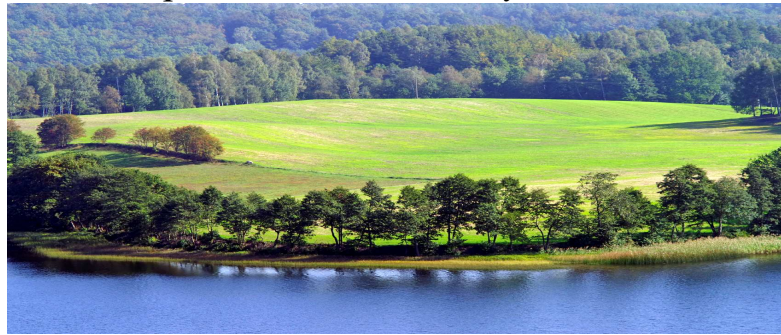




"When we see land as a community to which we belong,
we may begin to use it with love and respect."

Aldo Leopold A Sand County Almanac



What's Happening...

*Keep training those tomatoes! If they are taller than your trellis and higher than you can reach, you may want to make the executive decision, "Off with their heads!" They will make more branches and tomatoes.

*Weeds... with all this sun and rain the weeds are very happy. Your plants will reward you in a bountiful harvest if you continue removing the weeds from their growing spaces.

*Don't forget to KEEP HARVESTING! Beans, broccoli, salad greens, zucchini, cucumbers, herbs... the more you harvest the more prolific they will be.

* If you have an empty square (or one that should be), get something new in there. It's not too late to direct seed more salad greens, cooking greens, spinach, bush beans, radishes, beets (soak the seeds overnight to give them a "jump-start"), cilantro or carrots. If you have access to seedlings of cabbage, kale, broccoli, Brussels' sprouts, or cauliflower plant those too.

*Continue scouting for insects. You may see pale colored moths fluttering over the garden. The moth is the adult form of the cabbage looper, a caterpillar. Keep your eyes peeled because those moths are looking for a place to lay their eggs, which when hatched become voracious eaters of YOUR beautiful produce. The **cabbage looper** feeds on a variety of crops, consuming the foliage and is considered one of the most destructive insect pests of vegetables. See your Growing Guide for solutions to this pest.

Garden-To-Do List for August

- Seed a fall crop of [peas](#) and spinach and keep [harvesting](#). There's always something to make with zucchini.
- Pick herbs for fresh use and for drying. Harvesting will keep them growing longer.
- Order spring bulbs for planting and [forcing](#).
- Check that your mulch hasn't decomposed and add more as needed.
- Spread a mid-season layer of [compost](#) or manure.
- Keep [deadheading](#) and harvesting.
- Leave some annual seeds to self-sow.
- Start saving seeds and [taking cuttings](#).
- Remove any diseased foliage now, so it doesn't get lost in the fall leaves.
- Cut back the foliage of early bloomers like hardy geraniums, to revitalize the plants.
- Prune summer flowering shrubs as the flowers fade.
- Trim and feed hanging baskets to prolong their beauty.
- Take pictures of your garden at peak. Take pictures of container combinations or garden squares you'd like to repeat. Send them to us!
- Find out how to make a cold frame and get it ready.
- Plant trees, shrubs and perennials now, so they can take root, and keep them well watered.
- Plant fall-blooming crocus so they'll bloom on time.

WHAT'S NEW!

Did you know...

GPGP has many volunteer opportunities available throughout the year? Please consider sharing your time and expertise to help us out in the following areas:

Builders and Planters

Board Members

Newsletter Coordinator/Contributor

Administrative Assistant

Team Leaders

Translation Services

For a brief overview of each position, please visit our website at www.growingplaces.org and look under the "How You Can Help" section.

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RECIPES

Fabulous Magenta Summer Solstice Beet Dip

(adapted from Nikki, GPGP Volunteer)

This can be used to dip anything from veggies to crackers in; it can even be used as a sandwich spread... oh what color!

- 2 fist sized beets, cooked and finely grated
- 16oz cream cheese, softened
- 1Tbl mayonnaise
- 2 cloves garlic, minced (more for those garlic lovers)
- salt, to taste

The beets should be cooked until done, but not mushy. Then grate them very finely.

Combine all the ingredients, and refrigerate.

A special thanks to Nikki Conzo for her many other contributions to all of our editions of Growing Times!