

## Community Garden Notes March 2019

Most of you have already been inundated by seed catalogs and are already planning plantings for a Tuftonboro Community Garden (TCG) plot.

The Tuftonboro Agricultural Commission (TAC) wanted to let you know of some changes that will be affecting the TCG this year.

In the summer of 2018, in far western edge of Tuftonboro Community Garden (TCG) adjacent to the cemetery, the TAC started a composting demonstration area. There were several problems with this location for the demo area. There was a no water source. The current location was too far for transporting of TCG garden waste and required collecting garden waste barrels on a pickup truck by driving over grass on the edge of town cemetery (plots unsold). Vehicle use was wearing out grass and created unpleasant and additional landscaping problems.

The whole purpose of the composting demo is to let folks know about different methods of composting, the benefits of composting, and to compost the green waste from the TCG. This year, the TAC is planning on adding a Jora food waste composting example to the three methods of composting already started.

To make the composting demo more accessible and visible, reduce effects to the cemetery, and to be close to a water source, the demo area will be moved closer to the parking lot and will be located in plots A 8-11. (See diagram at the end.) The redesigned composting area will include a food waste composter and the three current composting structures, wood, wire, and cinderblock. In addition, TAC has purchased a shed that will be at the far western end of the composting demo in the area of plot A11. The shed will house a shredder, barrels for

compostable material from the TCG, and other equipment for maintaining the composting demo.

The TAC knows that relocating the composting demo area will displace some gardeners that may have had one of these plots for quite some time. We apologize and ask for your understanding. After looking at all possible solutions, this is the one that meets our objectives and benefits everyone the most. Thank you in advance.

This change in plots A8-A11 means that these plots will now be reduced to ½-sized plots. We have had people in the past that have requested only a ½ plot, so we hope that these changes will benefit those wanting a smaller garden plot.

Last year there were barrels located in the TCG that we asked people to use for their garden waste, which was then hauled to the compost piles. We are hoping that more people will use these barrels when weeding their plots and the paths adjacent to their plots. Please do not throw anything other than organic matter into these barrels. There will be one barrel marked for trash.

TAC also plans to have informational signs up this year to describe the benefits of composting as well as different methods that can be used. Composting, both food and yard waste, can help reduce what ends up at the transfer station, ultimately saving taxpayers money and can provide a natural source of nutrition to lawns and gardens.

We encourage all community gardeners to participate in this project. The TCG is a showcase for the town. Last year the garden looked great, and people really enjoyed touring

it when stopping by the town offices. We now have a new sign that lets passers by know who is responsible for the amazing gardens. The TAC is proud of the work done in the TCG and want the rest of the town to be also.

Two years ago, the TAC established a pollinator garden in plot A1. Pollinators, especially bees are becoming endangered for many different reasons. The TAC wanted to show how you could encourage pollinators to visit gardens both in the TCG as well as at home by planting pollinator-specific plants. If you haven't visited this plot before, we encourage you to do so. When deciding what pollinator-friendly plants to add to your plot or home garden, please consider using native plants as much as possible, as well as a variety of plants that will bloom throughout the season.

We are all aware of the various pests that can plague gardens. The TAC is requesting that when you consider pest control on your plots that you stick to organic solutions and not use chemicals. Among other problems, chemical pesticides can harm pollinators, and we want to make sure that any garden waste going into our compost demo are chemical free.

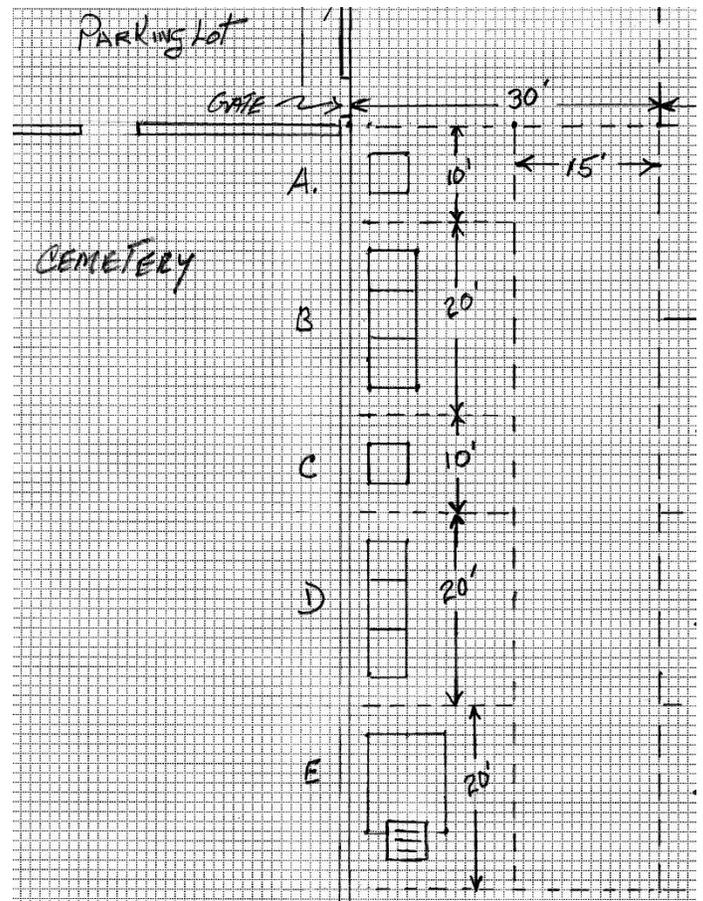
We are again asking that you refrain from planting potatoes again this year. Two years ago, there was a heavy infestation of potato bugs. These bugs can also do considerable damage to other plants as well as potatoes. We'll give the ban one more year after this, and then will consider trying potatoes again. Thanks for your understanding.

Through generous donations, we have been given about 20 bluebird boxes. Some of these will be located around the edges of the TCG and possibly the edge of the adjacent cemetery. If you know of other appropriate locations for bluebird boxes, please let us know.

Please be a good garden neighbor this year and keep your plots weeded. If you are having a

problem with this, let a member of the TAC know, and we will see if we can get you some help. Also, you are responsible for keeping the weeds down on the paths adjacent to your plots. As you weed, please put the green matter in the barrels so that we can add to the compost piles. The TAC would be appreciative of anyone who is willing to help with the composting demo. Please let us know if you would like to participate.

Again the TAC appreciates all the hard work that goes into gardening at the TCG and it is a showcase for the community. Thank you all. If there is anything that we can help you with or you have any suggestions please let us know.



- A. Food Waste Composting
- B. Wooden bins.

- C. Wire Bin
- D. Cinderblock Bins
- E. Storage shed