



How to make your own worm bin

Article and photos by Alex Erzen,
Cascade P-Patch gardener

Caring for worms can be as easy as having a house plant. It's hard to mess them up. Worms require some occasional attention, but do well enough on their own. They're much easier to care for than cats and dogs, and while they may not show you the same affection, you don't have to pick up their waste to throw it away—in fact, just the opposite! Worm waste (castings) are gardening gold for the eco-engine. In Seattle, where it doesn't get really hot or cold, worms can live well.

There aren't many hard and fast rules for worms. Those of us who raise worms don't do things the same way, yet we're all successfully composting our food scraps. So, not to worry if you're interested in worm composting. Though you are responsible for hundreds, even thousands, of lives when worm composting, it's really quite easy. Just remember to avoid the two extremes: total neglect can lead to starved, dead worms while over-feeding can lead to flies and odor.

A few simple guidelines to remember: worms don't eat meat, eggs or dairy. I'm particular about not adding seeds (apple, cherry, tomato), stems (apple, flower stems), hard or dry things (pits, avocado skins) or too much fruit (orange peels). The way I look at it, a little work now saves more work later, and it's a pain to get those hard, dried, un-worm-eaten things out of the finished worm compost. My finished compost looks like coffee grounds, and is ready to use.

I've worked with worms for more than ten years, using worm bins made of various materials. From Rubbermaid tubs to plywood boxes or stacking-tray 'worm factories' and the commercial-scale "Biostack" vermicomposter. In all those different systems and climates, worms survived and managed to produce varying amounts of healthy nutrient-rich compost.

A few years ago, my wife, a friend, and I organized a worm-bin-building

workshop for Sustainable Capitol Hill. We collected money from eager worm-wanters, purchased supplies, borrowed equipment and booked a room at accommodating Metrix Create:Space. We found Seattle Tilth's "off the shelf worm bin" building directions worked well, and between three different worm bin owners, we were able to harvest and share enough worms to get the eight people at the workshop started.

There's plenty of how-to information online for worm bin construction: Seattle Tilth (and their great Garden Hotline), Seattle Public Utilities, and King County all have bin-building instructions and resources for buying and caring for worms (see below). And there are more books, articles and websites you can delve into. Worms Eat My Garbage (Mary Appelhof) is an oft cited wealth of info. Locally, Stoneway and Greenwood hardware stores are accustomed to worm-bin-building customers and can order parts that aren't in stock and will understand what you're asking for.

As for stocking a worm bin with worms, ask around. They can be a little expensive to buy, but so many people are vermicomposting these days someone you know may be able to gift you a few of their worms, and a few worms quickly and easily multiply in a happy bin. From there it is just you and your worms. You, as the worm wrangler, will discover your preferences—how often, how much and what food you add. Just as you'll decide what to do with the finished vermicompost. Will your worm bin fit in your kitchen, garage, fire escape, covered entryway? If you want it, worms can do it.

Worm-bin resources

Seattle Tilth: seattletilth.org
King County: your.kingcounty.gov/solidwaste/naturalyardcare/wormbins.asp
City of Seattle: seattle.gov/util/EnvironmentConservation/MyLawnGarden/CompostSoil/Composting/FoodWaste/index.htm

Creative minds wanted!

By Melinda Briana Epler, P-Patch Post Creative Director
and Member, P-Patch Trust Board of Directors

Welcome to the Winter/Spring issue of the *P-Patch Post*!

I wrote my first article for the *Post* about three and a half years ago. For the last 16 months I've been a member of the editorial team. In fact, if you can believe it, just a little over a year ago I sat in front of InDesign, our layout program, and used it for the first time. Sue Levitt, a former editor, graciously sat with me for a couple hours to show me the basics—then I was on my own to lay out the Winter/Spring 2012 issue. Now I use InDesign like a pro in my day job as a branding and marketing consultant!

Six months ago, I was wooed by the P-Patch Trust to become a Board Member. It's an exciting time to be a member, actually. We're currently going through a strategic planning and branding process, and I am lucky to be helping facilitate these great changes. But of course it's also a lot of work. So, I'm hoping you can help us...

Are you creative? If so, we need you!

We are seeking the following:

1. Logo designer
2. Layout designer
3. Website developer
4. Social media expert

What's in it for you?

1. Any hours spent working with the P-Patch Trust count toward your required 8 volunteer hours.
2. You'll gain experience and exposure for your work. And a recommendation if you need it.
3. You'll learn new skills. I'm happy to train the right person to do the layout design and/or social media.
4. You'll work with a great organization, helping us grow and expand our positive impact throughout the northwest.

