

MCGA Monthly Newsletter

September 2025



Come to our Fall Social and Harvest Gathering 2025! As our gardening season comes to a close, we'd love to gather together and celebrate all that we've grown this year!
Connect, relax and share!

WHEN: Saturday, October 4, 4-6 pm at the garden (RSVP on our website under "Work Parties")

WHAT TO BRING: Seeds to share and swap (optional), fresh produce to exchange (optional), your own mug or cup for refreshments, a chair/blanket to sit on. Click [HERE](#) if you want to volunteer to bring items.

WE'LL PROVIDE: Light refreshments and a welcoming space to enjoy each other's company.

What better way to wrap up the season than by swapping gardening tips and visiting with your garden neighbors. We hope you'll join us!!

Click here: [Check our website](#)

Click here: [Use this email address to contact the board for any reason](#)



NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT: Gia P.

Dear MCGA Gardeners,

As we enter September, it's time to make the most of the month by harvesting our crops. We might be thinking about either gardening in the fall and early winter or closing our gardens down and putting our

garden beds to sleep. However, before we do either, we plan to host a fall social and a veggie/seed swap. This event is a great way to share our abundance with our fellow garden neighbors. NOTE: If you need help harvesting your abundant produce, we are happy to help glean healthy vegetables for Hopelink. (also see "Mentorship article" below).

As we approach the end of our growing season, the board will once again offer straw* this fall as a great way to mulch our plots and preserve soil structure. As our gardens lie dormant (mostly dormant because some gardeners do extend their season) until next spring, adding a thick layer of protection to your soil is essential for preserving nutrients and protecting one of the most valuable "players" in the garden. Furthermore, before placing protective mulch in our gardens, we need to remove all pernicious weeds that will consume nutrients from our soil. If you need help with these tasks, please don't hesitate to reach out to mentorship for assistance.

If you will not be returning to the Marymoor Community Garden association in the spring, please weed and close down your garden to make it rentable for the next lucky gardener.

Gia

*Straw Pick up is 9/16 and 9/26 (Go to the Store on the website to order in advance if you have not already)



GARDENER

SPOTLIGHT: Marv F.

For twenty years, Mary Ann and I have gardened at Marymoor. It means much more than soil and sunlight - it has been a source of many friends, and an enjoyable summer stage.

By June, the plot begins yielding peas and onions;

followed by starts of favorite "Early Girl" tomatoes and Italian beans, Hilda variety.

The Early Girl tomatoes produce an apple sized fruit and the mouth watering pleasure only garden picked tomato can provide. I have grown this variety for over fifty years. The Italian bean, Hilda, has outstanding flavor and freezes well so its flavor can be enjoyed until the next crop arrives. The climbing bean forms a beautiful cover as it twines gracefully up the trellis, reaching higher each day.

Along the edges of the plot, the dahlias - bold, burst of color - a constant task of deadheading starts in June and lasts through September.

Tucked away is the thornless marionberries. They have a delicious sweet-tart flavor. We have been successful in limiting the spread of the bush suckers by using a five-gallon bucket with the bottom removed, when the plant was started.

The garden is a patchwork of friends, labor, love and sharing. I enjoy the work parties, chatter, laughter and quiet dedication. My favorite is meeting neighbors across rows, swapping stories and starter plants. The friendships that grow here are as enjoyable as the vegetables.

In the evenings, when the air cools and the shadows stretch, you pause with dirt still under your nails, looking over the twenty-year canvas you've tended. Each leaf and blossom holds a piece of history - a season's effort, a neighbor's kindness, a shared smile. Summer here isn't just a season, it is the living proof of two decades of care, community, and the quiet joy that grows when hands meet the soil year after year.

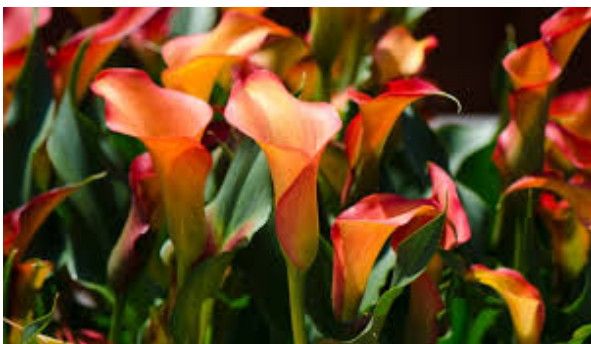
Marvin and Mary Ann garden at plot G-13.

WHAT TO PLANT NOW: Michelle R.

