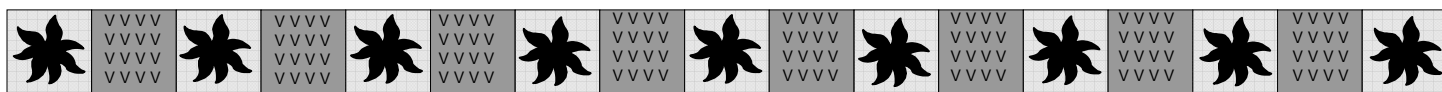
## GARDEN CLEANUP

The gardens will producing less over the next month. When you no longer feel you are getting anything worthwhile out of your garden, here is what you need to do:

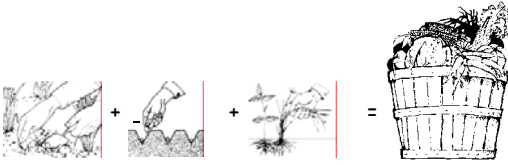
- Remove all dead plants and any decaying fruits and vegetables from the garden. Place them into garbage bags, and throw them away. Leaving them around will still allow the bugs to hibernate in the ground and eventually find your garden again.
- Remove the string that divides your garden into squares – it will disintegrate over the winter anyhow and it's easy to restring in the spring.
- Spread a nice thin layer of compost over each bed – 1 bag per bed. Just let it sit on the top; no need to work it in.
- At the end of October plant your garlic (this will be delivered later) – place a label so you know where it is.

**NOTE:** Plants that are still producing (root vegetables, kale, broccoli, lettuce—see table on next page) can be left in the garden for continued harvesting. Just spread the compost around these plants.

Something else you can do *if you want to:*



## MR. FROST ARRIVES



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"Growing Times" is produced by Cindy Buhner and Kate Deyst of Growing Places Garden Project.

*Printed on recycled paper.*

This is the time of the year where the word "frost" starts to appear in the forecast. Frost occurs at the temperature where water turns into ice, 32 degrees Fahrenheit or 0 degrees Celcius. It signals the beginning of the end for many of your plants. The warning signs of a potential frost are nights where the air is very still, there is no cloud cover, the humidity is low, and the evening temperatures are 45 degrees or less. Often you can avoid damage caused by frost by covering your beds with old bed sheets, old shower curtains, or row cover fabric (sometimes called Remay). If you cover your beds, try to create a tent so that the fabric does not touch the leaves of the plants. Since frost damage occurs because the plant can not replace the moisture that has left its leaves, make sure the soil around the plant is moist when a frost is expected. Moist soil holds and releases more heat than dry soil creating a more humid environment around the plant. The plant will suffer less water loss when the frost pulls the moisture from the plant's leaves. If the next day is warm, remove the cover so your plants don't cook.

Plants that have suffered damage from the frost are often dark green to black and wilted. The plants and the fruits or vegetables also look and feel like they are full of water. At that point, there is nothing you can do about them and they should be removed from the garden. Some crops actually taste better after a frost. These plants often survive a hard frost (see list below) and will continue to grow (slowly) into the late fall and early winter. Kate usually has parsley at Thanksgiving.

So when you hear about a frost coming to your area, consider what to do with the crops still in your garden. Protect them as best you can. Highly susceptible crops (see list below) should probably be harvested and brought inside so that all the produce is not lost. And keep your fingers crossed that Mr. Frost is late this year!

*Information courtesy of [www.almadenvalleynursery.com](http://www.almadenvalleynursery.com)*

## COLD TEMPERATURE TOLERANCE OF VEGETABLES AND HERBS

(COURTESY OF [WWW.HORT.PERDUE.EDU](http://WWW.HORT.PERDUE.EDU))

Tender (damaged by light frost)	Semi-hardy (tolerate light frost)	Hardy (tolerate hard frost)
Beans	Beets	Broccoli
Cucumber	Carrot	Brussels sprouts
Eggplant	Cauliflower	Cabbage
Melon	Chard	Collards
Pepper	Lettuce	Kale
Pumpkin		Kohlrabi
Tomato		Parsley, Oregano, Thyme
Basil		Peas
		Radish
		Spinach



**BROCCOLI IS A HARDY VEGETABLE. CARROTS ARE SEMI-HARDY AND TASTE VERY SWEET AFTER A FROST**



**BASIL AND BEANS ARE TENDER. HARVEST THEM IF FROST IS LIKELY**