If you have any of these skills, would you help us? Please contact me at melinda.e@ppatchtrust.org if you think you might be interested.

Through the years I've been consistently amazed at the caliber of articles and photos that come through the *Post*. This issue is no exception. Many thanks to everyone who has dedicated their precious time and effort. Happy gardening!!

Blues for Food Fest raises big bucks for giving gardens

Article by Judith Berman, Photos by Jeff Jaisun, jaisunphoto.com

Sometimes, everything just comes together in the best possible way.

On September 1, 2012, glorious weather, soulful music, great food and about 600 happy people made the sixth annual Blues for Food Fest at Magnuson Park the biggest and most successful event ever, raising just under \$10,000 for P-Patch Trust, giving gardens and Washington Blues Society's Musicians Relief Fund.

Festival goers grooved to the music, danced on the grass, enjoyed delicious Creole and Cuban food served up by Where Ya At Matt and Snout & Co., bid on fabulous homemade pies at the famous Blues for Food Fest pie auction—delicious with Parfait Ice Cream on the side!—and sipped various libations in the beer and wine tent, all under beautiful blue skies.

On stage, MC and music director Billy Stoops introduced a stellar line-up of local and out-of-town blues bands. The legendary Little Bill, who has been performing since 1953, got things started on the right note with his excellent trio. Next was the Stacy Jones Band, with an excellent and energetic mix of old standards and new material. Ben Rice and his hot young blues band from Oregon were up next, followed by Lady A and the Baby Blues Funk Band, who turned the energy up a few notches, connecting with the crowd and putting on a great show.

After that, headliner Teresa James and the Rhythm Tramps took the stage and demonstrated why the L.A.-based Texas singer has been compared to Janis Joplin. Junkyard Jane, Billy Stoops's own band, wrapped things up with a rockin' celebration of their 15th anniversary.

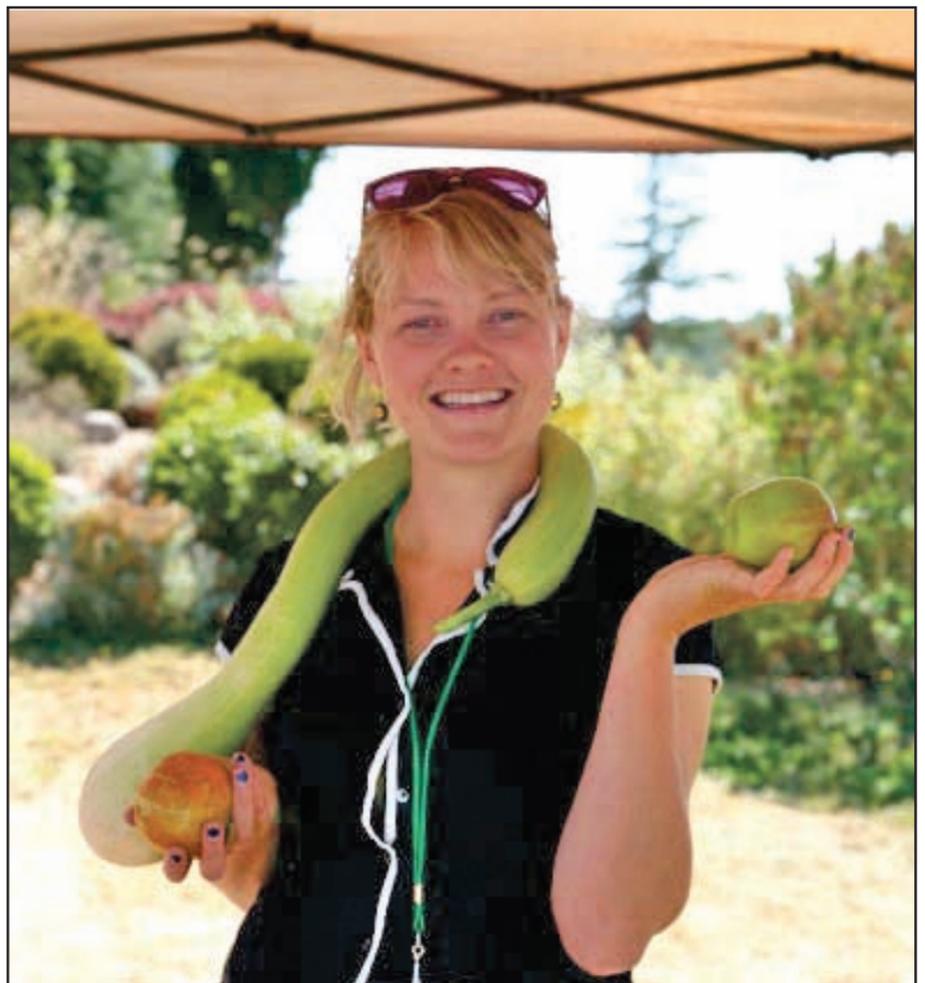
Blues for Food Fest is the brain child of Deb Rock, who, with Jude Berman, runs the food bank gardening program at Interbay P-Patch. Deb and Jude are now the driving force behind the festival, which raises money and awareness for all the amazing volunteer-run gardens in Seattle that donate upwards of 10 tons of produce every year to local food banks, shelters and feeding programs. Food security remains a serious problem in our city and the fresh, organic produce grown in P-Patch giving gardens constitutes a unique and important contribution.

