

# PPCG NEWS—APRIL 2015

## READY, SET, GO!

April 2015

Volume 3, Issue 4

### It's time!

The spring rains have finally arrived. Those of us who were able to get spinach, snow peas, radishes, turnips, parsnips, lettuces, and other greens planted will benefit from those April showers. How is your planning and planting going? Are you **Set to Go**?

I heard Mark Seeley, the State Climatologist, speak last night. He is predicting warm weather will arrive next week and stay through the rest of April. He is also predicting a warmer than normal June.

We had a great [All-Gardeners' Meeting](#) and a phenomenal work day at the Cornerstone site with the Surly Gives A Damn crew. The compost from the City will arrive later this month, and I've sourced some soil amendments if you want to add something affordable to boost the production of your plots or raised beds. Articles on all of this follows.

The Arthur gardeners are organizing to clean up the site, to set up a raspberry patch, and put in uniform fencing. Thanks to all who signed up for their service commitment team. I'm looking forward to taking the next step in those areas and in the garden gleaning.

Let's get busy!

Del

### All-Gardeners Meeting (March 14th)

We had 46 people attend the [All-Gardeners' Meeting](#) on Saturday March 14th from 10:00 a.m.—12:00 pm. at the Luxton Park Rec Center—it was a great way to kick off the gardening season! A huge thanks to Huy at the Luxton Park Recreation Center for hosting us.

We met some of our fellow gardeners; we learned more about the business side of the organization; we signed up for the service commitment projects; we collected signature pages of the Gardeners' Agreements; the Cornerstone GardenShare team and the Arthur gardeners had a break-out meeting; and we exchanged some ideas and seeds.

### Soil Amendments

Thanks to Martha the free compost from the city is set to be delivered to each site at the end of April or beginning of May. In addition, there are three types of soil amendments that I'm going to use this year in my plots. They are organic horse manure from Pegasus (click [HERE](#) for more info), mushroom compost from Forest Mushrooms (click [HERE](#)), and coffee grounds from the local coffee shops. I can sell you bags of horse manure and mushroom compost for **\$2 each**, delivered, to offset the cost of bringing it onsite. Send me an email to let me know if you'd like some: [Coordinators@PPCGMN.org](mailto:Coordinators@PPCGMN.org)

### Seeds, Anyone?

Last year's feature vegetable from Tim Kenny at the MN Landscape Arboretum was [zucchetta](#). This year it is [kwintus pole beans](#). I have extra seeds of both if you would like to grow them. These veggies will be featured in the Prospect Park Garden Club cook-offs in July and August so I'm looking for folks to grow them so that we have extra to use for the cook-offs.

I've still have some bean seeds from the Hennepin County Master Gardeners for use in Community Garden programs. *Strike* is a smooth, medium-size, green bush bean; *Magnum* is a flat green bush bean; and *Slenderette* is a slim, long, green bush bean. ALL three varieties are certified Minnesota Winners (which means they have won at the UMN Extension.

I also have basil, watermelon, basil, pac choi, parsley, cucumber, basil, tomatillo, tomato, basil, and basil. They were leftover from last year's MN Winners seed starting effort. These are for plants that are usually started indoors.

Let me know if you'd like some of these seeds.

### Water

We hoping to have the water hooked up at all sites by May 1st, weather permitting. We need to make sure we're past the threat of a hard freeze in order to minimize damage to the hoses and other water delivery equipment.

### Welcome to the New Gardener!

See the article on Page 2.

### PicStrip (click to enlarge):



# PPCG NEWS—PAGE 2

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## Welcome New Gardeners and Volunteers!

We continue to pick up new gardeners and I'm aware of a few more application that are in the mail. The additions since last month follow. Welcome aboard!

- Jeff Stott (Cornerstone, C24)
- Josh Lundgren (Cornerstone, C42 C51, C52)
- Kris Lambert (Yale Y9)
- Lindsey Sloat (Cornerstone, C25 & C26)
- Rachel Peterson (Cornerstone, C11)
- Travis Brown (Cornerstone, C41)

## Surly DOES Give A Damn!

Surly work day went phenomenally well. We had more 47 Surly volunteers show up and 4 from PPCG Cornerstone to provide leadership. We were well organized, worked very hard, had skilled volunteers, had fun, and got a whole bunch done! We:

- moved the trailer
- moved the wood that was in the parking lot over to the garden site
- built 22 more 4' x 8' raised beds and 4 longer beds (4' x 24')
- filled some of the raised beds
- built a pergola over the tables
- sided the wood shed
- spread out more wood chips and stump grindings, and
- put a brick edge around the dye gardens.

Click [HERE](#) for a photo album or [HERE](#) for the Surly Facebook page if you would like to see a full set of pics. Thanks to Mary and Cheryl from Surly, and Del Cathy, Rob, and Susan from the PPCG for the leadership.

Next up is to have a work day on April 18th with the Cornerstone gardeners to fill the rest of the beds. Then we're ready to get planting!

## Service Projects

Thanks to all who signed up for your service commitments at the All-Gardeners' Meeting. Click [HERE](#) to see the **Arthur** sign-ups, [HERE](#) for **Cornerstone**, and [HERE](#) for **Yale**. For those of you who have yet to sign up for a service commitment area, click [HERE](#) to please send me an email expressing your interest in what. A reminder that this year there will be consequences for those who do not fulfill their required four (4) hours minimum in service to the garden during the year.

We will be focusing on [composting](#) and [garden cleaning](#) as the two service areas to develop this year. Martha has offered to lead the composting effort across all the gardens but we need a coordinator at each site. Jean Emmons has offered to be the overall leader for the

garden cleaning program. That will be an effort to ensure that no produce goes to waste in our gardens. If you can't use it please make sure it ends up at a food shelf rather than let it rot and go to waste in the garden. If you are interested in leading one of these work streams at the particular garden sites (A, C, or Y) please let us know.

## Hoop House

I'm in discussion with a couple of folks about putting a 20' x 50' hoop house in at the Cornerstone site. It would be a shared resource with the Backyard Initiative for Justice and Agriculture ([BIJA](#)) and possibly others. We have a discovery meeting planned for Thursday, April 15th at the Cornerstone site to determine if we can establish a beneficial partnership. Stay tuned!

## Gardener's Agreement

If we still do not have a signed [gardener's agreement](#) on file for you we need to make sure we have one before you begin gardening. It's required because of the agreements we have with the property owners and the City of Minneapolis. In addition, for PPCG Cornerstone gardeners we will need to sign the updated agreement because of the new Memorandum of Understanding we have with The Cornerstone Group, the property owners of that site.

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Hennepin County 2013

**VGB 1: Getting Ready to Garden**  
Prepared by: Del Hampton  
University of Minnesota Extension  
Master Gardener Program—Hennepin County 2013

**VGB 2: Planting Your Garden**  
Prepared by: Del Hampton  
University of Minnesota Extension  
Master Gardener Program—Hennepin County 2013

**VGB 3: Veggies One By One**  
Prepared by: Mollie Dean  
University of Minnesota Extension  
Master Gardener Program—Hennepin County 2013

**VGB 4: Designing Your Garden**  
Prepared by: Julie Davis  
University of Minnesota Extension  
Master Gardener Program—Hennepin County 2013

**VGB 5: Maintain Your Garden**  
*My garden is all planted. Now what!*  
Prepared by: Mary Stewart  
University of Minnesota Extension  
Master Gardener Program—Hennepin County 2013