

## **THE JUNE VEGETABLE GARDEN-2018**

### **GET GROWING!! Here are some things you can do.**

#### **-FEED YOUR SOIL**

This year I amended the soil in each of my beds with compost, mushroom compost, and I remineralized the soil with azomite. AZOMITE can be used to wake up microbials in the soil and remineralize depleted soils with trace minerals or elements. It is a natural product mined in Utah and is organic. We need to refresh the soil each year with compost but the minerals in the soil can get used up. Remineralization doesn't need to be done every year. The reason I did it, is I got a soil test this year and I have plenty of organic matter, Nitrogen, Phosphorus and Potassium (NPK) but am low in trace minerals such as zinc, manganese, iron, copper, and boron. You might consider remineralizing your soil at some point every few years.

#### **FRUIT TREES**

-Ok, here we go again-another year of drought so far so WATER YOUR TREES!

- This year I have no plums, peaches or apricots but do have apples but won't know how many until fall. So let's talk about apples.

**APPLES**-Thin out your baby apples if you have any. Thinning discourages overbearing. It improves fruit size-they will be bigger. Helps avoid limb damage from heavy fruit load. Too many will make them smaller and may break branches later when they mature. Do it before the fruit reach 1 inch in diameter. There is always one larger baby apple on a cluster of 2-6 fruits. This is called the King's fruit. Leave that one and take the rest off. Or leave a few on. Hard to do, but a must. Decide how many clusters you are leaving too/ Usually 4-5 inches apart is good.

#### **DRIP SYSTEMS**

Install, replace or repair your drip system. Don't have a drip system? Put one in. I just got my drip system up and running. They are simple to do and will really conserve water and gets the water down to the roots where the plant needs it. Then you can spend your time doing other things besides hand watering.

#### **TOMATOES**

-Remove **Wall of Waters** once tomato plants reach top of them and start growing out of them. You don't have to remove the wall of waters until they grow out of them even if it gets hot. Your tomatoes will thank you for leaving them on longer as the nights are still in the 40's, which is cold to a tomato plant. But don't leave them on all season-they are an early extension helper so we can get the tomatoes out earlier in the season.

-Once you remove the WOWs, put on cages and cover your tomato plants with row cover around your cage and over the top too to prevent the leafhopper from biting your plant and transmitting Curly Top disease—a fatal virus to tomato plants

-Put straw under tomato plants as a mulch to help retain moisture and to protect plants from soil borne diseases such as Early Blight.

-Prune and pinch back suckers tomatoes as they grow. Take off any branches that will touch the ground, this will help protect against soil borne diseases.

-Start spraying with Serenade about every 10-14 days right when the monsoons come which may be next month. It is an organic fungal spray that is used as a preventative and also helps when fungal disease hits.

-Make a great tomato cage instead of the flimsy store bought ones. Use Concrete reinforcement wire, 5 feet tall and cut at 13 squares. Use a heavy-duty wire cutter or better still an angle grinder with a metal blade. Once made, you'll have it forever.

### **PLANTING SEEDS**

-Start warm season crops like bean, corn, cucumber, and flowers by directly in ground by seeds. Soil is warm enough. Cover all with row cover until plants are 3-4 inches tall. Use **row cover protects new seedlings** from birds and bugs.

-Add **legume inoculate to soil** or directly to bean seeds if it comes in powder form before planting bean seeds. This will help beans fix nitrogen on the roots—nitrogen nodules. Adds nitrogen back in the soil.

### **PROBLEMS- LOOK FOR BUGS!**

-**Rolly-polys** can cut your new emerging seedlings down like a weed whacker. I had to plant bean seeds 3x a couple of years ago because of them. Now I put an organic product called SLUGGO PLUS on top of the ground right after you plant and again after they germinate. It's organic.

-**Squash vine borers (SVB)** cannot get in if you keep row cover over your squash as it grows. SVBs come early in the season and literally kill your plants by laying eggs in the stem at the base of the plants. SVBs leave right about the time the squash flowers and then you take off the row cover as the bees need to do the pollinating for us. You can also cover the main stem where it comes out of the ground with foil or burying your stems with dirt.

**Aphids**-I spray Neem on plants with aphids. But first I spray the plant or tree with water. Aphids are especially bad this time of year. To get rid of them, spray them off with a hard stream of water and then hit them with a NEEM product. It's organic and works well against aphids and thrips. Comes from the Neem tree in India. Plum trees especially get aphids. It's organic and works well against aphids and thrips. Spray in the evening as some trees and plants may be sensitive to it and get burned and it can also hurt bees-so spray at dusk.

**Drought**-Consider putting in a smaller garden this year due to our current drought conditions. I have cut down about 30% leaving some beds fallow or resting this year. Plus I'm not growing giant pumpkins this year because of their high water requirements.

## **TRANSPLANTS**

- Transplant pepper and eggplant plants NOW in the first part of June**
- Put out Nolo Bait for grasshoppers BEFORE they come or get big. Do it now. Keep Nolo Bait refrigerated.
- Finish planting any transplants you still haven't done.

## **MAKE A SHADE GARDEN**

- Plant kale and chard. Use shade cloth over a low tunnel. Later in late July-August, plant summer lettuces. We can talk about them in July.

## **WEEDS**

- Pull or cut off weeds in the garden and around the perimeter. Bad bugs live here. This will get rid of hiding places for bugs. Use 20% vinegar to spray persistent weeds-90% kill rate. Get it on the Internet. Regular vinegar is 5% and doesn't work. Put a pre-emergent down like corn gluten. Corn gluten, which is high in nitrogen and will kill the seedlings as they germinate.

Lastly try something new! Last year I did an Italian garden. This year I'm planting **dwarf tomato** varieties and so far I like what I see. Short stocky thick-stemmed indeterminate tomatoes. I will let you all know how they do later this summer. Other new crops I'm trying this year are **Rugosa Friulana** Squash. A yellow wrinkled zucchini squash that is supposed to be fantastic in flavor. **Tahiti Butternut** squash that's supposed to grow bigger Butternut and just as tasty so give that one more room to grow. Bradford Watermelon were close to being extinct but are now back on the market. Last year I grew Moon n Stars watermelon with a longer days to germinate and did really well so here I am trying a new variety.

The point is make it interesting for yourself. Remember gardening is way more fun if you experiment.