



Basil Bouquet

Photo by gardener Candice Hall

See garden photos by Bonnie MacLachlan and Candice on the BCGA Facebook page.

September-October 2019

Abundant Produce — Donations — Cleanup Begins

After a chilly spring, the garden has rebounded with an abundance of produce. Gardeners who have regularly watered deeply and have controlled their weeds are enjoying the bounce vegetables have taken in the hot days of August and early September.

The Zoo and Food Rescue continue to pick up vegetables on Thursday (7:30 a.m.) and Saturday (9:00 a.m.) mornings respectively. Gardeners have been generous, especially with kale, chard, green corn stalks and zucchini! Remember that herbs are welcome, too. The Zoo appreciates corn stalks if they are fresh, no roots. Please do not put produce out until the evening before pickup at the earliest. Vegetables that have been sitting in the sun all day the day before are worthless.

START THE CLEANUP NOW
Right now is the time to pull out all weeds and also any vegetables and flowers that are past their peak. Please don't wait too long to do this. The dumpsters fill up quickly once we get into the closing weekends, so do whatever you can now to lighten that load!



Arrival of Garden Mix 2018

ALERT TO GARDENERS

The closing of the garden will be managed a little differently this year. Gardeners must clear off all vegetation that is not being tilled in and remove all garden equipment from their plots no later than **Saturday, October 19th** at dusk. Sunday, October 20 is reserved for final tilling.

Why the change? Too many gardeners have left their clearing out to the final day in the past, creating a burden on volunteers and an overload for the dumpsters.

Weed Eating Goat Herd May Return In the Fall



Goat Herder Lani Malmberg

We hope to bring Lani Malmberg's goats back again this fall for their 21st grazing near the garden, but we need your help. Please make a donation to BCGA for the Goat Fund. If you have access to employer matching funds for your donations, please make a

matched donation. If you know of a person or business that would like to provide a substantial donation, please let BCGA know.

Donations can be mailed to Bear Creek Garden Association, Post Office Box 38326, Colorado Springs, CO 80937.

Please link your King Soopers Loyalty Card online to BCGA. (Directions for doing this are in the May-June 2019 newsletter, posted online.) BCGA received \$250 for three months (April, May and June) from Kroger, but if more people link their cards, we could easily double that figure.

Ordering Garden Mix

Garden Mix is a blend of compost and manure created by Don's Garden Shop and used for many years in our garden. A large load of Mix will be delivered to the garden for those gardeners who have ordered it and paid in advance. The price is \$45.00 for one cubic yard and \$22.50 for a half cubic yard. This price is the same as last year, and represents a saving over what it would cost to pick it up yourself at Don's shop.

The recommended amount to use is one yard for a full plot and a half yard for a half plot, but a few gardeners like to use up to twice as much. One cubic yard will be ½ inch deep when spread over a full plot. The use of Garden Mix is optional – many gardeners do not choose to order it.

To order Garden Mix, mail a check payable to Bear Creek Garden Association to Post Office Box 38326, Colorado Springs, CO 80937. The deadline for receipt of the checks by BCGA is Thursday, September 26. Checks received after that date will not be accepted and will be returned.

The Garden Mix is scheduled to arrive on Friday, October 4. It will be dumped inside the truck gate on the BCGA plot. The Parks Department is scheduled to bring a skid loader into the garden on Wednesday, October 9th to move the Mix onto the plots of those who have ordered it. There is no additional charge for this service, but each gardener must clear a space on the plot where the worker can dump the load.

Depending on the number of yards ordered, a second truckload may arrive after the first load has been moved onto plots.

Of course, gardeners can opt to move their Mix by using a wheelbarrow, if they wish to do so, preferably before the skid loader arrives. A special white 5-gallon measuring bucket and directions for measuring the Mix

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Garden Calendar

Sep. 17 — Bear Creek Garden Association Annual Meeting 7:00 p.m., Cheyenne Mtn. Library, 1785 South 8th St.

Sep. 21 — Workday 8 a.m.—Noon.

Sep. 26 — Deadline for Ordering Garden Mix—Checks must be in BCGA P.O. Box by this date.

Oct 4 — Garden Mix arrives.

Oct. 12-13 — Workdays for clearing out garden. Tillers will be onsite.

Oct. 19 — All plots must be cleared off and all tools and equipment removed from the garden by dusk. Tillers onsite.

