

GARDEN GAZETTE

YK Community Garden Collective website: <http://groups.google.com/group/ykgarden>

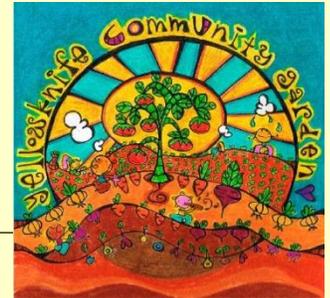
Spring Social

**Spring is sprung
Da grass is riz
I wonder where dem boidies iz
Da little boids is on da wing
Ain't dat absoid
Da little wings is on da boid**

Okay, okay, maybe the grass hasn't "riz" yet, but spring, such as it is in Yellowknife is definitely on its way, and a sure sign of that is the annual Garden Collective "Spring Social" .

All gardeners, and prospective gardeners are welcome to come, meet each other, socialize, share some food, and get excited about the upcoming gardening season.

Bring along something to nibble (along with your own plate and mug), to share with other gardeners.



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This is also the time to think about how you can contribute to the collective. There will be sign-up sheets for volunteer jobs at each site.

The Spring Social will be held:

When: Tuesday, April 20
Time: 7:00 to 9:00 pm
Where: Northern United Place
(5403 Franklin Ave.)

Weledeh School Garden

We are well on our way to developing a fourth garden site, thanks to the initiative of Merril Dean, Principal of Weledeh Catholic School, who approached YCGC about partnering with Weledeh school to develop another garden.

A Memorandum of Understanding has been signed between the school and collective, outlining the way that the partnership will work, with roles and responsibilities of each party.

Basically, the garden will operate much like the other sites, with the main difference being that community gardeners will be paired with "buddies", who may be students or staff, or Weledeh families.

A BIG thank you to the funders who are generously supporting the creation of the Weledeh Garden: NWT PowerCorp, TD Bank, BHP Billiton and the City of Yellowknife!

2009/2010 Board



Shannon Ripley	<i>Chair</i>
Dwayne Wohlgemuth	<i>Co-Chair</i>
Vera Raschke	<i>Secretary</i>
Gerald Enns	<i>Treasurer</i>
Eve Peterson	<i>Membership</i>
Michelle Currimbo	<i>Liaison Coordinator</i>
Caroline Lafontaine	<i>Education</i>
Rosella Stoesz	<i>Publicity</i>
David Taylor	<i>Site 1 Manager</i>
Jeroen Slagter	<i>Site 2 Manager</i>
Craig Scott	<i>Old Town Manager</i>

To contact a board member, email: yellowknife.garden@gmail.com

Spring Workshops

Get Your Garden Growing – Soils & Spring Planting

What: Learn all about the life and times of your garden soil, how to build healthy soil and exchange planting tips. Topics include soil nutrients, soil testing, composting and companion planting.

When: Wed. May 5, 7–9 pm

Where: To Be Announced

Cost: By donation. This event is open to the public – everyone is welcome! For more information email yellowknife.garden@gmail.com.

Backyard and Worm Composting

What: Part of Ecology North's Earth Week. Are you curious about composting? Learn how to turn your kitchen scraps into a rich, usable fertilizer for your garden! Bring a small container to carry worms home in!

When: Sat., April 24, 10 am – 12 pm

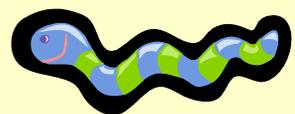
Where: Northern United Place. For more information call Jamie at 873–6019.

Northern Gardening Teahouse

What: Ecology North presents as part of its 2010 Earth Week... Come and have your northern gardening questions answered in a casual drop-in atmosphere! Local experts will be ready and waiting to answer any question you may have.

When: Saturday, April 24th 12 – 3 pm

Where: Northern United Place
For more information call Jamie at 873–6019.



Meet your Site Managers



Dave Taylor (Site 1)

"My role is to monitor the state of the garden and arrange repairs and maintenance as needed; I also supervise work bees and ensure gardeners are maintaining their plots. I've been gardening at the site for a couple of years now and really enjoy watching things grow and helping new gardeners get started with their own vegetable patch."



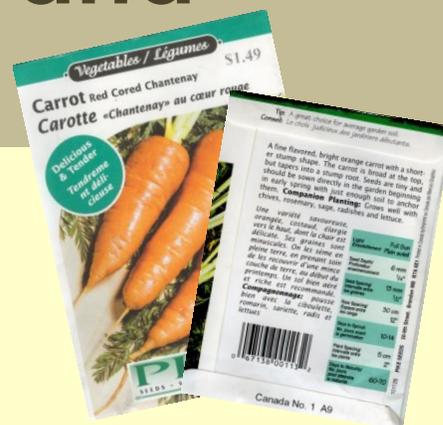
Jeroen Slagter (Site 2)

"Hello I'm the site 2 manager for 2010. I will be organizing volunteers to complete annual work (e.g. spring and fall cleanups) as well as any other projects that arise this season. what I don't want to do is remind people of garden etiquette. Please contact me throughout the season with any concerns. Happy gardening!"



Craig Scott (Old Town) *"The Old Town gardeners did a tremendous amount of work last year to get the garden in before the season, and everyone seemed very pleased with their harvest. This year we'll be expecting everyone out to make the garden even better. Jobs will include everything from: moving dirt, upgrading the berry plot, building more compost bins, establishing a better water connection, etc. If anyone has any concerns or ideas to help out this year I'll see you at the Spring Social."*

What not to Grow, and Seeds of Success



Plan your garden. Create your own design – raised beds, short rows, long rows, squares? Draw it, decide what to grow and where. Keep crop rotation in mind, as well as height of plants (not to shade other plants), distance needed between rows, angle of the light, aesthetics, shade, sheltered or not. Different vegetables have different needs, e.g. some need more nitrogen than others, some tolerate shade. Think about how much or little space you have and what varieties are your preference. Ask yourself how much salad can you really eat? Consider planting for maximum yield. What experiments do you want to do this year?

What not to grow: Anything that is not hardy to zone 0a. Unless you have a greenhouse, you will not have much success with cucumbers, tomatoes, basil, peppers, melons, pumpkins, squash, lima beans or any other vegetable or herb that require hot temperatures and a longer season to mature. Parsnips and corn are possible but not a high yield.

Seeds of success: Pick seeds with the least amount of days to maturity. Average frost free days: May 27 through September 15, (110 days) though other sources say we only have around 70 frost free days. Some lower lying areas have less (such as the Old Town site).

Where to buy: Save yourself some money and wasted time, by ensuring you buy good quality seed. Planning ahead is a good idea, as we are not always assured the best by buying last minute seeds.

Helpful hints: Consider ordering some garden blankets/floating row covers with your seed order. The blankets put over top of the freshly seeded ground provide shelter, raised temperature and some protection against a spring frost. Planting time can be pushed forward by 8 to 14 days by using this method.

TEST & NURTURE the soil before planting: test and turn soil and add what is missing, remove weeds including roots.
from Seed Selection Workshop handout (Lone Sorensen).

Some “food for thought”
Seeds of Diversity <http://www.seeds.ca/en.php> is a Canadian charitable organization dedicated to the conservation, documentation and use of public-domain non-hybrid plants of Canadian significance as well as plant biodiversity, heritage gardening, organic gardening, and seeds.

Seeds of Change: <http://www.seedsofchange.com/> . There's an exciting new movement sweeping the globe that focuses on local sustainability in response to peak oil and climate change. One goal of this movement is to grow and buy more food locally. This simple, logical concept aims to improve food quality, reduce exposure to pesticides and genetically modified crops, and save resources.

