**2015 Gardener Information**

**SAVE THE DATE: First Garden Work Day – 9:00-11:00 am, Saturday, March 28, 2015**

This is an important start to the gardening season that includes a variety of tasks for everyone to lend a hand with: Clearing debris; repairing fencing; checking over equipment such as hoses, mower, and rototiller; mulching walkways; etc. Families are welcome and snacks will be provided!

**Future Garden Work Dates – TBA**

**Deadline for Agreement and Fees**
Please get us your signed paperwork and fees **by** **March 28.** After the deadline, we will offer unclaimed plots to others who are interested.
 **Using the Tiller**
On the back wall of the shed, next to the end of the lockers is a document with directions for using the tiller.  If you have questions, please refer to that document.
 **Community Tools and Tiller**
We have a good supply of gardening tools and a good tiller that is for all gardeners' use.  The tools are in the lockers on the East side of the back wall of the shed.  The combination for the tiller and the lockers with the tools is 2008 (the year the garden was established).  Please clean, put away and lock everything up when you are finished using it.
 **Herbicides and Pesticides**
Only a few chemicals are allowed in our garden.  Because of this, we are not technically organic.  We allow the following chemicals because they are non-toxic and biodegradable:

    **Herbicides: Roundup**
             **IMPORTANT**: Do **NOT** use Roundup on a windy day because it could contaminate

 others' crops.  It will kill **ALL** plants, not just weeds.

 **Pesticides: Rotenone or Sevin**

**\*\*\* Direct any questions regarding the use of chemicals to the Garden Administrator.**

**Rats, Voles & Moles**

We pay American Pest Management to help us control the population of rats and voles in the garden.  If the APM technician finds any open burrow holes, he will bait the holes with poison and mark them with a flag.  *Please do not till or disturb the ground anywhere within 1 ft. of the flags and do not remove the flags for several days.  There are also bait stations (gray boxes) placed around the perimeter of the garden.  Please keep an extra careful eye on children and be sure they do not touch the bait stations or the flags or dig anywhere near them.  Remember the bait stations and burrows are baited with POISON.*

We have had some mole activity in the past.  Once plants are well established, moles won't hurt them much but they can make it hard for plants to root if they disturb the plants' growth during the initial growing phase.  We don't anticipate the mole activity to be a huge problem, but if it is, you may use mole traps to get rid of them.

**Compost**
If you are a resident of Olathe, you can get free compost from the city of Olathe.  This is the website to check it out:  http://www.olatheks.org/OMS/YardWaste

**Note**:  For those of you new to gardening, compost is decomposed organic matter that enriches the soil and is great for gardening.  It is good to spread it over your entire garden plot if it is available to you.

*Approved items for composting can be viewed in the Compost List document* (attached). This is also posted on the inside wall of the garden shed. **Please adhere closely to this list.**

**Master Gardener Hot Line**For all your gardening questions, they will either answer them right away or research the answers for you and call you back.  This is an invaluable resource.  I highly recommend using them.  The hot line is staffed by trained master gardener volunteers and extension staff. http://www.johnson.ksu.edu/p.aspx?tabid=116  **Plant Nurseries and Seed Sellers**
The following are some local nurseries and seed providers that we recommend.

* Olathe Grass Pad Warehouse:  913-764-4100, 425 N. Rawhide Olathe, KS 66062
* Planter’s Seed & Spice Company: (816) 842-3651, 513 Walnut St, Kansas City, MO 64106
* True Value Hardware Stores within the metro area
* The Flower Farm:  (913) 856-8517 , or visit us at 20335 S. Moonlight Rd., Gardner,Ks 66030
* Pendleton's Country Market:  (785) 843-1409, 1446 East 1850 Road, Lawrence, KS 66046