



# The Garden Gazette May 2011

A newsletter for Grafton County 4-H Garden Program Gardeners

## Upcoming Deadlines and Events



**Newsflash!!**



### **SATURDAY, MAY 7 FROM 10 AM TO 2 PM.**

Bring a bag lunch to the conference room at the Extension office and enjoy the kick off session of the Summer Gardening Workshop Series on Cold Frames and Variety Selection presented by Agriculture Educator Heather Bryant and John Bishop. Remember 4-H garden project members who attend will have their name put into a drawing for a special prize to be awarded at Garden Awards Night, October 7, 2011. (For upcoming workshops see the pages in the back of this newsletter) As an added bonus, anyone who attends this workshop will have their name put in a drawing to take home a cold frame!! Bring your family! And friends!

**MAY** – Plant your seeds! Get them started in a cold frame if you'd like! (See above!) Check out the starting seeds indoors and timing chart on our website <http://extension.unh.edu/Counties/Grafton/Grafton.htm> and click on 4-H packets and information (upper right hand corner) and scroll down to gardening program, then Garden Gazette archive April 2010.

### **REMEMBER TO USE ALL OF YOUR RESOURCES!**

✿ Call the Education Center and Info line toll free **1-877-EXT-GROW** (1-877-398-4769), or email your question to [answers@unh.edu](mailto:answers@unh.edu).

✿ Go to the UNH Cooperative Extension website for current articles and a list of available gardening fact sheets.

<http://extension.unh.edu/Counties/Grafton/Grafton.htm>

✿ Call or email your Extension office at (603)787-6944 or [grafton@ceunh.unh.edu](mailto:grafton@ceunh.unh.edu)

✿ Attend our Summer Gardening Workshop series or "Growing Places." Find a complete schedule at the end of this newsletter.

✿ Talk to your gardening friends, neighbors and relatives!

Happy Spring ! Hi, I am Becky Colpitts and I am the new Volunteer Management Program Assistant here at the Cooperative Extension office – i.e. – the new Arianne! It brings me great pleasure to be bringing you garden news this year. It is my intent that you go forward in creativity and fun in growing your gardens, whether they be eye candy gardens or gardens of sustenance, or both!! You are in charge. Be curious. Be unique. Be yourself always and bring that to the garden. By your delight you will be creating gardens of delight for yourself, your family, your community, and your world. It is also my intent that the Garden Gazette will stimulate your mind. Ask questions. Call the Extension Office @ 787-6944, email [becky.colpitts@unh.edu](mailto:becky.colpitts@unh.edu) or Facebook ("like" UNH Cooperative Extension – Grafton County). I'll get your questions answered using the well researched information from UNH Cooperative Extension and beyond. That is what we do best. Let us know on our Facebook page your successes, challenges, inspirations. Post pictures! Let's motivate each other. We will all learn together. Happy Gardening! *Becky*



## IN THIS ISSUE

- Bye, Bye Thinning – Hello Seed Tapes
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### Make Your Garden (Journal) Grow

The garden journal is optional in your 4-H project, so why do one? Besides being considered for a special prize at Garden Awards night—if you turn in your journal to the Extension office by **Sept 1<sup>st</sup>**—a garden journal is a way to let your creativity soar! You can use a three ring binder, a blank book, or maybe a journal you make by binding blank and lined paper together with a design of your choice for the cover. You could glue inspiring garden pictures on the front or draw, color or paint your garden vision. If you have a binder that has a pocket cover you can slip your masterpiece right in. Get curious. Look at books, gardening websites, Google garden journals. Get inspired.

What goes in a garden journal? Again, that is limited only by your imagination! Your journal is a good place to put a copy of your garden plan that you will submit to the Extension office on **June 10**. Don't forget the 4 photos that your garden project leader took. And, of course, your project page. Maybe even the whole garden packet so you can stay committed to your goal!

What else? A calendar to write down the weather, day by day. Observations of how your garden grows. How you feel when you are in your garden. A poem, song, or prose that came into your head while you were working in the garden. Drawings of the plants in various stages. Drawings of the bug that ate your tomatoes, or the birds flying overhead. Take pictures of your favorite flowers. Write down recipes that you loved, maybe even created, using the vegetables you grew. Add the research you did on edible flowers. Along with pictures of your favorites, add the growing information. Put in the garden projects you are working on, or would like to do – sunflower houses, bean teepees, or innovative landscaping techniques. Day to day or week by week diary entries. Really, the ideas are endless. What is important is that this journal is yours and it is special to you.



