

Newsletter



Gardening Tips!

- The last frost date is April 14th! This is when you can start planting your beans, cucumbers, summer squash, corn, etc.
- Some seeds have a longer growing season and should be started indoors including tomato's, peppers, celery, cauliflower, eggplant etc.
- **SAVE THE DATE!** If you prefer to purchase vegetable crops, consider: **Suffolk Master Gardener Plant Sale:** Saturday April 30th 8:30am-2:30pm at the Suffolk County Farm in Yaphank OR **Farmingdale State College's Plant Sale:** May 9th - May 11th 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM.



Spring Cleaning!

VOLUNTEERS WANTED!

Please bring your garden tools and gloves for some volunteer work to clean up the Kubecka garden.

- April 17th 9:00 am
- April 19th 9:00 am
- April 20th 9:00 am
- April 21st 9:00 am



Earth Day 2023!

Come join the Town of Huntington's Earth Day Event on April 22nd from 10:00am- 2:00pm at Manor Farm in Huntington. The Kubecka Garden will have a table with vegetable seed plantings and we will have free raffles for electric weed whackers, blowers, pressure washers, lawn mowers, composters and more! New gardener sign ups are welcome!

Big Thanks!

Thank you to our General Services and Refuse Departments for their hard work over the winter months. In a true "team effort," the garden access road was completely renovated with crushed bluestone, 38 additional garden beds were cleared, and numerous overgrown trees and tree stumps were removed.



May Newsletter



Gardening Tips!

- The ideal time to transplant seedlings is when they have 1-2 sets of true leaves. At this time seedlings can be thinned out to one healthy seedling.
- Rule of thumb : It's safe temperatures to transplant after Mothers Day.
- Plant stems that can be buried deeply to establish a strong root system include, tomatoes, eggplants, peppers and broccoli to name a few.



What makes the Kubecka Garden Organic?

- The use of chemical pesticides, herbicides, fungicides, and/or chemical fertilizers is prohibited.
- The Town receives donated horse manure, and provides free mulch which can be applied as a natural fertilizer and weed suppressant. Fresh manure should be aged for approximately 4 months before use.

Volunteers Wanted!

Please bring your garden tools and gloves for some volunteer work to clean up at the Robert M. Kubecka Garden:

Thursday, May 18th 3:30 pm

Friday, May 19th 3:30 pm

Please meet at the entrance of the garden at the start time.



Additional Beach Clean Ups:

Saturday, May 13th 9:45 am
Gold Star Battalion Beach



Saturday, May 20th 9:45 am
Crab Meadow Beach



Welcome New Gardeners!

So far this year we have 45 new gardeners who have joined the Kubecka community!

Garden Rules & Regulations

Please visit the Kubecka webpage <https://www.huntingtonny.gov/kubecka-gardens> to view all the garden rules. Gardens are renewable annually if paid for by April 1st. Gardens that are not paid for on a timely basis or that are not maintained by June 1st, can be transferred to prospective gardeners at the discretion of the Director or Deputy Director.

June Newsletter



Call for Entries!



Scan to enter



Old Bethpage Village Restoration is having its annual Long Island Fair! I encourage you, your family and friends to register for the opportunity to enter your vegetables, herbs, flowers and more for a chance to win the blue ribbon! Long Islanders of all ages will be displaying their gardening skills! Each exhibitor gets a free pass to the fair!

What to Plant?

June is almost over, and you haven't started any vegetables yet! It is not too late! You can research plants to start in June based on Plant Hardiness Zone 7A.

- Sow directly into ground: sunflowers, nasturtiums, basil, second crop of lettuce, beans, summer squash, cucumber, peas, etc.
- Weed regularly to keep the task easy and manageable

TIPS

Huntington S.A.P. Garden Crawl

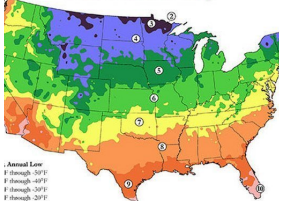
Suffolk Alliance for Pollinators invite you to join them in a Garden Crawl of local Native Pollinator Gardens. Gardens will include those in public spaces, a community garden and residential gardens in various stages of transformation.

When: Tuesday, June 27th
1:30 p.m.

Where: 127 Abbott Drive,
Halesite

At this first location, Crawlers will receive a listing of the next 4 stops along the Garden Crawl. Garden hosts will be on hand at each stop to talk about how they got started, introduce their plantings and share useful information with fellow gardeners.

USDA Zone Map



Annual Low: 0 through 20°F
1 through 30°F
2 through 40°F
3 through 50°F
4 through 60°F
5 through 70°F
6 through 80°F
7 through 90°F



National Pollinator Week June 19th-25th!