Proceeds from Blues for Food Fest 2012 will be used to support giving gardens in a variety of ways. Gardens and greenhouses will receive much-needed potting soil and compost and volunteers will benefit from networking activities. A website is being developed to centralize information about P-Patch giving gardens and volunteer opportunities, and to help facilitate communication within the giving garden network, which continues to grow and become better known every year.

"I want to thank the incredibly generous sponsors who made it possible for us to put on such a great show this year," said Deb. "And I can't think of enough words to thank the dozens of energetic volunteers who contributed in so many ways to make Blues for Food Fest such a phenomenal success. From ticket-takers to set-up and take-down crews, from pie bakers and pie tent staffers to the WBS beer tent volunteers, from on-site security to the invaluable coordinators and gofers...we honestly could not do it without you!"

"And remember: your P-Patch has a giving garden!" added Jude. "Find out who's in charge and learn how you can contribute by helping plant, weed, water, harvest or make deliveries. And, of course, be sure to grow extra produce in your own plot, or glean what you don't use, to donate to the hungry. The time you put in will make a difference to so many people—and you can count it towards your required P-Patch hours," she concluded with a smile.

See you all Saturday, August 31, 2013, for the next Blues for Food Fest!



Community-supported veggie starts available

Offering a unique program based on a CSA (community-supported agriculture) model, Cascadia Edible Landscapes provides gardeners with flats of seasonally appropriate veggie and herb starts four times a year. You choose from our extensive list of Seattle-grown crops and pick them up at a neighborhood location near you. We help both new and experienced gardeners take some of the guesswork out of gardening so you can

grow more food for your family.

Our Spring 2013 session is now open for sign-ups and will be delivered on March 29th. We have a large variety of veggie starts to choose from: lettuces, kales, cabbage, herbs, edible flowers, and more. Visit us on the web at <http://eatyouryard.com/plant-nursery/cspprogram/> to learn more and purchase a membership today!

P-Patch 2013 Discount Coupon

This is your P-Patch discount coupon, good for 10% off on purchases of *garden-related* merchandise only at the following participating merchants. Present your coupon *before* the cashier rings up the sale. Happy Gardening!

- **City People's Garden Store**
2939 East Madison, 324-0737
- **City People's Mercantile, Sand Point**
5440 Sand Point Way, 524-1200
- **Emerald City Gardens**
4001 Leary Way NW, 789-1314
- **Furney's Nursery**
21215 Pacific Hwy S, 878-8761
- **Greenwood Hardware**
7201 Greenwood Ave N, 783-2900
- **Indoor Sun Shoppe**
160 Canal St, 634-3727
- **Magnolia Garden Center – P-Patch Plants Only**
3213 W Smith, 284-1161
- **Sky Nursery**
18528 Aurora Ave N, 546-4851
- **Swanson's Nursery**
9701 15th Ave NW, 782-2543
- **Urban Earth**
1051 N 35th St, 632-1760

P-Patch Program, 700 5th Ave, Ste 1700 PO Box 94649, Seattle WA 98124-4649, 684-0264



Ray's corner

Article and photo by Ray Schutte

After exploring the world of soil testing, one of my lessons learned is that careful and close observation of how your plants are growing is one of the best soil-testing processes available. This critical observation probably would have resulted in a more timely diagnosis of the nutritional deficiency in my beet crop.

The Problem

I sowed my beets in the early spring in a bed planted in rotation with successful winter crops of maché, endive and arugula. It was not long before I observed the beets seemed to be growing very slowly. Living in Seattle with our naturally acidic soils I jumped to a hasty conclusion: the soil needed a little dolomite lime to raise the pH and free up the nutrients. When the growth did not perk up I concluded that it must be short of nitrogen. I added a side dressing of worm casings and leaf mold. The results were not gratifying.