### Mark in the Garden

OK, you have planted your seeds. Remember to mark the row, bed or container so you know what those little sprouts are when they come up in a week or so. Get your inventive hat on and let's come up with some innovative ways to make your Mark in the Garden!!

Labeling your garden can be very simple or very elaborate depending on your mood and what you are envisioning. Labels can be made out of most anything and you get to decide what information you want to have on your labels. A very simple marker can be a popsicle stick with the name of the plant written on with permanent marker. Another is to use the package your seeds came in. It you want to use the seed package, remember to gently open the package so the name and growing information stays intact. If you have seeds left over simply put them in a zip lock bag that you have labeled with the seed name and growing information. Secure the empty package on a stick and put in the ground. You could cover the seed packet with clear contact paper so it does not get water damaged, put a zip lock bag over it, or maybe a clear jar over the sign. Imagination is the key here. Look around the house. What could you reuse or recycle to make a garden sign? Old silverware, wire coat hangers with cardboard attached, clay pots, smooth stones, even large colorful lollipops with the wrapper still on! If you have access to a computer, do an image Google search using the words "homemade garden markers". Get inspired! Here are some things to consider:

Is it waterproof?

Is it sturdy?

How are you going to secure it in the ground or on the ground?

Do you want more information on the sign besides just the name of the plant? Date planted? How long does it take to sprout? When to harvest?

Is it readable/useable? You can use words, symbols, or drawings as long as it has meaning for you.

Does it bring a smile to your face when you look at it?

Have fun with this. Small touches make a garden extra special. Now.... Ready, Set, Go Make Your Mark!

## Bye, Bye Thinning, Hello Seed Tapes

Oh look! The radishes are up! Ahhh....so many young ones. Wait. They shouldn't be that close together. They will never have room to grow to that nice round shape I adore. Thinning time. I really don't want to do this. It feels so wasteful. If I don't then my radishes are cradled together, some are funny shaped. Hm. Is there a better way? Yes! Master Gardener Marilyn Fuller has been teaching Bath students a way that almost totally eliminates thinning! Her secret? Seed Tapes. Fun and easy to do on a cold winter night or just a rainy day when one would love to be in the garden but, alas, it's all mud. Put the seed tapes into the ground and, voila, spacing is correct and no need to thin although you might still need to pull the weeds that decide next to the radishes is the place to be!

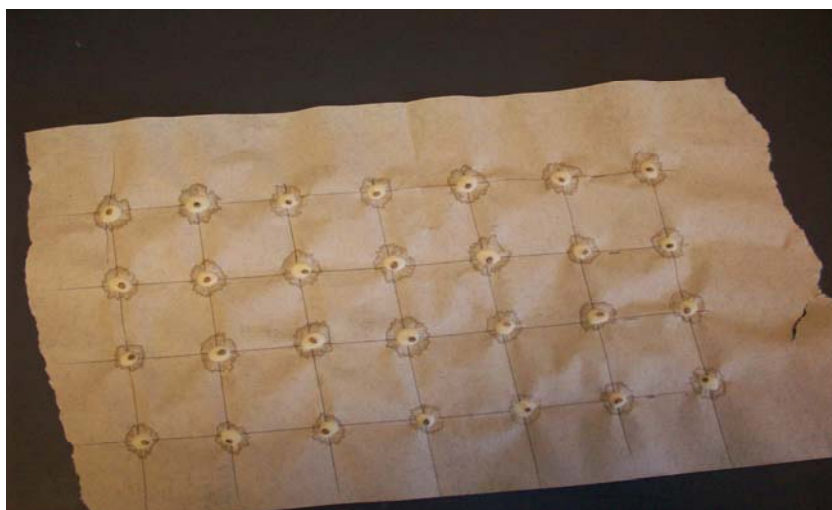
### Supplies:

1. Heavy duty paper towels (household paper towels are too thick – think brown towels that are usually in the public restrooms).
2. ruler
3. pencil
4. plastic sandwich bag
5. paste that you make out of flour and water only
6. radish seeds

Now that you've gathered your supplies let's get to work!

