

Welcome Community Gardener,

We're looking forward to another productive season at the Garden. There may be time-sensitive messages you don't want to miss, so make sure John Thompson, VA Tech Cooperative Extension agent, has a current e-mail address or phone number for you.

A LITTLE HISTORY ~ The garden was launched in April 2007, thanks to the joint efforts of Virginia Cooperative Extension, the Master Gardeners, and Fluvanna County Parks and Recreation. The garden sits on land which was part of the Pleasant Grove plantation, owned by William Douglas Haden in the mid-1800's. Wheat, Indian corn, oats and tobacco were the crops grown here then. More recently, the park has improved our Community Garden, replacing fencing, walkways and water spigots!

Our success as a Community Garden means we have to work together to keep the plots and common areas weed-free and mulched. We have a fence to keep the deer, rabbits and other critters outside. It's important to CLOSE and lock the gate every time you enter or leave. If you see a hole in the mesh, or signs that an animal has dug underneath the fence, CALL John Thompson right away. You can mark (or block) the opening until permanent repairs can be made. Also helpful would be to take a photo of the problem area and email it to John.

Be considerate of others by storing hoses and tools out of the walkways. Think about how your crops will grow before you plant them so they don't fall into or shade your neighbors plot. Soaker hoses and rain barrels encouraged. Please ensure the barrels are in the center of your plot. Harvest produce when ripe and take damaged vegetables and fruits to the compost pile. Rotting material in the garden will attract pests and spread disease.

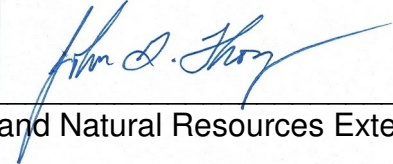
The biggest battle is always with the weeds. We need everyone to help remove the invasive warm season grasses like crabgrass and wire grass. Remember your AGREEMENT says every gardener will donate volunteer labor for garden maintenance. Work parties will be announced. Gardeners are responsible for weeding the paths around YOUR plots.

PESTS and DISEASE: You can take a sample of the bug or leaf to a Master Gardener. They are available through the Extension Office or the help desk at the Pleasant Grove Farmer's Market every Tuesday from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m.

SOIL TESTS: If you are trying to amend your soil to get the ideal pH or fertilizer recipe, you can take a sample to the Extension Office or Southern States. Remember it takes time to improve soil.

This garden wouldn't be possible without the support of the Fluvanna Board of Supervisors, Fluvanna County's Parks and Recreation and Public Works departments, and the Fluvanna Master Gardeners.

For more information, contact:


John G. Thompson, Agriculture and Natural Resources Extension Agent
VCE Fluvanna
P.O. Box 133
Palmyra, VA 22963
434-591-1950 or jthomp75@vt.edu