



October, 2021

Vol 24

THE NEWSLETTER FOR FRIENDS HAVING FUN IN THE DIRT!

WHAT AN AMAZING GARDEN SEASON!

Almost 4 months of "perfect" growing weather have yielded bountiful harvests. Gardeners that experimented with new crops were pleased with the results of their efforts and learned more along the way. Master Gardener, Cheryl Pytlarz, shared her knowledge with us at events in the garden and at her home. Random "social gatherings" in our beautiful garden by folks from our community occurred more frequently this summer. And the Boulder Junction Food Pantry is thrilled with our "Thursday donations."



Tom "Farmer" Freeman



Master Gardener,
Cheryl Pytlarz



Exciting News!

WAY, WAY EXCITING!

Part of the original vision for GROW! Community Garden is to have a pavilion that will serve various functions such as; garden talks, social gatherings, cooking demonstrations, etc. We are pleased to announce that the garden has been awarded a generous donation from the May Family Foundation that will allow us to accomplish that goal.

Ed May was a new gardener this season. He and his sister, Karen Sislo are both long-time Manitowish Waters community members and sit on the board of the May Family Foundation. They share the vision for the garden, and the overall importance of the pavilion, as having a positive impact on our community.

The Steering Committee is at work coordinating the many phases of this project, which will be undertaken in 2022.

Please join us in thanking Ed, Karen, and the May Family Foundation for their support and very generous contribution.

THANK YOU!



Thank you to EVERYONE for helping to keep the garden an inviting and beautiful place "to be" every day.

From our great VOLUNTEERS who attend the occasional, "special" clean up events to ALL OF OUR GARDENERS who keep your plots and the surrounding areas tidy and weed-free . . . THANK YOU!



**Thank
you!**

from the



**Community Church
of Boulder Junction**



Through the generosity of our garden community and efforts of the volunteers who faithfully tended the Food Pantry plot all season, **we have donated 300 pounds** of produce as of September 30th!

A SPECIAL "SHOUT OUT" goes to the Food Pantry committee and volunteers for their commitment to gathering and delivering our weekly food donations:

- Tom Freeman
- Trish Lanser
- Jan & Rob Rude
- Fred & Anne Bachmann
- Meg Donoghue
- Scott Smith & Jane Liska-Smith
- John & Jean Langowski

To give you an idea of the impact we make . . .

On September 9th, Fred and Anne delivered **50.14 lbs of tomatoes ALONE!** The entire donation was 66.74 lbs. That's a lot to be very proud of! And I heard that one of the workers at the Food Pantry gave "someone" a big hug to show their appreciation (neither Fred nor Anne are admitting who received THE LOVE)!



**From the wacky world
of our resident
Daucus carota-ologist**

Hmmm... I wonder
who is still thinking
about CARROTS?!?!?!?



Take a look at this must-see YouTube video by our own Sarah Krembs (we heard she comes by her "style" from her dad).

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MKSepuVoUuA>

Dill Bread recipe:

<https://hilahcooking.com/dill-bread/>

In case you missed Sarah's first video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fcNupTyUjaU&t=0s>

just who is this "mom" Sarah talks about?

DOROTHY KREMBS, RETIRED TEACHER
& AVID GARDENER (PLOT #50)



Growing Sweet Corn in the Community Garden

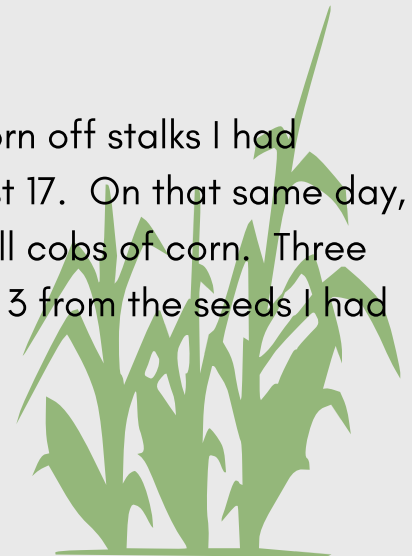
Sweet corn, cooked and eaten just minutes after it's picked off the stalk is truly a taste of heaven. It is one of my favorite vegetables. Our bed in the community garden with its full day of sun exposure, finally gave me the joyous opportunity to grow it here in northern Wisconsin. I chose variety Sweetness II, from Johnny's seed catalog.

Last year (2020) I started 50 sweet corn plants from seeds under grow lights in my home. In the first week of June I planted the 45 surviving plants into our community garden bed all on the same day, and by the end of July they were producing a great harvest. Unfortunately, because all the seeds had been planted at the same time, it all ripened at the same time. We shared some, but still we could not eat it fast enough before the sugars started turning to starch, which makes corn less sweet and tender. Very sad. So I was determined to find a way to grow sweet corn that would extend the harvest over a longer period of time.

This summer I planted 45 plants in 3 stages. In early May, I planted the first batch of seeds under grow lights in my home. I put these plants into the ground in the first week of June. On that same day, I planted the second batch of seeds directly into the garden soil. The third week of June, I planted the third batch of seeds directly into the ground.

On July 29, I harvested the first crop....5 full cobs of sweet corn off stalks I had planted as seedlings. These plants produced corn until August 17. On that same day, the stalks I had planted as batch 2 started producing ripe, full cobs of corn. Three weeks later on September 8, I harvested the corn from batch 3 from the seeds I had planted into the ground in mid June.

See the RESULTS on the next page . . .



Here are the results of my experiment....

Batch 1: Seeds planted under grow lights in early May, transplanted into the ground in first week of June.

Total Harvest: 19 fully developed cobs, 8 - 10" long, all kernels full and ripe.

Batch 2: Seeds planted directly into the ground on the same day that I planted the seedlings into the ground

Total Harvest: 18 cobs, some not developed kernels all the way to end of cob, measured 5-6" long.

Batch 3: Seeds planted directly into the ground in 3rd week of June.

Total Harvest: 1 cob, 7" long, kernels not developed all the way to end of the cob.

Conclusion: Planting sweet corn seeds under grow lights and transplanting them into the ground in early June is the most reliable method for producing the largest, fully developed sweet corn.

If you do not have space, time or equipment to start seeds under grow lights, planting seeds directly into the ground in very early June will produce good corn which you can start harvesting in August. Planting seeds directly into the ground later in June is a waste of time, at least with this variety.

These are the results of my experiment from only one year so I cannot claim any definitive results from just one trial. However, it was enough for me to determine what I will do next year. Next year I will buy Sweetness II from

Johnny's Seeds again. I will plant the first batch of sweet corn seeds under grow lights in mid April, another batch in early May, and a third batch in mid May. I will plant all three batches of seedlings into the ground in early June.

The experiment goes on.....

