



Portsmouth Community Garden – August Newsletter

A place to grow

The bounty continues at the Portsmouth Community Garden. Tomatoes and cukes and sunflowers, oh my! With the spreading of wood chips on the left side of the garden, we are one step closer to getting folks off the waiting list and into a bed for 2023. Thank you to all who helped including the Town of Newcastle and Board Member, Chris Robillard, for the wood chip donations and the Portsmouth Department of Public Works who made quick work of the heavy spreading task with their equipment.

Action Items

Thank you to all of our garden members for prompt attention to the following updates and action items:



- **Continue to conserve water** – With drought conditions in southern NH, make sure to turn off the water at the faucet when you are done using the hose and water at the base of your plants!
- **Flatbread fundraiser** – Many garden members, friends and family came out to support the last-minute fundraiser at Flatbread that raised \$800. This incredibly supportive local restaurant donates \$3 for every large pizza and \$1.5 for every small on the day of the event. Thank you to everyone who came out and to Camila Sacco for the connection!
- **Sign up for Work Days** – We want to make it easy for you to remain eligible for membership for the 2023 season. Check out and register via the [sign-up form](#) now and note the newly added opportunities. As a reminder, all current members must complete three work day shifts of two hours each. If you are in danger of becoming ineligible, you will receive notification soon. Contact jennifercotrupi@gmail.com with any questions.

Compost Bins are Here!

Hip, Hip, Hooray for Board member and Master Gardener, Tamara Henderson, and her husband Harold! From grant application, to material sourcing, to the actual build of the compost bins themselves, Tamara and Harold delivered.

The compost bin system, installed with a grant from the NH Master Gardener Alumni Association, supports us in using our own garden waste to create a rich soil amendment that we can



add back to our garden beds. Distribution of that soil will be communicated in the future.

As indicated on the sign on the bins, please follow the following composting rules:

1. Place any garden waste including leaves, stems cut into two-inch lengths, flowers, and rotten produce into the designated bin.
2. Please do NOT dispose of the roots of your plants in the compost bins. This is a precaution for this season to reduce the chance of spreading knotweed.
3. Simply cut your plant down to the ground, throw the plant in the bin, and bag the roots to take home and dispose.
4. Do not place weeds into the compost bins and continue to take those home for disposal.

- **Fight food insecurity** – Share your surplus vegetables back to the community via two options. Add your surplus to the cooler by the gate on Sundays for delivery to Gather on Mondays **OR** drop off at the Portsmouth Senior Activity Center at 125 Cottage Street from 9-5 Monday through Friday or 8:30-10:30 weekends. If outside of those hours, leave donations on the table by the front door. If you can help coordinate the weekly delivery to Gather, please let us know ... this will count towards your Work Day commitment!
- **Member spotlight** – If you would like to introduce yourself via the newsletter, it's as simple as answering a few questions via email and submitting a photo. [Contact us](#) if interested.
- **Want garden swag?** – More t-shirt sizes are now available for \$25 each. [Email us](#) if you want one!



5. Let us know if you have trouble hauling out your own roots and weeds.

Watch for a blog post on our website for more details about the composting process that involves a mix of “brown” material and “green” material in a ratio that supports decomposition. “Green” material is any spent plants from your garden, e.g., dead tomato, squash, and cucumber plants. You can help build up the available “brown” material by bringing the following items to the garden and placing them in Bin #2:

- Dry leaves
- Straw
- Sawdust
- Pine needles
- Cardboard (ripped into small pieces with no tape or staples)



Want to Help?

We need help! If interested in the opportunities below, please [contact us](#).

- Website updates – 4-8 hours a month to help update the site
- Surplus harvest deliver – Coordinate volunteers to deliver the Gather harvest – 30 min per week

Phase 2 Update

Plans continue for phase 2 and including plans to build our garden shed this fall. Note the following updates:

1. We submitted a proposal for our garden shed that will house shared tools, a notice board, and more. After that priority, we'll work on a gazebo with picnic tables, a gutter system, and rain barrels. More to come!

- Local grant research – 1-2 hours to research and make a list of local grants and related deadlines
- Financial donation – Help us build Phase 2, by making a donation, consider exploring your company's programs to support local nonprofits and/or connect us with local companies or individuals who may want to donate.



2. We look forward to scheduling build out days to complete the total 75-90 beds to get people off the Wait List and into the garden.
3. We will continue to receive additional loads of wood chips and will start spreading them around the existing beds to combat the weeds.



Save the Date for an End of Season Celebration

On **Sunday, October 30** from 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m., we will meet at the garden to put the plots to bed and clean up the area for the winter. At noon, we will gather for a potluck lunch to celebrate the success of our first season. Plan to bring an item to share, perhaps from garden ingredients! *Note that beds can remain open until Saturday, November 19.*

Knotweed Update

The battle to eradicate the knotweed continues. The NH Department of Agriculture advised of an additional step we can take after assessing at the end of the season. Note the following ongoing reminders:

- If you see an orange flag in your garden, it was because we pulled out a knotweed in that spot.
- Please **DO NOT** remove these flags. They are acting as a marker, which will allow us to monitor these spots for recurring growth.
- If you find knotweed in your bed, please remove it (getting as much of the root as possible) and **place an orange flag in that spot.**
- You will find extra flags in the long community garden, by the front gate.
- If you have pulled knotweed in the past, please send how many to us at communitygarden603@gmail.com.
- **Please place knotweed only in the labeled bin!**



Knotweed bin

Take out your garden waste, please

Next Season Preview

You will receive detailed instructions about next season registration, but know that your same plot will be available to you automatically, as long as you are in good standing from a Work Days perspective. More to come!

Member Photos

**Wonderful
Watermelon**



**Lots of Spaghetti
Squash**



**Really Tall
Sunflowers**



**Costata
Romanesco Zukes**
(Debra Kam photo credit)



**English Breakfast
Radishes**
(Debra Kam photo credit)



Garden Members Rock!



Nancy Manley killing it for mulch
prep!



Happy supporters at Flatbread



Gathering for Gather

Our Mission

To create a community space where individuals and local organizations can grow food in a peaceful, respectful and inclusive environment



Find us on Instagram and Facebook –
search “portsmouthcommunitygarden.”

communitygarden603@gmail.com

portsmouthgarden.org

Thank you for helping us grow!

Send your [garden photos or content for future editions](#) of the newsletter.

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