



FALL PLANNING AND PLANTING

Fall is prime planting time in Southern California. Bugs are fewer, water demands lighter and plants happier—if they're cool-clime varieties that prefer mild SoCal winters. Many cool-weather crops are slow growers, so planting in early fall gives them ample time to mature, said master gardener Lucy Heyming.

"If you plant [in fall], the soil is still nice and warm, so your seeds and little plants develop faster than in cooler soil," Heyming said. "It's a fabulous time to plant."

Choose a spot with at least eight hours of sun. Clean up any garden debris that could harbor disease or pests, and amend the soil with compost or aged manure. If you're using pots, start with fresh soil (deposit old soil in your compost pile). Be careful not to over-water, which leads to rot in cool

temperatures. Push your finger about an inch into the soil and water only if it feels dry.

Planning 10 to 12 weeks before your first killing frost will help save your garden. Set out broccoli, Brussels sprouts, cabbage, cauliflower, kale, kohlrabi and cauliflower seedlings, along with celery, bulb fennel and parsley. Direct-sow beets, carrots, collards, leeks and scallions, along with more lettuce and radishes.



FARMERS MARKET A SUCCESS!

The Summer Farmers Market held on July 27 exceeded expectations, allowing the Garden Club to donate more than \$500 to the Orange County Food Bank. Residents and guests were treated to a vast selection of produce and flowers. Dozens of Garden Center gardeners harvested many varieties of vegetables from their own gardens to donate. Many attendees brought canned food and vegetables from their own gardens as donations. A big thank you to the volunteers and staff who

helped with the planning and organization of the event. Be sure to look for future announcements about next year's Farmers Market.



COURTESY WORKS FOR EVERYONE

Share tools and equipment—especially if you are not using them. Return any tools not in use to the tool sheds every day so others may use them. Check your water usage daily to avoid wasting this precious resource. Evaluate water timers to ensure they work properly and are programmed to the optimum setting.

Maintain vines, shrubs or bushes that tend to wander. Nothing is allowed to grow over or outside your fence. Trees are not permitted in your plot unless they are a dwarf variety and planted in a container.

Remove weeds continually. Keep your garden plot clear of debris and clutter (and nongarden items). Gardeners are obligated to plant fruits, vegetables and flowers 12 months out of the year. New gardeners are required to plant a garden within 30 days of plot ownership. At Garden Center 2, gravel is allowed outside the plots and in the paths only; mulch is allowed inside the plot areas only.



Common courtesy works wonders for everyone. If we all respect others' spaces, they will respect our space. Respect builds a strong foundation for courtesy.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Office Assistant: Phones, compliance tracking, communications, scheduling, mail, waiting list

Plot Administration: Plot numbering, compliance reports, inspections (water and weeds)

Garden Maintenance: Weeding, cleaning, pruning/trimming

Communications: Newsletter content, photos, interviews, story ideas

Database Administration Helper: Plot ownership tracking, lease renewals, phones

Special Projects: Vegepods, common areas supervision, water assistance (vacation help) and plot partner administration

Available almost any day and, in many cases, any time. Call **949-268-2387** or email mark.costello@vmsinc.org for registration and/or information.

Garden Reminders

- **Water** during Garden Center 1 summer hours: 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.
- **Remove** all weeds in/around your plot continually
- **Do not** bring pets
- **Do not** remove or pick any fruit or vegetables that are not yours
- **Drive** very slowly (10 mph) in both Garden Center parking lots
- **Notify** Garden Center 2 office about water leaks or excess runoff
- **Do not** smoke at Garden Centers
- **Report** suspicious activity to Security (**949-580-1400**) or the Garden Center office
- **Only** authorized staff may make Garden Center policy changes