

Community Supported Garden at La Vista

THE WEEKLY WEEDER

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THE COMPLEXITIES OF EARLY SUMMER

Like every year, the weather has been erratic. We go from too wet to too dry in a matter of days. We go from perfect temperatures to way-too-hot, back to nice again. If nothing else, the recent heat wave and dry spell gave us a chance to catch up on weeds a little bit. Before this dry spell, our weed-pulling efforts were stymied by ever-present rain clouds that let all our weeds re-establish roots wherever they lie. The sunshine has been nice.

As we've patiently slogged and then sweated our way through early summer, we've become increasingly excited about the many new crops coming up. Tomatoes are looking fabulous so far. I was worried about temperatures being possibly too high for good fruit set, but it looks like there's plenty of green fruit forming out there. Harvests have already started, although so far we've only picked a couple dozen pounds.

We also spent considerable time the past couple of weeks pulling weeds from our peppers, eggplant, and carrots, all of which are growing very well.



Early July is an intense and complex time for a small vegetable

farm. Everything happens at warp speed and all at once. Every day is an exercise in extreme time management at its peak. In any given day, we're dealing with a few new surprises in the fields along with some twists to our expectations. And throughout we're usually working under sweat-soaking conditions in the hot sun.

We like some of the surprises. We like being surprised at how well a particular crop looks. Or when a crop is maturing earlier and healthier than we otherwise expected. We like to see when our efforts at pest and disease control are working. And we love to watch our fall crops germinating already.

The surprises we don't like are new pests and diseases. Recently we've been dealing with a new disease that affects carrot leaves. Every day last week I sprayed hydrogen dioxide on our carrot leaves to prevent the spread of this leaf-decaying fungal disease. Hydrogen

WHAT'S IN YOUR SHARE?



- Fennel
- Beets
- Basil
- Scallions



- Onions
- Turnips
- Cabbage
- Lettuce



- Squash
- Cucumbers
- Chinese Cabbage
-



– U-Pick herbs and flowers

WHAT'S FOR DINNER?

Cabbage and Carrot Salad

(from Mark Bittman, *How to Cook Everything*)

- 1 pound Chinese Cabbage, cored and shredded
- 2 carrots, peeled and grated
- 2 or 3 scallions, minced
- 1/4 to 1/3 cup peanut (preferred) or canola oil
- 2 Tbsp freshly squeezed lime juice
- 1 tsp soy sauce
- salt and freshly ground black pepper to taste



Combine the vegetables. Whisk together the oil, lime juice, and soy; taste and add salt and pepper if necessary. Toss the dressing with the vegetables and serve.

dioxide is like hydrogen peroxide. It's a cleansing agent that "cleans" the leaves, like how hydrogen peroxide cleans microbes from wounds. It's safe and benign in the diluted form we use. We just hope it's effective.

Our "to-do" list this time of year is heavy-laden. We know we'll never get to everything. So we try to put ourselves in the most effective spot at every given moment. The most important thing is to stay ahead of weeds and other potential problems. We'll prioritize pulling small weeds in just-germinated crops over "aesthetic" weeding in well-established crops.

Project by weed-pulling project, the summer crops are right around the corner. Now, about this weather!.



Building U-Pick Pavilion

LOOKING AHEAD

Potatoes, carrots, tomatoes and cherry tomatoes might be ready this week... next week at the latest.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Garlic Harvest THIS Saturday, July 11, 8 a.m.

Community Supported Garden at La Vista

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The ***Community Supported Garden at La Vista*** is one branch of the **Oblate Ecological Initiative**, a ministry of the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate. The other branch, the ***Ecological Learning Center***, offers seasonal celebrations, retreats, presentations, discussion groups and a week-long Earth Literacy course. For more information visit www.lavistaELC.org.

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