



We Love Our Volunteers— Thanks Juniper Networks



Building frames is no easy task, delivering them to the sites isn't a piece of cake either. We need our volunteers to help us in all aspects of the process and a few weeks ago our friends at Juniper Networks stepped up to the plate!

Organized by Steve Jacobs (Engineering Manager), pictured right, and Marlene Cote (Volunteer Coordinator) - a team of over a dozen people came to our warehouse and got to work.



Everyone was involved in building, loading and delivering the frames to the garden sites. In total **33 beds** were delivered to 11 locations in Clinton, Fitchburg, Stow, Maynard, Littleton, Ayer, and Shirley. Also **57 frames** were constructed by the Juniper team!



Participating in the build and deliveries were: Arik Akerberg, Kevin Antosh, Frank Booth, Jim DeLuco, John Kenney, Scott Gigandet, Prabh Gowrisankaran, Fred Moore, Chris Otte, Sharada Panchagnula, Randy Philbrook, and Steve Jacobs

Thank you all for such a great job—we are all very grateful for your time and efforts!



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Hello Gardeners!

Hey Everyone! We hope that you are well and that everyone is in the swing of things for the 2009 growing season!



We have A LOT of stuff planned and our build calendar is filling up fast.

In this issue you will find some tips and tricks that you can use to make your garden grow strong and healthy. We also have some recipes coming your way soon, for all those great crops you will soon be harvesting.



New this season—we are going high-tech. You can now follow Growing Places on **Twitter** and even become a fan and be our friends on **Facebook!** If you are out in cyber space, be sure to come and find us.

As always—if you have any stories, suggestions, additions, pictures, whatever! Please let us know and we can share your experiences the next issue.

- Growing Places Garden Project Team



Some Tips to Help Your Garden Grow!

To Do:

Seeds: the mighty little heroes of the garden. We may take these little guys for granted, but if you want to make sure that you get the best harvest you can, you are going to want to take note of these tips and tricks!

- Seeds are planted three times as deep as their width, be sure to check your Growing Guide for specifics on spacing for each plant.
- Sprinkle soil over seeds and lightly pat the soil, this allows the seeds to make contact with the soil. Don't pat too hard or you will compact the soil and make it difficult for the seeds to emerge.
- Water gently, enough to saturate the soil, not too much so it washes away your seeds.
- Always mark your plantings, it's amazing how quickly you can forget that you already seeded a square.
- Check seed packets for expected germination, some seeds such as parsley and carrots can take up to 2 weeks to peek through the soil, others such as radishes just a few days.
- If sufficient time has passed and nothing comes up, scratch up the soil and plant again!

Be adventurous plant something new!



What's Happening in the Garden?

Spring is a busy time.... Lots to plan and plant, here is what should be going in and starting to come up:

Now is the time to get the cool tolerant plants seeded, start with peas, spinach, salad greens, chard, beets, kale, beans, radishes, and carrots. Cool weather seedlings can be set out in the garden as well- broccoli, cabbage, collards, onions, shallots, strawberries, lettuce, and parsley.



Remember crops such as tomatoes, peppers, eggplant, and basil should NOT go in the ground until Memorial Day.... They are very sensitive to cool temps and will be killed by a light frost! In New England that chance can exist until June.

Second-Year gardeners should have received seeds and seedlings at this point, and if you planted garlic last fall it should be several inches high by now. If you haven't done so already, mulch the garlic with leaves or grass clippings this will help retain moisture, and keep the weed competition down!

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