



Farmer's Market



Pearland Farm and Garden Newsletter

Your Resource for the Pearland Community Garden,
Pearland Old Townsite Farmer's Market, Gardening Tips and Homesteading

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DIY– Start your own seeds indoors this winter



I went online looking for instructions on how to build my own grow-light system. I found an article written by TC Conner from Pennsylvania on www.DavesGarden.com. I followed his instructions and it worked out just like he said it would. The only difference is I purchased my materials at ACE Hardware in Pearland and it cost roughly \$77.00 for me to build. A little more expensive than the article suggests, but definitely worth it.

You can read the article here: <http://davesgarden.com/guides/articles/view/48/>

Arbor Day– Free Trees were given away in Pearland

Keep Pearland Beautiful hosted it's is Annual Arbor Day tree giveaway this weekend. Trees given to residents included Pecan, Eastern Redbud, Live Oak and Red Maple. Each Pearland resident was eligible to receive 2 free seedlings. There were over 800 seedlings available.

Pearland's Urban Forrester, John Walters was on-hand to demonstrate proper planting and pruning techniques for trees . Keep Pearland Beautiful has a wonderful guide, "Trees for Pearland", that is very informative about trees for our area. The guide is available through Keep Pearland Beautiful. If you have any questions or if you would like to receive a copy of the guide, call their office at (281) 652-1659.

Keep Pearland Beautiful also donated 10 trees to the Pearland Community Gardens to help beautify the garden area and create a shady spot for volunteers to rest under.

Visit: www.KeepPearlandBeautiful.org





Pearland Community Gardens

Monthly Volunteer Meeting

Monday, January 11, 2010

Please join us for our Monthly Community Garden Volunteer Meeting. You do not "have" to attend in order to participate each month, but we would sure love to see you there.

A Community Garden Page has been built and placed on the Bay Area Homesteading website. At any time you can go online and check to see the latest updates, scheduled meetings or workdays. We will also be posting what heirloom varieties are being planted, their yields and how well they are growing in our climate.

New Volunteer Orientation and Meet n' Greet begins at 6:30pm

General Volunteer Meeting begins at 7:00pm

Meetings held at the Vic Coppinger YMCA in Pearland located at 2700 YMCA Drive, Pearland, Texas 77581

How to become a Volunteer!

Due to the expense of Liability Insurance and the cost of utilities we are asking interested residents who would like to participate in the Community garden to please get a YMCA Garden Membership. This can be obtained at the Vic Coppinger YMCA in Pearland for \$20.00 annually. The fee will be split, with half going to the YMCA to help cover the insurance and utilities and the YMCA is donating the other half to construct the gardens.

Please help us in making Pearland a better place.

You can visit www.BayAreaHomesteading.com for more information

January Vegetable Varieties for Transplants by Kate Wilczek

Our volunteers have been busy starting spring transplants from seeds. Almost 100 transplants of tomatoes, peppers, eggplants, and tomatillos will be ready for planting outside in late February and early March. This year's varieties are a mixture of colors and flavors that will please anyone's eyes and palate. Below is a selection of what we will be growing.

Tomato "Old German"

Mennonite heirloom and one of the best-tasting tomatoes ever. Gorgeous yellow fruits streaked with red that can weigh more than 1 pound each. Makes killer sandwiches and turns hamburgers into gourmet treats.

Tomato "Celebrity" F₁

the first hybrid tomato released in the US and a workhorse of our canning garden. One plant in a home garden has yielded over 40 pounds of tomatoes. You'll say goodbye to commercial pasta sauces when you discover Celebrity.

Eggplant "Rosa Bianca"

fruits are white with a lilac blush; beautiful and never bitter. Favorite eggplant of Italian chefs.

Pepper "Numex Joe E. Parker"

This is a Hatch-type pepper, about 6 inches long. Slightly spicy in cooler weather and quite hot during the summer. It is usually consumed green. Take a few of these, slit them lengthwise, remove seeds and stuff with a little Jack or Oaxaca cheese. Then grill them on both sides, turning gently. Prepare for a burst of flavor that is out of this planet.



Pearland Old Townsite Farmer's Market



Farmer's Market

2010 Market Season

March—November

2nd and 4th

Saturday of each month

9am-1pm

Zylinski Parks

Grande Blvd.

Pearland, Texas

New Vendors:

Fusion Beans

a award-winning local gourmet coffee roaster out of League City, Texas

Proverbs Farm

an Alvin, Tx goat dairy providing goat milk cheese, soaps and lotions

Rose of Sharon

Pearland residents bringing local raw honey and beeswax products

Two Whimsical Souls

two friends that specialize in recycled garden art, wind chimes, etc.

Organic Gardening— Helpful Ideas and Tips by Ann Hart

Organic gardening is growing in popularity as people increasingly see the need to avoid chemicals and synthetic products. Organic gardens also provide protection from genetically modified organisms (GMO) in the garden.

Those who take up organic gardening often are at a loss as to where to buy supplies. They don't know what products they need for soil nourishment or pest control. They may not know how much water to supply, or how to go about composting kitchen scraps for their gardens. They need more than a few organic garden tips and ideas.