June 19th-25th marks National Pollinator Week. Pollinators are insects and small animals like birds, butterflies, and bees that pollinate plants and make our gardens and world greener. During this week, nature lovers and conscious citizens come together to celebrate pollinators and raise awareness about different ways in which they can be protected

July Newsletter



Reminders:

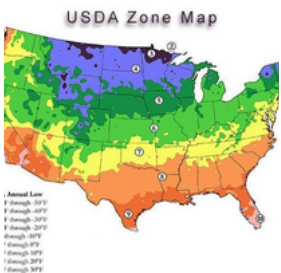


- Visit your plot often to pick ripened vegetables before they fall on the ground and start to rot. This attracts unwanted pests to your garden.
- Please keep all plants, vines, fruits and vegetables inside your fence line and out of the pathways to allow General Services to keep these paths maintained for easy access.

What to Plant?

TIPS

- Sow radish, carrots, beets, turnips and kale directly in ground.
- Seeds can continue to be sown throughout July for late crops of beets, bush beans, carrots, chard, summer spinach, cucumbers, and summer squash.



Gardening may help reduce risk of cancer and boost mental health

According to an article by Medical News Today, a study conducted on participants that work in community gardeners resulted in various health benefits. The results included consumption of more fiber, more exercise, and less anxiety. Community gardening reduces the risk of serious illness including cancer, and mental health disorders.

Charitable Vegetable Donation Centers:

If you have an excess of vegetables this summer, and don't know what to do with it all you can consider donating some to local food pantries to fight hunger on Long Island:

- Helping Hands Rescue Mission: 225 Broadway, Huntington Station. Hours: Mon-Fri 10 am-2 pm, Sat 10 am-1 pm
- Long Island Cares: 220 Broadway, Huntington Station. Hours: Tues & Thurs 8 am-5 pm
- Island Harvest: 126 Spagnoli Rd, Melville. Hours: Mon- Fri 8 am- 5 pm
- St. Patrick's Church: (basement) 400 Main St, Huntington. Hours: Mon-Thurs 10 am- 2 pm

August Newsletter



Be on the Look Out for Spotted Lanternfly!



Egg mass
(seen October-June)



1st instar nymph
(seen May-July)



4th instar nymph
(seen July-September)



Adult
(seen August-November)

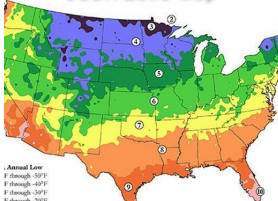
Unfortunately, Spotted lanternfly has been seen in the area. SLF primarily feed on tree of heaven (*Alianthus altissima*) but can also feed on a wide variety of plants such as grapevine, hops, maple, walnut, and fruit trees. If you encounter this invasive pest **kill it!** This time of year it is typical to see adults. Adults do not survive the first frost, but their egg masses do. Egg masses can be seen around October and should be destroyed as well. Reporting online at agriculture.ny.gov/SLF

To Do List for Zone 7A:

TIPS

- Sow peas, lettuce, swiss chard, and spinach directly in ground.
- Deadhead flowers
- Remove old plants to eliminate disease and shelter for insects.
- Control weeds before they go to seed and spread!

USDA Zone Map



Annual Low
F through 30°F
F through 30°F
F through 30°F
F through 30°F
F through 30°F
F through 30°F
F through 30°F
F through 30°F
F through 30°F

LONG ISLAND FAIR



- The Long Island Fair is Sept 8, 9 & 10th. Call for Entries for the Long Island Fair in Bethpage deadline is **August 21st**. For information, visit www.lifair.org. They are also looking for volunteers to assist with games of skill, children races, information booth, raffles and more.

Free Woodchips and Mulch

Woodchips and mulch work as natural weed block. These are offered to Town residents free at the following locations:

Smithtown Landfill & Municipal Services Facility, 85 Old Northport Rd, Kings Park.
Hours: Tuesday – Saturday 7:00am – 11:45am and 1:00pm–3:00pm. Pre-packaged bags of mulch are available for the taking, with a maximum of ten bags per visit. They also offer free loading of loose mulch into your pick-up or dump truck, with a cover required. Contact number for the Landfill is (631) 269-6600.

OR

Huntington Highway Department, 30 Rofay Drive, Huntington. Hours: Monday-Friday 8:00 a.m.- 4:00 p.m. Woodchip pile is available for residents to shovel their own. Contact number for Highway is (631) 499-0444.

