

DECEMBER 2018

WHAT'S GROWING ON?

TCFPC COMMUNITY GARDENS & URBAN AGRICULTURE
WORKING GROUP

CGUA HAPPENINGS

The last CGUA meeting was held on November 29th at the Tarrant Area Food Bank. 7 people were in attendance.

The group heard from Natasha Peffers of Meraki Design Agency (<https://www.merakidesignagency.com/>) about her greenspace design business. She wants to work with communities to implement vertical gardens to increase food access. So far, Natasha has been working with several developers but would like to have an opportunity to work with a municipality or non-profit organization.

Attendees discussed possible alternative funding solutions to the newly approved entrance fees at Fort Worth Botanic Garden.

Dave and Donna gave an update on the Grow Southeast sites visited on November 3rd by several members of the group. CGUA is still unsure how best to support their efforts without being intrusive.

The next CGUA meeting will be on Thursday, January 17th 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.



Holiday Gifts from the Garden

The weather continues to cool off, the number of garden tasks that need to be completed is diminishing and the holiday season is upon us. This time of year is a welcomed break from the intense garden labor of the spring and fall but a busy time celebrating with family and friends. This year, CGUA members and friends have offered up ideas on ways to save money (and sanity?) this year by creating gifts from the garden.



Collect seeds from your wildflowers and create "seed bombs" to share with your friends. Instructions here: <http://thefrugalgirls.com/2012/04/diy-seed-bombs.html>
~Sydney

Gather dried herbs, branches, grasses and weeds to create a unique winter bouquet.
~Dave



Events

SEED STARTING & COMPOSTING, 12/1
TAFB
EVENTBRITE.COM

COWTOWN FARMERS MARKET, SATURDAYS 8AM-12PM 3821 SOUTHWEST BLVD.



Gift your friends and family with loofah harvested and dried from your garden paired with soap made from a local vendor. ~Gina

Holiday Gifts from the Garden (continued)

Trim wooden disks from the bottom of your live Christmas tree. Use these to make ornaments with your children. ~Gina



Infuse oils with rosemary and cloves of garlic from the garden. ~Cheryl

Resources

LOCAL NURSERIES:

Archie's Gardenland
Calloway's

FREE SEEDS:

TAFB Community Garden Program
communitygarden@tafb.org
GROW North Texas

BULK SOIL/COMPOST:

Living Earth
Silver Creek Materials
City of FW Drop-Off Stations

GARDEN CURRICULA:

CGUA-

<http://www.tarrantcountyfoodpolicycouncil.org/cgua-working-group.html>

COMMUNITY FOOD SYSTEMS MAP:

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



After pruning your grapevines, craft homemade wreaths to decorate for your loved ones.

~Becca



Dry the herbs from your garden, store in cute jars, decorate and give to your family. ~Connie

Attach dried branches to a glass candle holder to create an inexpensive, rustic decoration.

~Becca



CGUA PROJECTS?

Is there a North Texas gardening matter that you'd like to see more accessible information about? Some specific kind of advice for community gardeners that you've been wishing for? Then please let us know; CGUA is looking for new, small-scale projects to tackle.

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



December To-Do

- Continue to plant onions, chives, mustard, spinach, peas, beets and radishes
- Sow winter cover crops like annual rye grass, fava beans, oats and barley
- Add straw or leaf mulch around all of your cool season crops to help retain moisture and heat
- Organize your frost protection to be ready for low temperatures
- Plant more parsley, cilantro and fennel

Did You Know?

Many gardeners in North Texas choose to grow some edible plants throughout the winter. In order to have successful crops and reduce the amount of damage that can be caused by freezing temperatures, it is important to choose fruits and vegetables that can handle the cold weather. By making these informed decisions, fall and winter gardening can be just as productive - if not more productive - than spring and summer gardens.

Plant your favorite of these 19 vegetable crops to have home-grown produce throughout the winter: beets, broccoli, Brussels sprouts, cabbage, carrots, cauliflower, celery, collards, green onions, leafy lettuce, kale, leeks, mustard, parsnip, radishes, rutabaga, spinach, Swiss chard and turnips.

The flavor of several of these vegetables will actually improve during a frost. Collard greens become more flavorful. Turnips, carrots, rutabagas and parsnips tend to become sweeter during a freeze. Take advantage of the mild winters we have here in North Texas and try your hand at some of these cold-hardy crops this year!

