

THE PARCEL POST

Costa Mesa COMMUNITY GARDENS NEWSLETTER



A bee at work in parcel 13 at the Del Mar garden. Photo by Cecily Renteria.

ORANGE COUNTY MASTER GARDENER PRESENTATION SERIES | FREE FOR ALL AGES

Join us for one, or all of our Orange County Master Gardener presentations and learn about various garden topics. Each workshop is one-hour long, followed by a question and answer session. Let us know you are coming. R.S.V.P. not required, but strongly encouraged. R.S.V.P. by phone to Cecily Renteria at (714) 754-5034 or by email Cecily.Renteria@costamesaca.gov.

SMALL SPACE GARDENING

Tuesday, April 2 | 1 p.m. | Del Mar Community Garden

Learn how to maximize your garden space and grow vegetables, herbs, and flowers in even the smallest spaces.

SUCCULENT GARDENING

Thursday, May 2 | 6 p.m. | Lions Park

This presentation will teach you how to grow and care for succulents. You will also learn about, and how to manage succulent pests and diseases.

June through August dates coming soon!

WHAT TO PLANT IN MARCH

In the southwest . . .

According to the University of California Master Gardeners the optimal vegetables to plant in March include: beans (all kinds), beets, carrots, parsley, radish, squash (summer and winter), and Swiss chard. Other acceptable vegetables that can be planted include: chives, collard greens, endive, lettuce, peas, spinach, tomatoes (early), and turnips.



From left: rainbow chard at Del Mar, photo by Cecily Renteria; turnips from <https://snaped.fns.usda.gov/seasonal-produce-guide/turnips>; chives from www.mrfothergills.com.au

UPCOMING WORK PARTIES

Let us know you'll be there; R.S.V.P. to Cecily Renteria.

HAMILTON

Saturday, March 30
8:30—10:30 am

Thursday, May 9
5:00—7:00 pm

DEL MAR

Saturday, March 30
8:30—10:30 am

Thursday, May 9
5:00—7:00 pm

We will send a reminder three weeks in advance so you can let us know if you are able to join us. July and September 2019 dates will be announced in May.

PLEASE REMEMBER . . .

- that animals are not allowed in the garden;
- to shut water off after you are done watering your parcel, to weed the aisles while the soil is soft and they are easy to remove; and
- to report issues as you notice them. Email us at CMGardens@costamesaca.gov or call Assistant Recreation Supervisor Cecily Renteria at (714) 754-5034.

DIG IN FOR MORE
(see page 2)

Gardener Spotlight
Five questions with Kirby

Companion Planting
Get the most from your garden.

Learn More
Additional resources and references.

Contact Information

"The most noteworthy thing about gardeners is that they are always optimistic, always enterprising, and never satisfied. They always look forward to doing something better than they have ever done before."

- Vita Sackville-West, British Author and Garden Designer



GARDENER SPOTLIGHT *Five questions with Kirby.*

How long have you been at Del Mar Community Garden?

This is my 4th "season" at the Del Mar Community Gardens. I'm at plot #50 . . . Come say hi!

Who gardens with you when you tend the garden?

Occasionally you'll see my wife Gina and son Zenobius helping out in the garden, but typically I'm alone—it's my meditation time.

What has been your biggest success at the garden?

Tomatoes (we only eat homegrown!), Napa cabbage (for homemade kimchi), beets (roasted or pickled), and beans (cook 'em Szechuan style . . . Yum!)

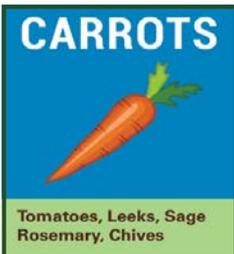
What made you want to join the community garden?

Growing up my family always had a garden and I love the meditative/ health benefits, and the friendships made.

What are some of your other hobbies outside of gardening?

I'm an artist and love teaching art (Costa Mesa High!) along with wandering Joshua Tree, cooking food for friends, and engaging in Socratic debate!

COMPANION PLANTING *Get the most from your hard work.*



One way to maximize your plot yield is by companion planting. Gardening enthusiasts George and Becky Lohmiller (2019) wrote about this in their article *Companion Planting Guide: Companion Planting Tips, Plant List, and More*. Companion planting is when you plant crops together that naturally help protect their neighbors, provide nutrients for each other, and, ultimately, increase the health and yield of both crops.

Other benefits according to Lohmiller and Lohmiller (2019) include: shade regulation (e.g., plants providing shade for others), natural plant supports (e.g., planting sprawling peas near sturdy, upright sunflowers or corn), improved plant health and soil, and weed suppression.

The *Companion Planting Guide* by the seed and garden company Burpee (n.d.) contains a useful companion planting chart that compares plants, their companions, and their combatants, as does the article *Companion Planting for the Top 10 Veggies* by Amber Kanuckel (2018) which can be found on the Farmers' Almanac website. See left for a snippet of their chart.



While companion planting is a great idea for any garden space, it is important to make sure plants being planted together are not incompatible (also called combatants). Some common combatants according to Lohmiller and Lohmiller (2019) are cabbage and cauliflower, beans and sunflowers, and white garlic and peas.

Image from <https://www.farmersalmanac.com/companion-planting-guide-31301>

LEARN MORE! *Visit these websites for more about this issue's topics:*

Farmers' Almanac: <https://www.farmersalmanac.com> | <https://www.almanac.com/video/companion-planting-flowers-vegetables>

Urban Farmer: <https://www.ufseeds.com/learning/companion-planting/>

References

Burpee. (n.d.) *Companion planting guide*. Retrieved from <https://www.burpee.com/gardenadvicecenter/areas-of-interest/flower-gardening/companion-planting-guide/article10888.html>

Lohmiller, G. and Lohmiller, B. (2019). *Companion planting guide: Companion planting tips, plant list, and more*. Retrieved from <https://www.almanac.com/content/companion-planting-guide>

Contact Information

For general information please call the Parks & Community Services Department at (714) 754-5300, or visit us Monday through Friday between 8 a.m. and 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 Cecily Renteria by calling (714) 754-5034 or via email at Cecily.Renteria@costamesaca.gov.