1. Using the ruler and pencil, make a grid 1 ½ inches wide on the heavy duty paper towel. The towel can be any length.
2. Make a paste with the flour and water. The consistency of the paste needs to be the same consistency of regular glue like Elmer's.
3. Put some paste in the plastic sandwich bag.
4. Cut a small hole in a corner of the bag and squirt a dot where the lines come together.
5. Place one radish seed on each dot.
6. Let dry overnight or until completely dry. Roll the towel up loosely and store in a plastic bag until ready to plant.
7. When ready to plant, cut between each row, right in the middle to make a strip.
8. Plant strips end to end in a trench like row and cover.

The paper towel and the flour paste are biodegradable! Can you think of other vegetable that require thinning? Try seed tapes with them as well!



# 10 Steps to Success with Your Vegetable Garden

**1. Pick a good site.** The best site is one that's near the house, receives full sun all day, contains no large rocks, perennial weeds or grasses, has good air circulation and is sheltered from strong winds.

**2. Start with good soil and keep improving it.** Plants do best in deep, loose, well-drained topsoil. Improve it with compost, aged manure, cover crops and organic mulches. Have soil tested every three years.

**3. Plan carefully.** Don't plant crops from the same plant family in the same spot two years in succession. Consider the path of the sun, so tall crops do not shade shorter ones. Space plants so outer leaves on mature plants will just touch those of their neighbors.

**4. Start small.** There's a lot to learn in a vegetable garden. Experience success with a small garden, then gradually increase its size.

**5. Grow only what you like to eat.** You'll take better care of what you look forward to eating.

**6. Select crop varieties with care.** Look for crops bred to do well in short seasons with cold, wet springs and extremes of temperature and moisture. Also consider disease resistance, tolerance of adverse conditions, the variety's growth habit and length of harvest season.

**7. Water only when necessary, then water deeply and early in the day.** Vegetables need about an inch of water a week. Conserve water by building soil organic matter and mulching crops to reduce soil moisture evaporation. When soil around plants is dry a couple of inches below the surface, soak the soil deeply, preferably with a drip or soaker hose. Water as early in the day as possible.

**8. Visit your garden every day.** Check for signs of pests and diseases so you can take care of problems before they get out of hand. Of course, visit also for the sheer joy of it!

**9. Make sure you've correctly identified the cause of a problem before applying a "treatment."**

Inappropriate use of pesticides is expensive, threatens the health of humans, pets and the environment, and may itself cause more damage than it remedies.

**10. Maintain good garden sanitation.** Remove diseased leaves, fruits and vines; control weeds.

*Original, 6/00*

**Visit our website: [extension.unh.edu](http://extension.unh.edu)**

Education Center

Practical solutions to everyday questions

Toll free Info Line 1-877-398-4769

M-F . 9 AM - 2 PM



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# 2011 Adult Vegetable Gardening Series & "Growing Places" Children's Program



- All workshops are free and open to the public! You may attend one or all sessions.
- Beginning June 22nd we will also offer youth sessions which will occur at the same time and place as our adult lecture series.
- Youth sessions will be presented by Erika and Fran Krauss, who are screened 4-H volunteer leaders.
- The sessions will take place at one of three locations: the gazebo at the Grafton County Complex, the UNH Cooperative Extension conference room, 3855 Dartmouth College Hwy, North Haverhill, NH, or the Horse Meadow Senior Center on Horse Meadow Road, North Haverhill, NH.
- To register, or for additional information, please contact Heather Bryant or Becky Colpitts at the UNHCE office at (603) 787-6944.

