

## Roundtable Discussion:

### Maximize Yield in Small Garden Spaces

Carol Giffin notetaker

Notes from the discussion:

#### 1 Plant what you eat!

- Limitation of space makes you prioritize your plant choices.
- Planning is essential, know the variety of the plant. Higher yields, plant size & vining or bush
- Plan of action for fertilizing. Intense planting & Succession planting will require more nutrients

#### 2 Choose your gardening concept:

- Succession planting will yield more by replanting the same area with different crops
  - Use a garden calendar noting when you should plant and harvest
  - Purchase your seeds in the beginning of the season, they won't be available later on
- Vertical gardening will yield more through trellising and containing the sprawl
  - Posts can hold fencing or enable weaving of jute to support the plants
  - Training plants to trellis allows you to plant seeds closer together
  - Tall trellises will create shade – good & bad depends upon what is to the north of the trellis
- Companion planting will yield more through attracting pollinators or providing nutrients
  - Plants have a symbiotic relationship with each other. Research your plants for their mutually beneficial partners and plant them close. Know which plants don't play well with each other. Planting those together may produce smaller plants effect production.
- Square foot gardening will yield more through intense planting
  - Broadcasting seeds in an area & not planting in a row will sprout more plants / square foot
  - Have a plan for liquid fertilizing on a regular schedule

# **Native Plants and Pollinators**

**Facilitator:** Rae McCormick

**Note taker:** Lynn Messinger

**Presenter:** Tom Wilson and Amy Bogen

## **Introduction: What is your garden, what are your main challenges related to this topic?**

- Rae: Gammon C.G. , 7'\*15'. Buy from prairie moon nursery, plants were \$150 for 32 plugs for the Native Pollinator package. Cost and pesticides main challenge
- Matching plants to environment, labor
- Brittingham CG – expense and aesthetics – short no till weeds

## **What solutions have you tried? How did they work?**

- Plant Dane- \$2.50/ plant – 4 -6 packs, 3' or less in height
- Heavy mulch
- Saving seeds
- Agreement to not apply pesticides near garden
- Share volunteers for pollinator garden and for prairie plant plots

## **What solutions are you thinking of?**

- Zinnias
- 1 section of fence a year for planting
- Rain gardens
- Recruit help from neighborhood organizations to keep weeds at bay

## **What needs to be there for these solutions to work?**

- Requirement of work hours for gardeners, use those work hours to care for native pollinator area.

# **Garden Participant Engagement**

**Facilitator and Notetaker: Nancy Sunday**

**Introduction: What is your garden, what are your main challenges related to this topic?**

More people coming to picnics/special events, more participation in work days

**What solutions have you tried? How did they work?**

- Board members in the garden 1 a day a week for 1 people have questions
- 9 – 11 workdays
- 10-12 workdays with food at the end of the season
- Combine food with workday
- Educational speaker after the workday
- Kiosk with info on dates, what needs to be done

**What solutions are you thinking of?**

- Kiosk
- Food first, work after
- Kick off children's plot with children's activities
- Bag lunch social time after work time
- Dumpster for abandoned stuff

**What needs to be there for these solutions to work?**

- Plot police
- Active committee

# Theft and Vandalism

**Facilitator and Note taker:** Carmen Evancoi

**Introduction:** What is your garden, what are your main challenges related to this topic?

Theft and vandals

**What solutions have you tried? How did they work?**

Weekly reports of abandonment

Weekly reports of weeks coordination

Pollinator plots

**What solutions are you thinking of?**

- Renew Verbage on sign
- Close abandoned plots to show garden is cared for
- Following garden rules and execution – same reason
- Transparency and follow through on garden commtments

**What needs to be there for these solutions to work?**

- Proper signage
- Enforcement