Organic garden helpful ideas and tips are widely available, if you know where to find them. Here are a few places to begin your search.

Organic Garden Helpful Ideas

One of my favorite organic garden tips is this one. The most important thing you can do to control pests in the organic garden is to keep the soil healthy. Healthy soil produces healthy plants. Healthy plants, like healthy humans, are better able to withstand disease.

A second helpful organic garden idea I like is to control pests with ladybirds (ladybugs). These beautiful little red insects with shiny black spots control aphids naturally and totally. You can order them from several organic garden places on the Internet. Until they arrive, spray every part of aphid-infested plants with well diluted soapy water. Rinse with clear water.

My third favorite organic gardening idea is to plant guardian plants around and among tender vegetables. Marigolds make the organic garden border colorful, and ward off many pests. Onions and



Bay Area Homesteading



Buyer's Club 2010 Season Update:

The Bay Area Homesteading Buyer's Club started last May, when I went in search of fresh vegetables and local products for my family. I started contacting farms and trying to buy good, local, healthy food. Over time I started buying for friends, then neighbors, then the pizza man and the Buyer's Club was born. At the time we did not have enough participation to have the farms let us have produce at bulk prices. So we last year we bought our produce from a local Organic Certified CSA. We appreciate all of their help, however our goal has always been to reach a point that we could buy local, organic or sustainably grown produce ourselves, straight from the farm. We have now reached a level of participation that enables us to buy from several different farms and have them give us bulk prices. Due to the expected Freeze we are postponing the start of this season to see how the local growers are affected. We should have a start date as soon as we know how the weather is going to affect the crops. For more information, please contact Cassie Mitchel at 281-804-4211.

Class Schedules:

Monday, January 25th, 2010 7:00pm - 9:00pm Canning 101- Jams and Jellies

A local resident who has been canning and teaching canning classes from her home has offered to share a class with us. The class will cover how to make jams and jellies quickly and inexpensively. Every attendee will receive hand-outs, recipes, and jelly. (2 hour class)
Class Size: 6 Max. Cost: Individual: \$40.00

Saturday, February 20th, 2010 9:00am- 3:00pm Sausage Making Class

A local resident who has been producing his own sausage for years has agreed to share his knowledge of basic sausage production at his home in Santa Fe, Texas. The class will cover meat grinding, preparation of sausage casings, stuffing sausage and much more. This class is a hands-on class, please come dressed appropriately. (4-5 hour class)
Class Size: 12 Max. Cost: Individual: \$30.00 Couple: \$40.00

Classes currently being scheduled:

March:

Hydroponic Gardening Class and Farm Tour- Santa Fe, Texas

Sausage Making 101- Santa Fe, Texas

Herb Class- Pearland, Texas

April:

Goat Milk Soap Class- Pearland, Texas



To register and RSVP for classes, please visit the Bay Area Homesteading website- Class Schedule page at: www.BayAreaHomesteading.com If you have any questions, Please feel free to call Cassie Mitchel at (281) 804-4211



Owners and Organizers Contact Information:

Bay Area Homesteading

www.BayAreaHomesteading.com

An endeavor to bring healthy local foods and a sense of community to Pearland, Texas

Owned by: Cassie and Ron Mitchel Email: info@bayareahomesteading.com Phone: (281) 804-4211

Pearland Community Gardens

www.BayAreaHomesteading.com

A project organized by local volunteers in partnership with the Vic Coppinger YMCA

Organizer: Cassie Mitchel Email: info@bayareahomesteading.com Phone: (281) 804-4211

Organizer: Kate Wilzcek Email: kasiawilzcek@sbcglobal.net Phone: (281) 808-3115

Partner: Vic Coppinger YMCA Phone: (281) 485-6805

Pearland Old Townsite Farmer's Market

www.PearlandOldTownsiteFarmersMarket.com

A dream to bring local farmer's and local residents together to support our local families and encourage a sense of community and healthy living. The Pearland Parks and Recreation Department, The Pearland Old Townsite Business Coalition and the Pearland Economic Development Corp. have all come together to make this event happen.

Market Manager: Cassie Mitchel Email: cassie@bayareahomesteading.com Phone: (281) 804-4211

Parks and Recreation Event Coordinator: Angie Sanders Phone: (281) 652-1775

Our Supporters

We would like to thank the following organizations for their support.

Pearland Old Townsite Farmer's Market

The **Pearland Parks and Recreation Department** has partnered with us to make this a successful event.

The **Pearland Old Townsite Business Coalition** has donated the use of their logo to help brand the Old Townsite area.

The **Pearland Economic Development Corporation** is helping us to work with the City of Pearland and the community to make this project successful.

Pearland Community Gardens

The **Vic Coppinger YMCA in Pearland** has donated use of 1.5 acres adjacent to their facility for our use.

The **Pearland Parks and Recreation Department** has supported this project from the beginning.

The **Pearland Community Garden Volunteers** who have donated their time and money to support this project.

Thank you for you support!