

Cassidy Cabrera

From: PHS Community Gardens <communitygardens@pennhort.org>
Sent: Monday, March 30, 2020 2:23 PM
To: Cassidy Cabrera
Subject: PHS Community Gardens Pogram: It's a Newsletter!



Dear Community Gardeners,

It's our first Community Gardens Program (CGP) Newsletter!! **balloons and confetti drop from the sky** We'll be sharing out community happenings, program updates, and ways to stay connected each season. Make sure to pass these newsletters along to your garden groups, and keep an eye out for future communications.

One quick thing: We are asking that sites in the CGP Network return a signed **Garden Partnership Agreement Form**. The agreement — written for a 5 year period, but can be terminated at any time — formally connects your site with PHS. Separate emails will be sent to garden leaders and can be signed virtually; easy peasy!

What's in this issue:

- CGP Network Quick Links — You'll want to save these links to forms for opting into the PHS Seedling CSA and requesting technical assistance.
- Garden Tenders — Help us gage interest for this season's program and give your two cents on how to take Garden Tenders ... digital?
- Updates PHS McLean Tool Library — Curious about the tool library? Look no further!
- COVID19 Recommendations & Resources — We're sharing a working document for best practices and community resources for staying healthy and safe during the pandemic.

CGP Network Quick Links

Sites in the CGP Network have access to PHS resources: supplies and materials, access to the Tool Library, technical and volunteer assistance, etc. This season, requests are open for a Seedling CSA and technical assistance. Click through the links below for more info and to submit your requests.

** Typically, now would be the season for opening compost and soil requests as well. For the time being, soil requests remain closed until PHS can assess capacity and safety of deliveries.

Buy into the PHS Seedling CSA!

Ask for Technical Assistance

Garden Tenders: Spring 2020



PHS's Garden Tenders is a hands-on workshop series for community members interested in starting community gardens on vacant lots, in parks, around schools and churches, etc. It's also a space to orient newbie garden members at established and mature sites too. We cover topics like basic horticulture, assessing and finding resources in your neighborhood, planting and garden maintenance, and so much more.

Garden Tenders series was slated to start this March, but is currently on hold due to COVID-19. We're still working our way through the new world of safe distances and figuring out how to continue with classes so people can get new cooperative gardens started while sheltering-in-place, and still keep the community part of it alive.

We've considered a few options for how to push forward with Garden Tenders. Let us know how you would be willing to show up by clicking through to this [survey!](#) And check out some garden tips Sally's already shared across [social media!](#)

The PHS McLean Tool Library



We broke ground on the Tool Library this winter, and we're making strides to open later this year. After crowdsourcing input from community members, we're stocking up on speciality tools for one off projects and large quantities of tools for workdays too. We even have supplies to loan out to facilitate community gatherings.

The tool library will be opened 2 days a week to start — a weekday and Saturday. As garden members in our Community Gardens Program network, you'll have free access to the inventory. We'll be sure to share updates as they come!

COVID19 Recommendations & Resources



Click this link to access a living document of recommendations and resources all about COVID19: [COVID Resources Google Doc](#). Please share the resources here with your networks. Email communitygardens@pennhort.org if you know of a resource not listed and we will help to share it across our community.

Also, check out this Philadelphia Tribune article: [Yes, you can go to your community garden:](#)

[City deems farms 'essential.'](#)

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