

THE PARCEL POST

COSTA MESA COMMUNITY GARDENS NEWSLETTER



WEEDS BE GONE

Removing bermudagrass and bindweed.

Did you know that there is a very specific way to remove the bermudagrass (also seen as bermuda grass) and bindweed in and around your garden parcel? By learning and following a few basic steps, you can reduce the pesky weeds, and reduce the amount that grows back and reestablishes itself.

According to Utah State University, *Cynodon dactylon* or bermudagrass “spreads by rhizomes (root type stems), stolons (stems that root), and seeds . . . [and] spreads quite easily from . . . one area to another.” The California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) said that bermudagrass is a noxious weed because of its “vigorous and creeping habit” (2014, para. 2).

According to CFDA (2014), “persistent hand removal of rhizomes and stolons can eliminate bermudagrass from small areas” (para. 10). This can be accomplished by digging up, by hand and shovel, the bermudagrass plants and hand sifting the soil and disposing of the rhizomes and stolons.

While this process takes time, it is one way to help reduce the regrowth, and does not spread the seeds, rhizomes, and stolons. Please be sure to do this by hand and shovel only. Finally, Cudney, Elmore, and Bell (2007) recommended withholding water from the area the bermudagrass is removed from, so one way to reduce regrowth in the aisles is to be sure not to water the aisleways.

Interestingly, while bindweed is an entirely different plant, it also spreads via rhizomes, which means it, too, must be removed by hand.



Bindweed. Photo from harvesttotable.com



Bermudagrass. Photo from University of Guam, College of Natural & Applied Sciences

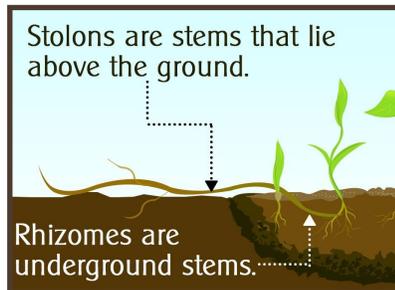


Photo from biologywise.com

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Renewals will begin on Friday, November 16. Paperwork will be emailed to your email address on file. Make sure you get your work hours in and check with Tony if you are not sure where you are with your hour accrual. Tony may be reached by email at jose.magana@costamesaca.gov. For specific questions regarding renewals, you may call the Parks and Community Services Department front office at (714) 754-5034.

KNOW YOUR ZONE(S)

Gardening within two zones.



Sunset and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) determined two ways for gardeners to identify what plants are best suited for the area in which the garden is geographically located.

According to the USDA's (2012) *Plant Hardiness Zone Map*, both of the Costa Mesa Community Gardens are located in zone 10b. The hardiness zone assists gardeners "determine which plants are most likely to thrive at a [specific] location" which is based on annual extreme minimum temperatures. The term *hardy*, according to Sunset (1979), describes the plant's ability to survive both frost and freezing temperatures.

Although we do not often experience freezing temperatures in Costa Mesa, it is helpful to know your zone when purchasing seeds, whether in person or online through a seed dealer. Remember, you will want to find seeds of plants and vegetables that are hardy to Zone 10b. This means that the plant will endure weather as low as 35 to 40 degrees Fahrenheit.

Another way to identify how likely a plant is to thrive in your area is to use Sunset's Climate Zones. Sunset created their 24 zones based on six factors which include: (1) the distance of the site from the equator, (2) the elevation of the site, (3) the influence of the Pacific Ocean on the site, (4) the influence of the continental air mass, (5) the location's geographic features such as mountains and hills, and (6) the local terrain. Sunset's zones provide a more detailed understanding of how plants thrive within specific geographic regions, but Sunset cautions the gardener to keep in mind microclimates.

According to Sunset, Costa Mesa Community Gardens fall in between climate zones 22 and 24. Understanding and knowing the climate zone will help you identify what to plant when using resources that use Sunset's zones such as the *New Western Garden Book* or *Western Garden Book of Edibles*. Finally, according to the University of California's Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources (2018), the Sunset Climate Zones are considered the standard, because they take into account more factors than the USDA's Hardiness Zone.



COLD SEASON PLANTS

What to plant for winter.

Cool season vegetables to plant now include: broccoli, cauliflower, celery, fava beans, endive, kohlrabi, rutabaga, cabbage, brussel sprouts, lettuce, parsley, cilantro, snap peas, sugar peas, kale, swiss chard, spinach, bok choy, carrots, beets, turnips, radishes, garlic, and leeks.



Top: rutabaga from almanac.com. Bottom left: kohlrabi from specialtyproduce.com. Bottom right: chard from gofreshusa.com

TURNIP THE BEET AT UPCOMING WORK PARTIES

**THURSDAY,
OCTOBER 18**
5:00—7:00 pm

**SATURDAY,
DECEMBER 8**
9:00—11:00 am



Let us know that you are coming. This will allow us to notify you directly if there are any changes to the work party. RSVP to Tony at jose.magana@costamesaca.gov



**January through March
2019 dates will be
announced in
December.**

“The love of gardening is a seed once sown that never dies.”
-Gertrude Jekyll



LEARN MORE!

Visit these websites for more about this issue's topics:

University of California

cagardenweb.ucanr.edu | mg.ucanr.edu

Sunset Magazine sunsetwesterngardencollection.com/
climate-zones/zone/los-angeles-region

National Gardening Association
garden.org

USDA

planthardiness.ars.usda.gov/PHZMWeb

KIND REMINDERS

*The garden is a shared space.
Please remember to . . .*

- Harvest your crops before you lose them, and be sure to remove dying vegetation.
- Turn off the water before you leave the garden.
- Report issues as you notice them. Call Cecily at (714) 754-5034. You may also email us at cmgardens@costamesaca.gov.



SHARE YOUR IDEAS!

Your voice is important to us.

We would like to know what you want to read in the next newsletter!

Submit your own articles, recipes, gardening advice, and more. Or, submit topic ideas you would like us to cover. Topics should cover the Costa Mesa Community Gardens, general gardening concerns, and information and ideas.

Nominate yourself or a fellow gardener to potentially be a Featured Gardener in our next issue as well! Send your ideas to cecily.renteria@costamesaca.gov

REFERENCES

California Department of Food and Agriculture. (2014). *Bermudagrass*. Retrieved from <https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/plant/ipc/encycloweedia/weedinfo/cynodon.htm>

Cudney, D. W., Elmore, C. L., & Bell, C. E. (2007). *Bermudagrass*. *University of California Agriculture and Natural Resources*. Retrieved from <http://ipm.ucanr.edu/PDF/PESTNOTES/pnbermutagrass.pdf>

Sunset Books. (1979). *New western garden book* (4th ed.). Menlo Park, CA: Sunset.

United States Department of Agriculture. (2012). [Interactive map for plant hardiness zones]. *Plant hardiness zone map*. Retrieved from <https://planthardiness.ars.usda.gov>

University of California. (2018). What is my climate zone? *Division of Agriculture and Natural Resource*. Retrieved from http://cagardenweb.ucanr.edu/Your_Climate_Zone/

Contact Us

For general information please call the Parks & Community Services Department at (714) 754-5300. Or visit us Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m. at 77 Fair Drive, 3rd Floor, Costa Mesa. You may also email us at cmgardens@costamesaca.gov.

For specific inquires, please contact Tony or Cecily. You may email Tony at jose.magana@costamesaca.gov. Cecily Renteria | 714.754.5034 | cecily.renteria@costamesaca.gov