Workshop & Presenter Names	Date	Time	Location	Description 
<b>Cold Frames and Variety Selection</b> - Heather Bryant - - John Bishop -	Saturday May 7, 2011	10 am - 2 pm	UNHCE Conference Room	Get your gardening season off to a good start! Learn how to construct a cold frame and choose the right vegetable varieties for our climate. Please note the cold frame construction session WILL be hands on and pre-registration would be appreciated.
<b>Raised Beds</b> - Margo Connors -	Wednesday May 25, 2011	5:30 pm - 7 pm	Gazebo	Learn how to build, fill, and plant a raised garden bed. Raised beds are advantageous in poor soil conditions. They warm more quickly in spring, allowing you to work the soil and plant earlier. Raised beds drain well. The soil in the bed does not become compacted, and they are easy to maintain. Raised beds are constructed with accessibility in mind!
<b>Edible Landscaping</b> - Erika Krauss - - Becky Colpitts -	Wednesday June 8, 2011	5:30 pm - 7 pm	Gazebo	Turn your yard into a fresh air market! Learn planning and design techniques, including plant varieties and planting considerations to turn your yard into an edible extravaganza!
<b>Weed Management</b> - Mary Savage -	Wednesday June 22, 2011	5:30 pm - 7 pm	Gazebo	Instead of pulling weeds, we will discover techniques to keep them out of your garden in the first place! We'll teach you what you can do to limit the number of weeds brought into your garden and prevent weeds from getting out of control. By the end of the session you'll have increased knowledge of common weeds in this local growing area. Don't know what kind of weed it is? Bring it in, we'll play detective and do the best we can to identify it!
<b>Creating a Habitat with Compost</b> - Children's Program -				Look into the workings of the compost pile, understand what makes a great compost environment and who is helping create it!

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*For any special arrangements including dietary, physical access, or other accommodation requests, please contact Heather Bryant at 603-787-6944 within 10 days of the workshop so proper consideration may be given to the request.*

Workshop & Presenter Names	Date	Time	Location	Description 
<b>Responsible Pest Management</b> - Heather Bryant -	Wednesday July 6, 2011	5:30 pm - 7 pm	Gazebo	It is easy to reach for the bug spray but is it the best thing for your land and your produce? What other options do you have? Come and find out with us.
<b>Our 6-Legged Friends</b> - Children's Program -				Learn what New Hampshire considers pests and what other animals help keep these troublemakers at bay!
<b>Historical Gardening</b> - Joan Pushee -	Wednesday July 20, 2011	5:30 pm - 7 pm	Gazebo	For our ancestors, gardening was a necessity. Now it brings us pleasure as well as provisions. How has this change in purpose affected what we plant and how we plant it? Come and learn how our ideas about gardening have changed through history.
<b>Birding: Learn to Listen and Look</b> - Children's Program -				Tune your senses into the flying creatures that surround you - birds and butterflies! We will have some binoculars for you to use (but bring your own if you have them) and identification books.
<b>Seed Saving</b> - Heather Bryant - - Becky Colpitts -	Wednesday August 3, 2011	5:30 pm - 7 pm	Gazebo	Ever tried saving your own seeds? Ever failed? (Shhh... don't tell anyone, but most of us have had that experience at least once.) Learn some techniques that will help improve your success rate!
<b>Pressing Flowers</b> - Children's Program -				Come and learn how to keep flowers pretty all winter long by pressing them. We will also be drying herbs - what fun!
<b>Preserve the Harvest</b> - Deb Maes -	Wednesday August 17, 2011	<b>NOTE: LONGER SESSION</b> 5:30 pm - 8 pm	Horse Meadow Senior Center	Join us to learn the correct way to "Preserve the Harvest". Extension Educator Deb Maes will talk about safe ways to can, freeze and dry your garden's bounty. Participants can expect to get actively involved in the experience.
<b>Fun with Brownies: Discover Scat</b> - Children's Program -				Have you ever seen evidence left behind by animals and wondered what they mean? In this workshop we will figure out how to read those clues and see just who we share our neighborhood with.
<b>Storage</b> - Heather Bryant -	Wednesday August 31, 2011	5:30 pm - 7 pm	Gazebo	You grew it and now you need to store it. We will discuss which vegetables need to be cured, how best to store each species and which ones can and cannot be stored together.
<b>Fiber</b> - Children's Program -				Join us to discover the wonders of animal fiber and the steps and tools of processing wool. While you are here, meet our special guests - our own Angora rabbits!
<b>Cooking with Fresh Veggies</b> - Holly Finlay - - Ana Petersen -	Wednesday Sept 14, 2011	<b>NOTE: LONGER SESSION</b> 5:30 pm - 8 pm	Horse Meadow Senior Center	Unearth new and different ways to prepare and present some of the old standbys; beets, brussel sprouts, carrots, cabbage, parsnip, potatoes, rutabagas, turnips, winter squash, etc. We'll do some cooking and sampling, sharing and comparing of recipes, and we'll reveal tales of our culinary triumphs and tragedies. Bring along your recipe ideas and inspirations. We'll try to be serious, but it's apt to be hilarious!

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