Soil Testing

The difference between productive soil and non-productive soil is in the mineral composition, which can only be determined with a soil test. I decided that a basic soil test that included nitrogen was in order. Because soil testing labs routinely assume a lack of nitrogen and recommend adding nitrogen, nitrogen is no longer included in the basic soil tests done by most by most labs and has to be special ordered.

However, the nitrogen cycle is dynamic and complex. Nitrogen undergoes many changes, which can make it available or unavailable. Up to 90% of the nitrogen in soil is tied up in organic matter. Through a process called mineralization, microorganisms convert organic nitrogen to inorganic nitrogen, which is then available to plants. Nitrogen is not included in most test results because this process is extremely sensitive to soil moisture and temperature and nitrogen testing is not an accurate measurement of how much nitrogen will be available during the growing season. A high level of organic material will insure the nitrogen will

be available when the plant tells the microorganism to get busy and start the mineralization process.

Test #1

I did two basic soil tests: one on my problem beet soil, and a second soil test on a younger, productive crop of beets in my garden. The problem beet soil had a pH of 6.8 and the healthy beet soil's pH was 6.6. Calcium and magnesium levels for both samples were in the very high range. Potassium was in the high range for both but slightly lower in the problem beet soil. My problem beet soil did show over 18% organic materials (4-10% is desirable).

Cation Exchange Capacity (CEC) is a measure of the soil's ability to release nutrients and make them available to the plant. Both samples had a CEC in the mid-thirties (10 to 15 is typical and sufficient). So far I had found nothing to hang my hat on.

Test #2

Since the basic soil test did not pinpoint the problem I was observing, I also ordered a tissue test for both the stressed and the healthy plants. Soil testing identifies the soil's nutrient backbone, while plant analysis identifies the actual nutrient uptake. The results showed both crops to be in the "sufficiency range" for both nutrients and micro-nutrients but on the low side for nitrogen.

Further Analysis

The problem was still not self-evident. I began by reviewing the test results and combing the internet for answers. I looked back on soil tests I did in 2007 on the problem beet soil. All the nutrients as well as the micronutrients were very high.

Then I noticed a difference. There was a change in the percent base saturation. The percent base saturation, measures the actual amount of potassium, magnesium and calcium that is made available to the plants. A balanced soil at base saturations is calcium 70%, magnesium 12%, potassium of 4% and a pH of 6.5.



Conclusion

In 2007 the potassium in the soil was very high (910 ppm) and base percentage for potassium was 8.1%. The same soil now has a potassium level of 153 ppm or in the high range, but the base percentage is only 1.0%. The good beet soil has a high potassium level of 171 ppm and a base percentage of 1.3%.

What my internet reading told me was that when plants are deficient in potassium they are unable to utilize nitrogen and water effectively. The base saturation for the good beets was just enough higher to promote growth. Had I taken a close look and observed that the edges of the leaves in the problem beets were brown and consulted a visual guide, I would have given the problem beets a side dressing of kelp and the problem would have disappeared.

Resources

I reviewed over 50 web sites. The following are what I found most useful:

- Soil testing and interpretive guide University of Massachusetts: umass.edu/soiltest
- Visual guide to diagnosing nutrient disorders: extension.umn.edu/distribution/horticulture/M1190.html
- Quality documents on the role of each soil nutrient; also offers somewhat expensive testing: spectrumanalytic.com/doc/library/Start
- Interpretive guide: extension.oregonstate.edu/gilliam/sites/default/files/Soil_Test_Interpretation_Guide_EC1478.pdf
- Soil minerals and soil prescriptions for Organic Gardeners, soilminerals.com

Every drop counts: P-Patch water conservation contest

Article and photos by Nate Moxley, Department of Neighborhoods

In early 2011 the P-Patch Program decided to hold a water conservation contest. The goals were rooted not only in saving money for the Program, but also in the ethic of conserving one of the most precious resources on earth. The initial goal was to reduce water consumption by 10%. We met our goal in 2011; however this year we far surpassed it, reducing consumption by just under 20%. That translates into a savings of 731,544 gallons of water!

What accounted for the reduction? Awareness of the initiative was the first step. Each garden received a poster and spigot cards with guidelines for efficient watering. Other factors included the use of rain catchment barrels and, at some gardens, much larger rain-collecting cisterns. The collective effort of thousands of gardeners made a huge difference, especially during the drought-like months this past summer.

Water conservation is a key ethic of the P-Patch Program, and we will continue our efforts to raise awareness and to provide resources to reduce our impact on the environment. Due to the success of the contest, we'll continue to hold it in the foreseeable future.