The fall season is upon us! We're mostly focused on harvesting, but that doesn't mean we can't keep adding selected seeds or starts. September daylight hours and low temperatures mimic early spring conditions. This means in the first weeks you can seed those "earliest crops" again for late fall. Tuck in seeds of radishes, arugula, and the fastest yielding lettuce varieties. Consider visiting your local nursery or garden center to buy starts of broccoli, lettuces, and even herbs like cilantro, parsley, and sage.

If you love perennial flowers, September is the perfect time to transplant your favorites. **Divide and transplant** Delphinium, Iris, Calla Lilly, and Lavender. Fall is a great time to plant new roses to develop strong root systems during cool, winter rains while they are dormant. Broadcast annual poppy seed for ravishing spring flowers.

Order or divide starts of Oriental poppies now for perennially spectacular blooms. Share with your neighbors!



BASIL, BASIL, BASIL...CILANTRO & PARSLEY TIME !

Make some Pesto this month. YUM! Google some good recipes and instructions to use basil, cilantro, parsley, pine nuts, walnuts, olive and other oils to make and freeze in small containers to enjoy all winter!

WHAT TO HARVEST NOW: Michelle R.

HERE COMES THE BIG 2025 HARVEST! Tomatoes, potatoes, carrots, beets, beans, artichokes, squash, and flowers in all their seasonal glory...Absolutely ravishing!

IT'S ALL TOMATOES and SQUASH ALL THE TIME!



POTATOES: This is the bonanza harvest month you've waited so patiently for! Use care digging for these treasures to avoid cutting damage. Store them in cool, dry conditions. Bag them in burlap or net bags and store in dark, dry, cool locations. Garages and cool basements are great - just keep them in **dark** conditions to prevent premature eye sprouting. Refrigerators are fine too!



BEETS: If you planted in July & August, they are maturing beautifully this month. Enjoy big fat beets, and the smaller, tender, less mature baby beets - a true delicacy. Remember, **beet greens are a super-food!** Loaded with vitamins and delicious sauteed with garlic, olive oil, in stir fries, and added to fall soups. Don't waste their beauty!

FOLLOW THE FOOD BANK GARDENS: Carol J.



As summer winds down, our garden is bursting with generosity—and green beans! Thanks to the dedication of our garden service workers, we've harvested an impressive amount of produce for the food bank this season.

Here's what's happening now:

- **Beans galore:** We have a bumper crop of beans ready for picking. Trained volunteers are especially needed to help harvest regularly, efficiently and gently. **Flexible service hours are available.**
- **Potatoes & onions:** These staples have started their journey to Hopelink. We've sent 200 pounds of onions already. The potatoes will be harvested this month.
- **Work parties ahead: Keep an eye out for upcoming harvest events—your help makes a real difference.**

Whether you're a seasoned picker or just bean-curious, we'd love to have you join us. Every hand helps feed our neighbors.

UPDATE: Shed & Workbench 2025: Carol J.

We're excited to share that our long-awaited garden workbench and shed project is officially underway!



Site Preparation: Caution tape and boundary markers are now in place to ensure safety and clarity around the construction zone.

Demolition Complete: The original shed was successfully removed on August 28.

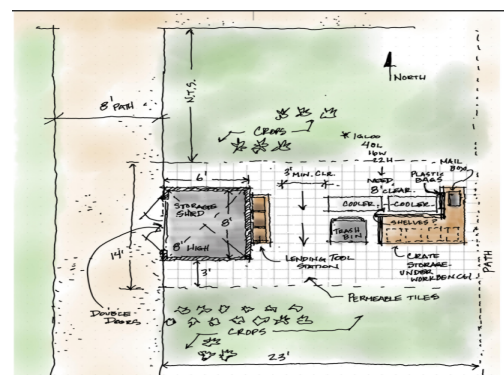
Soil Migration: We are in the process of moving soil from Plot B and relocating it to Plot H to help level the site and prepare for the next phase.

Foundation Readiness: We're now gearing up for foundation construction, with materials and plans in motion.

Thank you for your patience: We've shifted the tools, ice chests and other items around a bit. Please do not use the pathway in the main food bank garden, detour and use the main garden pathways.

Upcoming Work Parties: Join us on September 6 and 7 as we haul gravel and continue building momentum together.

This project reflects the spirit of collaboration and stewardship that defines our garden community. Thank you to everyone who's contributed time, tools, and encouragement—we're off to a strong start!



FEATURE ARTICLE: Give Your Garden a Winter Blanket! Ankit P.

