

IT'S A "COGAMI"

"COGAMI" stands for: COmmunity GArden of Mayne Island . For those of you who are not aware that Mayne has a Community Garden, it is located behind the Community Center -- come take a look!

This spring, we expanded from 7-8 garden beds to 23, with a 'communal' back-fence bed for tall/climbing plants, and a central herb garden. In spite of the fickle summer, the beds became a riot of diverse plants, producing a generous bounty for the gardeners. Our intentions of nurturing this lovely corner of Mayne Island, encouraging the production of local, organic food, and growing our knowledge and skills as gardeners, has been a resounding success.

In addition to "growing the garden", we have also grown the 'community' of gardeners. Periodic work parties have been well-attended and much fun, in spite of the physical work and 'sweat-equity' called for. Many times, while tending my plot, I engaged in lively discussion with other gardeners about all the things that concern us 'dirt-diggers': dealing with slugs and bugs, soil amendments, plant attributes, zucchinis-gone-wild, etc. We have learned a lot from each other, which is part of what Community Gardens are all about!

Although the main growing season is winding down, fall/winter crops are coming on (kale, chard, carrots, parsnips), and plans for next year's season are already in the works. As all of the current beds are spoken for, and our Waiting List of interested gardeners grows longer, our main focus for next year is - Expansion! Our plan, over the course of this winter and spring, is to expand the fence to the east, into an adjacent area that could accommodate up to 18 more beds. It's quite a project - clearing, fencing, water lines and plumbing, etc. - and we would like to appeal to Mayne Island residents of a few things on our "Wish List":

1. As ALL of our water usage comes from rain catchment, we will need more tanks for water storage to serve the new garden area -- if you have anything large that would serve for water storage that you could donate, it would go to good use!
2. Another Wish List item -- an old abandoned greenhouse/ greenhouse frame/ shed that could be converted to a greenhouse - you get the idea.

It's been a wonderful season of growing many things: vegetables, flowers, herbs, and good friendships!

If you are interested in being involved, have questions (or donations), or just want to know more - contact Vicki Turay - 539-9946, or Becky Hardey - 539-3167.