

What's Growing On in the garden?

Germantown Hills School Garden Newsletter

September 11, 2007

What's Blooming Now...

<i>What?</i>	<i>Where?</i>
Knockout Roses.....	Herb Garden & Bulb Garden
Wave Petunias.....	Herb, Butterfly, Blue & White Gardens
Russian Sage.....	Herb Garden
Black Eyed Susan vine.....	Butterfly Garden & Prairie Garden
Coneflowers.....	Butterfly Garden & Prairie Garden
Butterfly Bushes.....	Butterfly Garden
Sedum.....	Butterfly Garden
Dahlias.....	Butterfly Garden
Mums.....	Bulb Garden
Purple Fountain Grass.....	Bulb Garden
New England Asters.....	Blue & White Garden
Nepata (Catmint).....	Blue & White Garden
Hardy Ageratum (Mistflower).....	Blue & White Garden
Mexican Hat.....	Prairie Garden
Dwarf Fountain Grass.....	Prairie Garden
Northern Sea Oats.....	Prairie Garden
Little Bluestem.....	Prairie Garden
Indian Grass.....	Prairie Garden
Prairie Dropseed.....	Prairie Garden
Marigolds.....	Vegetable Garden
Nasturtium.....	Vegetable Garden



Butterfly bush

Latin: Buddleia davidii
The name "summer lilac" was given to the early hybrids by French nurserymen, many of whom developed the French lilacs of that same period. During the 1920's the name "butterfly bush" became popular as a common name and seems to have replaced the first common name for the species.



Hardy Ageratum

Common Name: Mistflower
Flat-topped clusters of small, soft-blue, fuzzy flowers appear amidst the bright green foliage of this perennial Wild Ageratum. If cut back in half in early summer, these plants will form a lovely clump for the perennial garden. Or, if left unpinched, the result will be an open mound about 2 feet tall in sun (3 feet in shade), with flowers from July through October.



Marigold

The common name, "marigold", is derived from "Mary's Gold", the plant is associated with the Virgin Mary in Christian stories. The marigold was regarded as the flower of the dead in pre-Hispanic Mexico, and is still widely used in the Day of the Dead celebrations. The marigold is also widely cultivated in India in garlands and decoration for weddings, festivals, and religious events.

Fall Color Starts...

<i>What?</i>	<i>Where?</i>
Burning Bush.....	beside pond (bright red leaves)
Witch Hazel.....	beside pond (yellow leaves)
Redbud Tree.....	Shade Garden (dark red leaves)
Chokecherry.....	Bird Garden (look at the berries!)

What's Next: Our bulbs are ordered and on their way! We will be arranging with teachers so classes can plant bulbs in mid October. This will be lots of fun for the kids and a great learning experience for everyone. We will cover fall bulbs in the next newsletter.

Teachers: if there is a particular plant or plant project you would like to be involved in, please let us know. We are always looking for ideas for the newsletter.

We have volunteers arranged to fill the birdbath and feeders, thanks to all!

Our Vegetable Garden Was A Huge Success!

If anyone doubted the power of turkey compost, all you have to do is take a look at our vegetable garden. All of our vegetables grew very well. We have been harvesting fresh veggies since May. The green beans and lettuce and radishes may be done now, but we still have tomatoes, gourds and chard available. We should have several more weeks of fresh tomatoes. Our herb garden is thriving as well. Feel free to help yourself to any of these fresh veggies and herbs - they are for everyone to enjoy. Once frost comes it will all be over until next year.



Check out how tall our sunflowers grew!
They were taller than the school building!



Everything looks fantastic!

Here is what we planted this year in our Vegetable Garden:

- Sunflowers
- Indian Corn
- Tomatoes
- Cherry Tomatoes
- Heirloom Tomatoes
- Green Beans
- Carrots
- Radishes
- Lettuce
- Rainbow Chard
- Marigolds
- Nasturtiums
- Gourds
- Pumpkins

Here is what we planted this year in our Herb Garden:

- Tansy
- Mint
- Garlic
- Oregano
- Thyme
- Basil
- Flat Parsley
- Curled Parsley
- Chives
- Purple Sage
- Feverfew

Please feel free to offer any suggestions or requests for next year. We will buy our seeds and plant starters in April so the students can plant the garden when spring arrives early in May.

Sunflower seed heads for the birds!

Have you noticed that the sunflower seed heads that are drying in the hall? We will be using these dried sunflower seeds to feed the birds that come to our garden this winter.

1. Allow the sunflower seed heads to dry completely. This may take several weeks, especially for the really large ones.
2. Cut about 12-15 inches of rope or string.
3. Poke a small hole in a corner of the seed head for the rope or use the remaining stem to attach the rope.
4. Hang from any of our trees or the feeders.
5. If you build it, they will come!



PS: If you try this at home, watch out for the squirrels, they love sunflower seeds too!



Check out the fall display of our pumpkins and Indian corn!

The Indian corn and the pumpkins ripened really early this year due to really hot temperatures and lots of rain - the perfect combination for both. The Indian corn will dry nicely and remain with us for several months. Unfortunately ripening too early also means that our pumpkins will be rotting by Halloween. We can harvest the gourds on the trellis as soon as the vines die back.

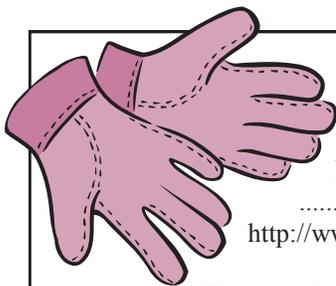
The Hummingbird feeders everywhere!

Take a walk around the garden and enjoy all the hummingbirds that are dining on the fresh sugar water. But, watch out, they swoop through the air with no regard! The simple recipe is one part sugar to 4 parts water. Mix well. Place in the microwave until it comes to a boil. Drop in a couple of ice cubes to cool it quickly, or let it sit until it reaches room temperature. This



mixture will keep well for a couple of weeks if refrigerated. DO NOT add any food coloring. The hummers are attracted by the red and yellow on the feeder, not by color in their food. Food coloring is actually harmful to the hummingbirds.

Thanks to all of those who contributed to food for the 2007 Hummingbird migration!



Websites and Resources

- http://botanical.com/site/column_rita/marigold.html.....Marigold facts
- <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tagetes>.....Marigold history
- http://www.arhomeandgarden.org/plantoftheweek/articles/Butterfly_Bush_Summer_Lilac.htm....
.....Butterfly bush information
- <http://www.kidsgardening.com>.....Garden projects, crafts and classroom information

Please feel free to contact either Cathy or Linda with your garden questions and comments. We encourage you to use the garden as the valuable educational resource that it can be.

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