As we head into the fall, it's time to think about tucking our gardens in for the winter. One of the best ways to do this is with cover crops! Cover crops are plants grown to cover and improve the soil. They act as a living mulch, protecting our precious garden soil from winter rains and preventing erosion. But that's not all – they also suppress weeds, break up compacted soil, and can even add valuable nutrients back into the ground for next year's veggies.

This year, the Marymoor Community Garden Association is organizing our first-ever Cover Crop Seed Giveaway! Courtesy of King County Conservation District (KCD), we have a limited supply of three fantastic cover crop seeds, specially selected for their benefits in our Pacific Northwest gardens. We encourage everyone to experiment with these in their plots. You can try a mix of all three or select specific seeds based on your soil's needs.

Here are the seeds we'll be giving away:

- Forage Radish: Have you noticed areas in your garden where the soil is hard and compacted? Forage radishes are the answer! These plants are great for breaking up compaction with their strong taproots, improving soil structure and drainage.
- Fava Beans: Fava beans are a wonderful nitrogen-fixing legume. This means they work with bacteria in the soil to pull nitrogen from the air and store it in their roots. When you turn the fava bean plants into the soil in the spring, that nitrogen becomes available for your next crops, acting as a natural fertilizer. Plus, they produce edible beans!
- Crimson Clover: If you're looking for a beautiful and beneficial cover crop, look no further than crimson clover. Like fava beans, crimson clover is a nitrogen-fixer that is relatively easy to manage. It produces a stunning carpet of red blooms in the spring that provides an early source of nectar for pollinators. Imagine your garden waking up with these beautiful flowers!

Join Us for the Seed Giveaway!

Come to this Board-sponsored event on Saturday, September 6th, and Sunday, September 7th, to pick up your free seeds. This is a great opportunity to learn more about cover cropping and prepare your garden for a healthy winter.

Please remember to bring your own bags or packets to collect the seeds. We have a limited supply for this first year, so seeds will be distributed on a first-come, first-served basis until they run out.

Sign up for the date you'd like pick up your seeds:

[My Work Party Sign-ups](#)



MENTORSHIP: Mary Anne S.

The summer is ending fast and hopefully leaving all of us with full pantries, freezers and memories of harvesting and, of course, weeding, during the beautiful days we have had this summer.

As the fall arrives officially on the equinox (September 21-22), mentorship is sponsoring a harvest festival. Anyone with extra produce wishing to donate it to the food bank is welcome to do so. We will be organizing volunteers to pick produce if you wish to donate but do not have the time to harvest it yourself. Just an email to mentorship can get a volunteer to harvest what you wish to donate. Every fall there is an abundance in the gardens that goes into the compost but mentorship is providing a means to give this abundance to the food bank with only a simple email from you. If you wish to save yourself the time and work of freezing or canning this is the perfect solution. Of course, donations can be made to the food bank at any time as well.

During these summer months mentorship has been active in supporting gardeners. Mentorship offers a system for watering coverage, support in plot maintenance, and in unexpected health or family situations. Mentorship provided watering support to 13 plots in 29 work parties. Gardeners received other support through 6 other assistance work parties. These support systems are available with a simple request to mentorship. Volunteers providing the work earn service hours. This has been a winning program for all gardeners.

One of the mentors, Pam (mentor for section G) gave a "Demo Your Garden" talk on August 24. She demonstrated gardening in a small space raised bed using an [Olla](#) for effective and efficient watering. Congrats to Pam for a great educational presentation.

With fall approaching it is time to begin planning the winter crops and winterizing your garden beds. Don't miss Gia's cover crop information and seed exchange. Also, watch your in-box for the next mentorship event: garden winterizing. No date is set but it will likely be before the ghosts and goblins of Halloween come out. Enjoy what remains of a great gardening season.

YOUR MENTORS BY SECTION:

A Candyce B. mentor.section.a@marymoorgarden.org
B Yukie S. mentor.section.b@marymoorgarden.org
C Sarah L. mentor.section.c@marymoorgarden.org
D Clariz M. mentor.section.d@marymoorgarden.org
E Elena B. mentor.section.e@marymoorgarden.org
F Anupa R. mentor.section.f@marymoorgarden.org
G Pam W. mentor.section.g@marymoorgarden.org
H Kristine A. mentor.section.h@marymoorgarden.org
I Shaina C. mentor.section.i@marymoorgarden.org
X Anna S. mentor.section.x@marymoorgarden.org
Y Anna S. mentor.section.y@marymoorgarden.org
Z Anna S. mentor.section.z@marymoorgarden.org

BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2025

President- Gia P

Vice President-Vinay M

Treasurer-Karen P

Secretary-Michael L

Tech Officer-Ken A

Mentorship Officer-Mary Anne S

Grounds Officer/Liaison-Amy C

Food Bank Officer-Carol J

Newsletter Officer-Betsy G

[Email board members](#)

Board Meetings 2025: Join by Zoom Link

Remaining Board Meetings will be held on **September 17, October 15, and November 19**. We welcome your attendance at all board meetings. Please join us via this link: [Board Meeting Zoom Link](#)

Board Members

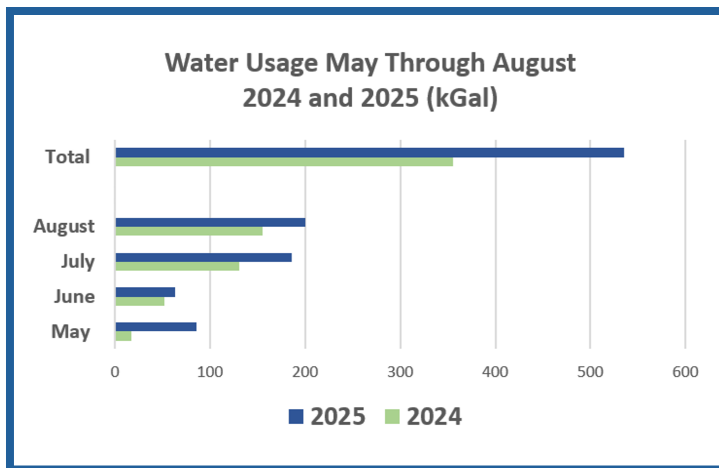
The board is happy to announce that we are always taking applications for new board members. This is a great opportunity to help direct the management of our gardens! Here's how to apply: Review Article IV; Section 2: Appointment: [By-Laws](#) | [MCGA marymoorgarden.org](#)
[MCGA Calendar](#) [MCGA Newsletter](#)

WATER Usage: Robin B.

Our new watering hours are from 7 AM to 9 PM.

We recently started a faucet conversion project. As of this writing, the faucets along the gravel road and in section C have been replaced with more to come. A big thanks to Marymoor Park and King County for this work.

We are still having water loss due to faucets left open when they are not in use. Please keep an eye out for this. And, an enormous thanks to the volunteers who arrive early in the morning to ensure that all of the valves are closed before the water turns on every day.



The plot above shows 2025 usage totals along with the same for 2024. During August this year, we used 193,520 gallons of water. We've used 530,000 total gallons this year.

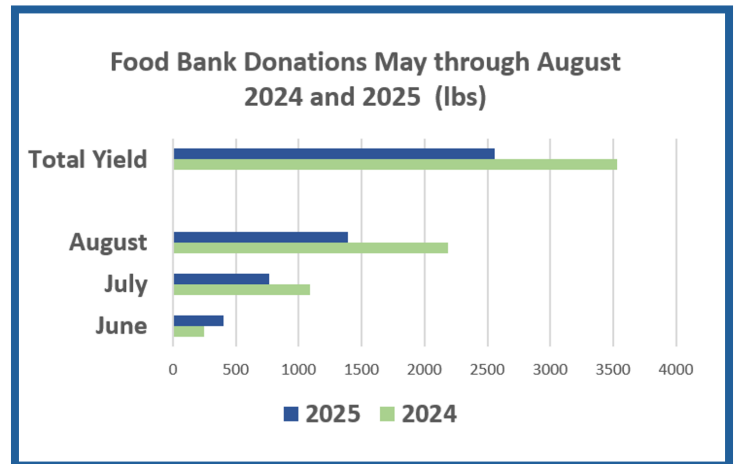
Please work to conserve. Every bit helps. Thank you so much!

A LITTLE SONG FOR YOU: Eddie Vedder - Save It For Later (Official Audio)

FOOD BANK Donations!: Robin B.

The Food Bank Garden donated 1390 pounds of produce in August, for a total of 2557 pounds so far this year.

Thanks to all who do the hard, important work that allows this bounty to happen every year. It makes a huge difference for a lot of people.



Website Information

[FAQ Page](#) | [MCGA](#)

[Rules and Policies](#) | [MCGA](#)

Garden Work Parties:

Sign up for all planned work parties here, when they become available: [MCGA Calendar](#)

Gardeners: Your gifting contributions are needed!

Follow the link below and scroll to the bottom of the page if you'd like to make a donation. Thank you!

[Home](#) | [Marymoor Community Garden Association](#)



The "GARDEN REMINDERS"

section can now be found on the website under the [Newsletter Tab](#). It is a large article that contains a lot of useful information. Please take a moment to read it!