

COMMUNITY GARDENERS OF MANITOWISH WATERS

NEWS



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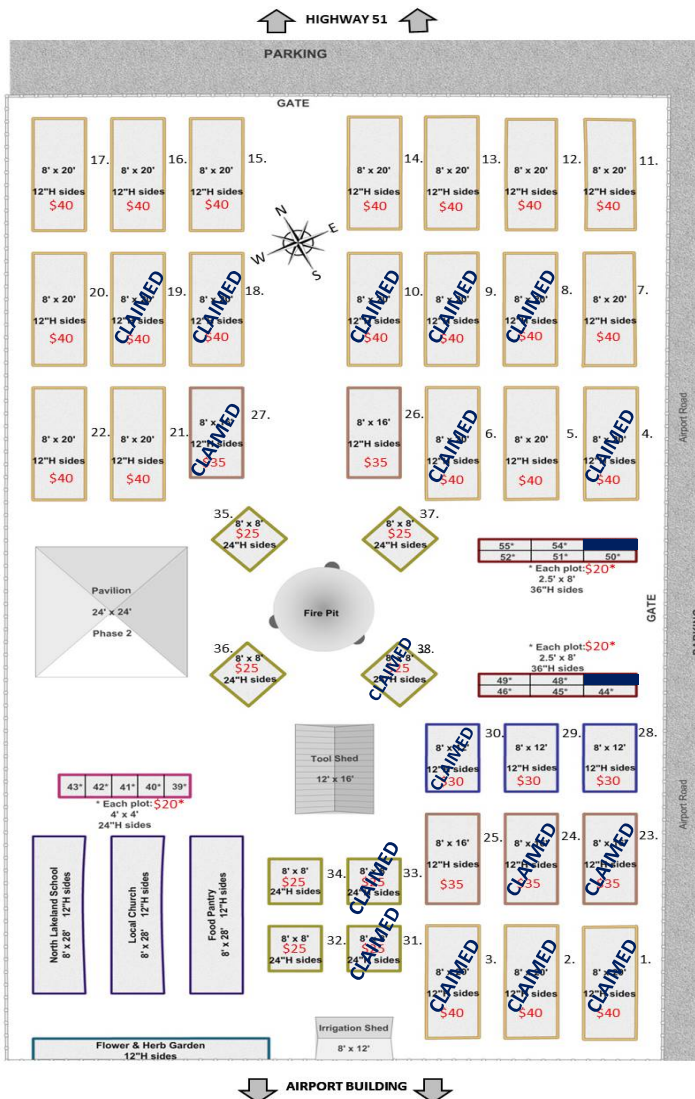
OPENINGS FOR A 2019 GARDEN PLOT ARE GOING FAST!

Thanks to everyone who responded to our January Newsletter or early February emailing. We began receiving your completed Registration forms and payments within days of opening our sign-up period! **Plots are being assigned on a first-come basis.** Please contact us at mwgsarden18@gmail.com if you want to receive a registration form via email.

HOW TO PLAN YOUR VEGETABLE GARDEN

As we get closer to our first planting season, no doubt many of you are a little bewildered by the complexity of planning your first vegetable garden and don't know where to start. Our neighbor and newsletter contributor, Judy Barry, will tell you that when planning a vegetable garden it's all too easy to jump in with both feet and try to grow as much as possible in the first year. But she will tell you, based on her own experience, that this is just setting yourself up for disappointment as the amount to learn, maintain and weed can quickly become overwhelming. Far better is to make a list of your favorite vegetables and narrow it down to the ones that taste best fresh or cost a lot to buy in the shops. Plan to focus on a few rows of selected vegetables, expanding as you become confident and find the timesaving shortcuts that work for you. Here are Judy's recommendations for placing plants in a new vegetable garden:

- ❖ **Tender Plants:** Plants such as tomatoes, peppers, eggplant, basil are the most fussy. Unless you think our growing season will be extremely warm, you'll want to reserve the best sunny spots in your garden for these crops - add them to your plan first.
- ❖ **Roaming Plants:** Next, place plants that like to send out vines that roam around the garden – melon, squash etc. These need to be situated at the edge of your vegetable beds so the broad leaves attached to the vines don't cover your other plants. Placing them at the edge lets them spread out.
- ❖ **Don't Overcrowd:** Tempting as though it is, be careful not to overcrowd plants as you add others to your plan. This is the number one mistake made by new gardeners and it's easy to see why – plants look so small as seedlings and we hate pulling up the result of our hard work just to thin them out.





News You Can Use!

from Judy Barry

We're one month closer to celebrating *Opening Day in the Garden!* While I'm not sure I can qualify as a "great" gardener, I can certainly claim much knowledge and insights gained through research, trial-and-error, and experience over the last 10 years.

My children actually influenced me to get into gardening. I just planted things I thought my family would eat. My black Lab was a tremendous inspiration as she was the first to show appreciation for my efforts – she would eat the cherry tomatoes right off the vine! And it wasn't too long before I discovered I had to fence off the garden, not only from her, but from hungry deer and rabbits.

So, as you start thinking about what you might plant, consider including the foods your family members like and will appreciate when it comes to meal time!

If you have any topics you'd like to see addressed in future newsletters, please let me know at mwgarden18@gmail.com .



Greetings, Parents! Remember, your children are welcome in the garden.

Gardening can be an excellent way to bring your family together in a healthy, outdoor setting. In this electronic age, kids need time for meaningful family "events" and gardening allows for working together and talking about what you are doing. Planning a garden, planting the seeds, and watching them grow give kids a sense of purpose and responsibility. Children of all ages can learn new skills in the garden, have fun, play, and develop self-confidence by tending plants and growing their own food.

The *Kid's Corner* will be a regular feature in future newsletters. If there is specific topic you would like to see covered, please let us know at mwgarden18@gmail.com .

Spotlight on: RADISHES
Difficulty growing: Easy
Nutritional value: High



Radishes bring quick results for the young gardener, germinating in 3-10 days, and with a very short growing season of 20-30 days. They can be planted closely, 4-6" apart. Plant in cool weather for a mild radish, or hot weather for a hotter radish.

<https://food.ndtv.com/food-drinks/10-incredible-radish-benefits-the-power-source-of-potassium-vitamin-c-and-fiber-1397076>

Spotlight on: CHERRY TOMATOES
Difficulty growing: Easy
Nutritional value: High



Gotta have 'em! These may be the most fun crop for a child, aside from strawberries. Plant in full sun and use seedlings rather than planting from seed. Put in a 2' stake alongside each seedling; they need to be tied loosely to stakes as they get taller. Growing season is 50-75 days.

<https://www.allthatgrows.in/blogs/posts/health-benefits-of-cherry-tomatoes>