Oct. 20 — Final tilling will be completed. The garden closes at 4 p.m.

Annual Meeting

Bear Creek Garden Association

The annual meeting of members of the Bear Creek Garden Association will be held on Tuesday, September 17 at 7:00 p.m. at the Cheyenne Mountain Branch Library, 1785 South 8th Street.

Annual reports will be provided, board members will be elected for 2020 and garden issues will be discussed.

Bear Creek Garden Association

BCGA runs the Charmaine Nymann Community Garden located in Bear Creek Regional Park in Colorado Springs, Colorado. It is a Colorado 501 (c)(3) tax exempt nonprofit corporation.

Members of the public can rent plots to grow organic vegetables for personal use and for donation to friends and charities.

The gardeners grow and donate thousands of pounds of produce to the Cheyenne Mountain Zoo, the Springs Rescue Mission and Colorado Springs Food Rescue each year.

Contact us: John Poyzer 576-2664
Karen Stith 634-4433

E-mail: bearcreekgardens@yahoo.com

Website: www.bearcreekgardens.org

Facebook:

Bear Creek Garden Association



Heather Sena and her mother, Pat Hall, have grown three big, beautiful artichoke plants this year. and they are producing sizeable artichokes. That's a special success in our high, dry climate.

Tilling Your Plot—Help with Tilling

Garden plots must be down to bare dirt when the garden closes on October 20. The easiest way to accomplish this is to till in light garden refuse, straw mulch and Garden Mix, or other compost/manure. Organic matter is a huge benefit to the soil and the worms and microorganisms. Soil with a good amount of organic matter lets water soak in easily and holds moisture well.

Do not try to till under cornstalks or tough roots like corn, broccoli, and cabbage, or squash or tomato vines or any plant that is diseased. Put these items into the dumpsters.

If you wish to use a tiller, a \$10.00 donation to BCGA is requested. If you are unable to run a tiller, BCGA volunteers will come to the rescue and till your plot for you. The charge for a volunteer tilling a half plot is \$10.00 and for a full plot is \$20.00.

Please include this amount in your check if you are ordering Garden Mix, or, if not, please send your check for tilling to BCGA ASAP.

Screaming Green Dumpsters

The dumpsters arrived on the Labor Day weekend and will stay until October 21st, the day after the garden closes. Please do not park close to them and do not parallel park across from them by the island. We want to be sure that the huge truck has plenty of room to maneuver the heavy bins.

They are emptied on Monday, Wednesday and Saturday. If the dumpsters are full, then pile your refuse on your plot until the dumpsters have been emptied. **DO NOT** pile any refuse on the ground near the dumpsters.

Requests for 2020

Gardeners who would like to return to the garden in 2020 are welcome to make requests with regard to plot assignments.

We start a list in September and add to it when people send in requests by e-mail to BCGA. Please don't just tell a board member in the garden and expect that person to remember to put your request on the list!

Gardeners who have been responsible members of the garden and who have cleaned off their plots thoroughly have the option of keeping the same plot in 2020. However, some people will want a little more space, or perhaps less, or maybe a different location. Let BCGA know.

We won't know for sure until spring which gardeners will not be coming back, but if there is a plot you would claim if it came up vacant, feel free to specify it in your request. If two gardeners ask for the same plot then the first request prevails.

Ordering Garden Mix (cont.)

will be placed by the pile. Forty level-full buckets are equal to one cubic yard. Please measure responsibly if you are moving Mix yourself. Do not use any other bucket for measuring. Garden Mix must be tilled into the soil.

Using Rototillers

Two rototillers will be available at the garden all day on October 12-13-19 and 20. Gardeners must have a signed and notarized Motorized Equipment Release on file with BCGA in order to run a rototiller at the garden.

A list of Motorized Equipment Releases currently on file and a copy of the Release form are being sent to gardeners with this newsletter. If you plan to run a tiller and your name is not on this list, print out the form, sign it before a notary and mail it to BCGA by the end of September.

Long time gardeners were startled to see these dumpsters in place of the dark green ones Bestway has provided for many years. After a series of deals in late 2018, Colorado Springs-based Bestway Disposal now is owned by Canadian waste disposal giant GFL Environmental Inc.

BCGA thanks former owners Tom and Phil Kiemel for years of fine, reasonably priced service to the garden.