

HOW'S IT GROWING?

Community Gardens & Urban Agriculture
Working Group Newsletter



CGUA HAPPENINGS

The last CGUA meeting was held on March 22nd at the Tarrant Area Food Bank. 14 people were in attendance.

Charlie Blaylock gave a presentation on how he manages his farm to be productive and successful. He discussed how he amended his soil, what crops he plants, how he rotates his crops and what fertilizers he uses.

The group also approved the anti-vandalism prevention handout which is now available on our website for the public to access and use.

The next CGUA meeting will be on **Thursday, May 31st from 3:00-4:30pm** at Tarrant Area Food Bank (2525 Cullen St. Fort Worth, TX 76107) in the Rodriguez Meeting Room-2nd Floor.

For more information on how to be involved in the CGUA working group, please contact our chair Dave Aftandilian at d.aftandilian@tcu.edu.



EVENTS

4/12, 5pm & 6pm
Compost 101
fortworthtexas.gov
[compostoutpost](http://compostoutpost.com)

4/14, 11am
How to be a Pollinator-Friendly Gardener
marshallgrain.com

4/14, 1:30-4:30pm
How to Build a Raised Garden Bed
[TAFB Eventbrite.com](http://TAFB.Eventbrite.com)

4/18, 4:30-6:30pm
Pick Your Own Produce Event
[TAFB Eventbrite.com](http://TAFB.Eventbrite.com)



GROWING LOCAL GENEROSITY

BECCA KNUTSON

For the past four years, the Fort Worth Botanic Garden, Tarrant County Master Gardeners Association and Tarrant Area Food Bank have worked together to help provide spring vegetable seedlings to area community gardens, free of charge. The Botanic Garden provides greenhouse space and staff to care for the plants. The Master Gardeners spend some of their volunteer hours assisting with plant care. Tarrant Area Food Bank organizes the gardens and submits plant orders.

This year, the project provided over 1,500 seedlings to be grown by individuals and organizations to increase access to fresh produce and help alleviate hunger.

Orders for the seedlings are usually collected in December or January and seedlings are distributed in late March or early April. To put your community garden on the list for next year's orders, please email Becca Knutson at becca.knutson@tafb.org.



WHAT IS A GARDENER?

Joanna Miller

A sower, a grower, a Latin name knower
A nurturer, reaper, a tidy lawn keeper
A seeder, a feeder, a determined weeder
A border designer, a seedling aligner
A researcher, a planner, a lawn mower manner
A greenhouse potter, a staker & knotter
A welly wearer & love of fresh airer
A potter, toiler, a keen top soiler
A harvester, snipper a log & branch chipper
A landscaper, lopper, a well-equipped chopper
A sprinkler, spader, a plant in the shader
A vicious deadheader & shaper of bedder
A forker, a clearer, a sprayer & shearer
A mulcher, a flowerer, it looks like a showerer
A raker, a hoer, an autumn leaf blower
A composter, wirer and sometime bonfirer
A border maintainer, a planter & drainer
A kneeler, a bender, a builder & mender
A slug resister & nature assister
A ground cover lover & old garden glover
That's what makes a gardener!



DID YOU KNOW?

Gardeners are always looking for free or inexpensive ways to add to and maintain their gardens. Now there is an easier way to get woodchips for your garden—Chip Drop!

In the past, you needed to have a connection with a tree-trimming company or happen to catch the crews trimming in your neighborhood to ask for a truckload of woodchips. With Chip Drop, you can sign up for a free load of woodchips that will be delivered right where you need them.

With any free service, the product may be slightly different than what you would purchase. Check out their website to see how it works and decide if this service is a good fit for you or your community garden!

<https://getchipdrop.com/>

RESOURCES

Local Nurseries:

- Archie's Gardenland
- Calloway's
- Redenta's

Free Seeds:

- TAFB Community Garden Program
- Contact seed companies

Bulk Soil/Compost:

- Living Earth
- Silver Creek
- City of FW Drop-off Stations

Garden Curricula:

- CGUA-
www.tarrantcountyfoodpolicycouncil.org/cgua-working-group.html

Texas AgriLife Extension:

- www.agrilifeextension.tamu.edu

Community Food Systems Map:

- <http://www.tarrantcountyfoodpolicycouncil.org/community-food-systems-north-texas.html>



Cauliflower, Corn and Cucumber Salad

Prep Time: 20 minutes

Servings: 8-10

Serving Size: 1 cup

Ingredients

- 3 cups cauliflower florets
- 1 medium cucumber
- 1 red pepper
- 2-3 green onions
- 1 can of corn (15 oz.)

Dressing:

- ½ cup plain, non-fat yogurt
- ¼ cup fresh dill
- ½ teaspoon salt
- ½ teaspoon pepper



Preparation

Scrub and rinse cauliflower, cucumber, red pepper and green onion. Pat all produce dry.

Cut any remaining leaves off the cauliflower and remove the dense core.

Chop the cauliflower into bite-sized pieces.

Remove the seeds from the cucumber. Dice the cucumber.

Chop the red pepper. Thinly slice the green onion.

Drain and rinse the corn.

Add all produce items to a large bowl.

Pour the yogurt over the salad mixture.

Sprinkle in the dill, salt and pepper.

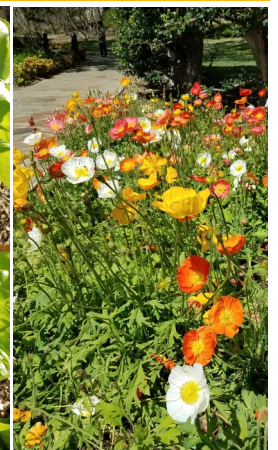
Toss well to coat.

Substitutions

- Add any other fresh veggies you like—broccoli, green pepper, yellow squash, peas or red onion.
 - Frozen corn or fresh corn can be used instead of canned corn.
 - Add black beans for extra protein.

APRIL TO-DO

- Feed young plants with an organic liquid fertilizer.
- Plant black-eyed peas, okra, peanuts, sweet potatoes, squash, melons, cucumbers and corn—all can tolerate the upcoming summer heat.
- Keep planting basil.
- Continue to build and attend to your compost pile by adding kitchen scraps and grass clippings.



GARDEN STORIES

Do you have a 100-200 word garden story to share? Has gardening impacted your life in a meaningful way? Send us your garden stories and experiences along with a couple pictures and we will share them in our newsletter and on social media.

All stories and pictures can be sent to our chair, Dave Aftandilian at d.aftandilian@tcu.edu.