September Newsletter



Seed Saving 101

Saving your own seeds is easy and incredibly rewarding!

- Start with easy crops like peas, beans, lettuce, and tomatoes.
- Seed maturity is important. Immature seeds will not store well or germinate.
- Dry seeds 1-3 weeks before storing in paper envelopes. Plastic can retain moisture and lead to rot.



End of Year Clean Up!

It's that time of year again for an end of the year garden clean up! Every weed you pull now will help making weeding that much easier in the spring, and hopefully prevent the reseeding of these weeds.

Please join us in a volunteer garden clean up on the following dates:

- Wednesday, October 11th at 10:00 am
- Thursday, October 12th at 10:00 am
- Tuesday, October 17th at 10:00 am
- Saturday, October 21st at 9:00 am

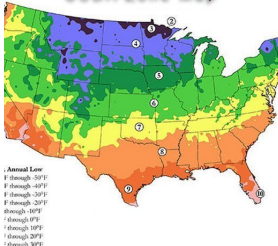
Please meet at the entrance of the garden at the start time. Bring all necessary garden tools, gloves, protective clothing, etc. RSVP to Amanda Lerch at alerch@huntingtonny.gov. Sign off for community service is available!

To Do List for Zone 7A:

TIPS

- Sow garlic, shallot and perennial onion crop.
- Add manure, compost and leaves to increase the organic content of your garden soil.
- Time to dig up sweet potatoes and cure them before storing!

USDA Zone Map



Welcoming Bee Hotels!

Three bee hotels were recently donated to the garden by Girl Scout Sofia Kabacinski. These bee hotels will provide solitary bees a safe haven to reproduce and emerge as young pollinators in the spring! Thank you Sofia!

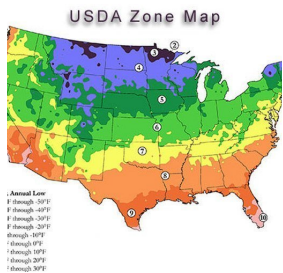


October Newsletter



Community Talk

- Be a good neighbor! Some gardeners have reported stolen vegetables this season. Be a good neighbor and look out for others when you are at the garden.
- Conserve water! If utilizing automatic sprinkler timers, be aware of weather events and turn off sprinklers when it rains. This will help prevent unnecessary flooding.



To Do List for Zone 7A:



- Sow garlic, shallot and perennial onion crop.
- Plant spring flowering bulbs like tulip, daffodil, hyacinth and crocus.
- Drain hoses before hard frost.
- Harvest remaining summer produce before a hard frost estimated around Nov. 5th

Reminders!

- November 1st water service will be turned off for the season.
- December 1st garden gates are locked for the season.
- Garden plots should be cleaned out and all personal property removed by end of season.



Please join our Fall Planting Day!

In efforts to beautify the garden and rid it of invasive plants, we have organized a planting day. We recently received a generous donation of Swamp Milkweed seed, a pollinator friendly perennial and monarch butterfly favorite. Now is the perfect time to dig and divide your spring and summer flowering perennials. We ask you please bring any excess perennials to the garden on:

Thursday, November 16th at 10:00 am

If you are not able to attend, but would still like to donate your excess perennials, please contact Amanda Lerch in advanced. We will need many hands to help pull weeds and plant seeds this day. Community service is welcomed! Bring all necessary garden tools, gloves, protective clothing, etc. RSVP to Amanda Lerch at alerch@huntingtonny.gov.



November Newsletter



End of Season:

- December 1st garden gates are locked for the season. There will be no access to the Organic Garden after December 1st and everything remaining at the garden after this date is considered abandoned and subject to disposal.
- The garden will reopen on March 1st.
- Reminder: Any leaves, mulch or manure delivered to the garden for your plot must be placed within the confines of your plot! Otherwise it is up for the taking.



Planting Day Success!

Thank you to all who came out for the November 16th Planting Day where we planted hundreds of Swamp Milkweed Seed, Golden Rod seed, and Echinacea seed. Looking forward to seeing the fruits of our labor in the spring!

EOSPA Nomination Funds Purchase of 11 New Picnic Tables and 26 Benches

With nearly 400 gardeners who bring their family and friends to help, we now have communal areas where people can sit, chat, eat their lunches and take a step back from gardening to relax and enjoy the view.



Over 4,500 lbs. of Vegetables Donated!

Thank you to all the members of the Soergel Garden & Kubecka Garden for donating over 4,500 lbs. of vegetables to food pantries across Huntington and Long Island this season. Your hard work and selflessness has given the less fortunate not only a healthy meal, but a sense of security.

Girl Scout Silver Award Project at Garden!

