



# Portsmouth Community Garden – June Newsletter

*A place to grow*

The Portsmouth Community Garden is growing! It is incredible to see the 70 garden beds, two community beds, a beautifully stained shed, the compost station, and new hooks for the hoses in place for our garden members to use and enjoy.



## Key Updates

- **Lock the Gate, Please** – Even if you aren't the one to unlock the gate, please make sure to lock it back up if you are the last one in the garden. The gate has been left open several times in May. Locking the garden protects our tools, vegetables, flowers, and water and ensures unwelcome critters do not dine on the bounty of our beds. Be sure to line up the numbers in the narrow side of the combination lock, see left. Be sure to close the gate while you are in the garden, too. We plan to install a separate lock on the large gate to make it easier to manage the chain.
- **Clean the Shared Tools** – Feel free to borrow any tools in the shed, but PLEASE wash off the tools before you return them. That step will keep our new shed tidy.
- **Planting Deadline** – Most members have started planting, but as a reminder, if beds are not planted by **Thursday, June 15** that bed goes to the next person on the wait list. Expect a final reminder email from the Portsmouth Community Garden soon if you have not yet planted. [Reach out to us](#) with any extenuating circumstances.
- **Just Say No to Hot Water** – When you finish watering, make sure to drain the hose after you shut off the water. Once the weather heats up, the next gardener and their plants will thank you!
- **Community Bed Planting and Harvesting** – We have a planting plan for the community beds. [Reach out to us](#) if you have extra vegetables or flowers for the community beds. We will work them into the plan or invite you to share them with other garden members. Members are welcome to harvest items from the long bed on the left as you enter the gate. Follow the "take some and leave some" rule ... and enjoy those blueberries, herbs, and flowers soon!

- **Dahlias** – Thank you to the member who planted the dahlias in a community bed. We moved them near the blueberry bushes. Once in bloom, garden members will enjoy them in the garden and can cut a few to enjoy at home!
- **Compost Process Update** – Garden members received an email on **Wednesday, June 7** that detailed the composting process. Check out the overview details posted in the shed. It is stapled to the wall to the right of the white board. [Reach out to us](#) with any questions as we finalize the specific procedures. Remember, **NO WEEDS**, please. Place all garden waste (roots and leaves) in the fenced-in area located to the right of Bin #1.
- **Member Work Day Information** – If doing independent work for the garden, please add your name, your bed #, the work you did, and the amount of time spent to the **Log Book** under the window to the right as you walk into the shed.
- **Vacation Watering Coverage** – We plan to list member names, bed numbers, and email addresses to facilitate member outreach to neighbors for vacation watering coverage. [Reach out to us](#) by **Wednesday, June 21** if you do not want your email address shared.
- **Knotweed Update** – We continue to find a few knotweed plants in the beds built last year (see photo below). If you find this plant, dig deep to get all of the roots, dispose of it in the container labeled KNOTWEED, and plant a flag in the spot so monitoring can continue. Find the flags in the garden shed and **do not remove existing flags**. We hope to be past the need for these flags at the end of this season. Thank you for your support!



## Expanded Partnership with Gather

Last year, the Portsmouth Community Garden donated 250+ pounds of surplus to fight local food insecurity in the region by supporting Gather, an organization devoted to supporting those in our community who experience hunger. This year, we look forward to making even more of an impact.

- **Dedicated Space** – Check out the two 4x8 beds and the long bed to the right of the gate labeled Gather. **The long bed to the left is available for garden members to harvest.**

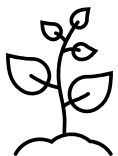
- **Member Support** – We will continue Monday deliveries from garden member surplus harvest donations. Watch for a cooler labeled “Gather” that will be out on Sundays and contact [Maureen McDonald](#) if you can assist with one or several drop off duties on Mondays. Thank you, Maureen! We also thank members **Theresa Garabedian** and **Nancy Manly** who stepped up to support the Gather Gleaning Program and will plant and care for those beds.
- **Next Steps** – Watch for more information about how to support these important efforts.
- **Questions?** – [Reach out to us](#) with any questions.



## Our Garden Community

Tip sharing and introductions continue to happen at the garden every day. We look forward to reinforcing this organic community building by holding garden pot-luck meals and brief educational events as the season progresses. Note some other ways to get involved below.

- **Introduce Yourself** – We need members to feature in the newsletter’s Member Spotlight. Simply answer a few questions and send a photo. We love learning about our members and will feature you in an upcoming newsletter.
- **Tip Share** – Have a best practice other might benefit from? Send it in!
- **Kudos** – Want to share how someone at the garden helped you? Let us know and we’ll include it in the newsletter. **Beth Hartnett** sends delicious kudos to **Debra Kam** for recommending English radishes from seeds available at Whole Foods. Check out the photo below!
- **Events** – Are you an organizer? We need help planning simple pot-luck meals and get-togethers.
- **Photos** – We love to receive photos of your garden and harvest to use in the newsletter and on social media. If you are willing to share, let us know if it is ok to give you photo credit for your shots.
- **Social Media** – Check out the great Instagram and Facebook content prepared by garden member, **Ari Ragonese**. Thank you, Ari!
- **Interested?** – Send your photos, tips, and content to [Beth Hartnett](#).



## Photos

**More Peas, Please!**

**Opening Day Seedling Sale –  
Thanks, Sturgeon Farm**

**First Harvest –  
English Radishes**



### 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](mailto:communitygarden603@gmail.com)

[portsmouthgarden.org](http://portsmouthgarden.org)

Thank you for helping us grow!

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

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