

BEAR CREEK GARDEN ASSOCIATION CALENDAR 2023

- Feb. 19** **Winter Potluck for Returning Gardeners –Gold Hill Mesa Community Center. 12:30 p.m. to 4. Details to be provided.**
- March 11** **Garden Class - "Growing Vegetables at the Charmaine Nymann Community Garden - Tips for Success." Bear Creek Nature Center.**
- April 1** **Orientation Meeting for New Gardeners – 10-11 a.m. at the Bear Creek Nature Center**
- April** **County tills the garden
Volunteers stake plots and define aisles**
- April 15** **Garden opens - weather permitting**
- Returning Gardeners check in at the garden between 9:00 a.m. and 12:00 noon. Purchase keys and badges and can order straw.**
- New Gardeners check in. Purchase keys and badges and can order straw. Onsite orientation (required). Gardeners will be scheduled in small groups starting at 1:00 p.m.**
- Planting begins - peas/spinach/lettuce/beets/kale/potatoes**
- May** **Water is turned on early in the month by the Parks Department
Average last killing frost is May 15th
Ladybugs and killdeer begin returning to the garden
Wind and cold protection essential for tender plants
Plant beans/corn/carrots after the soil warms up**
- May 27** **Plant and Tool Sale Bring extra plants and tools to donate between 8:00 and 9:00 a.m. Sale runs from 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Proceeds go to the Goat Fund.**
- June** **Plant squash/cucumbers after Memorial Day (June 1)
Plant tomatoes/peppers/eggplant/basil (use cold protection)
Begin harvesting greens
Keep plot moist as heat increases; spread straw mulch
Daylight lengthens – garden is open until dark**

- June 15** After this date, the gates must be locked at all times
- July** Cheyenne Mountain Zoo and Colorado Springs Food Rescue both start picking up donated produce from tarps by the Truck Gate mid-month
Keep after weeds and bugs; plant late season peas and spinach.
- July 31** Last day to spread straw mulch on plots
- August** Danger of hail is greatest the first week of August
Shorter daylight – garden closes at dark
- August 13** Summer Potluck. Gold Hill Community Center, 12:30 p.m. to 4.
Details to be provided.
- September** Dumpsters arrive at Labor Day for garden refuse
Zoo and Food Rescue continue to pick up excess produce until gardens close. Frost is possible from mid-month – cover the tomatoes!
Continue harvesting greens and root crops
- Sept.-Oct.** Workdays: Sept. 30, Oct.1, 7, 8, 14
- Average first killing frost is October 10, but often occurs in Sept.
- Garden mix/manure is delivered to plots of gardeners who ordered it
- All Plots must be cleared by the end of the day on October 14
- October 14** Garden is closed at 4 p.m.
- Sept. 13** Bear Creek Garden Association Annual Meeting 2 p.m.
Location to be announced

Workdays are generally scheduled for the third Saturday morning each month. Special workdays are scheduled for final weekends of the season.

May 20
June 17
July 15

August 19
September 16
September 30
October 1, 7, 8, 14

The Board of Directors meets monthly from February through November

Please notify a Board member of any of the following conditions:

- You will be gone more than two weeks
- You have to give up gardening and abandon your plot
- You need advice for weed or bug control
- You plan to use power equipment
- You find a leak in the water system
- The gate has been left unlocked (please lock it)
- You need a new key or badge
- You will not be able to meet your agreed to volunteer time and need to re-schedule it
- You see a job in the garden that you are qualified to help with

Please notify the Bear Creek Garden Association (or the Colorado Springs Police Department at 719-385-2100 or 911, if necessary) if you see anything that is dangerous or threatening to you in the park. We encourage you to work in the gardens only when another gardener is present and leave the garden at dark.

Please do not leave tools or equipment on your plot as this violates our agreement with the El Paso County Parks Department. Hoses and watering cans stored neatly on individual plots are permitted.