Despite the drought-like conditions this past summer, many P-Patch community gardens used less water in 2012 as compared to 2011! That said, there were a few stand-out gardens that saved more than the rest.

The Winners

The winners of the 2012 water contest are:

1st Place

Spring Street (4488 gallons less than 2011 = 66% savings)
Prize: \$100 gift certificate from Stewart Lumber

2nd Place

Pelican (1496 gallons less than 2011 = 50% savings)
Prize: Garden tool package

Honorable Mentions

The following sites saved at least 25% compared to last year:

Garden	Percent decrease from 2011	Gallons of water saved
1. Longfellow	38	3,740
2. Eastlake	37	41,888
3. Hazel Heights	33	2,244
4. Phinney	32	11,968
5. Hawkins	32	6,732
6. Hillman	25	18,700
7. Angel Morgan	25	10,472

Water contest highlights theft

The Spring Street P-Patch won the water contest this year by saving over 4500 gallons of water. Most of the water savings was due to gardeners employing smart watering techniques and generally being mindful of water conservation. However, there was another factor involved: being aware of and doing something about theft. Water theft—significant use of water by non-P-Patch gardeners—accounts for an untold amount of water usage throughout the Program. There have been reports of water trucks filling up at gardens, construction workers using water, car washing, kids playing with water, bathing and other reports of misuse.

In 2011 a friend of a neighbor was caught stealing water from the Spring Street garden. A P-Patch coordinator caught the neighbor in the act and asked him why he was filling up large containers of water. The man replied that he was watering a friend's garden and did not have access to an outdoor water spigot. The coordinator asked the man to stop taking water and that it was against the law; he refused and continued filling the water jugs. It wasn't until the police got involved that the man stopped filling up his jugs. Ultimately, the neighbor was dissuaded from stealing water and he wasn't seen again after the incident. The reduced water usage numbers in 2012 illustrate the impact that water theft was having at the garden the previous year.

This story highlights a problem throughout the Program; one that we all need to be aware of and be willing to take action on when necessary. One of the big steps we're taking is installing keyed hose bibs at all new gardens or when there is a water system upgrade. The keyed hose bibs are not perfect but do a good job at dissuading the casual thief. We're looking into more elaborate hose bib locks as an option, but have yet to find a cost-effective solution. Our best option at this point is to ask that everyone take responsibility for being vigilant and aware of who is using water and for what purpose. If you notice someone misusing water, speak up or call the police at the non-emergency number: 206-625-5011. If we cut theft by even a small amount, we'll go a long way toward saving a significant amount of water.

A retrospective of my years at the Ballard P-Patch

By Jacquie Willette

The world is a better place because of P-Patches and the wonderful people who garden in them. I recently had to let go of my plot because of my health, and I do miss it. I'm sad to leave the P-Patch Program but I wanted to reflect on the experiences I had there.

When I first started at the Ballard P-Patch over 20 years ago, the garden seemed to be a collection of individual plots. Usually I was the only person there and this was okay at the time, because here was an oasis in the city where I could enjoy the quiet and the beauty of a garden. It was a forest of sunflowers, tomatoes and magical orange pumpkins. I would sit at its perimeter and be inspired to write poetry. As the sun was going down I really felt God was in the garden with me. Visiting the garden was often a spiritual experience.

Len Eisenhood, a longtime gardener and P-Patch neighbor, had a vision of a patio area in the center of the garden to make a place for people to meet and interact. With the help of Kathe Watanabe, Mark Huston and Michele Clever, and the always helpful P-Patch office staff, we received a Small-and-Simple grant from the Department of Neighborhoods to purchase materials. It was a big and ambitious project, and as everyone chipped in to work on it, we got to all work together and meet our fellow gardeners. Our Redeemer's Lutheran Church, the owner of the Ballard P-Patch property, was very supportive throughout the process and a number of parishioners volunteered to help.

The finished patio has become the focal point of the garden. People could sit, relax and chat, and as more gardeners became friends, people wanted to spend more time at the garden. It became a very welcoming place where people greeted each other, and, in summer, gardeners still enjoy chatting on the patio well into the evenings.

The annual Art in the Garden festival



was started in part by a Small Sparks grant to create and display artwork in the garden. The idea was to invite the neighborhood and parishioners to come and enjoy an "open garden gallery." Within a few years it would become a city-wide festival with dozens of artists displaying their work, a bake sale, live music and a beer garden! It has become a major fundraiser for more ambitious projects. Recently, Ballard P-Patch gardeners used the money they made from fundraisers and built a full set of enabled gardens with solid pathways and wheelchair access. Another blessing is the volunteer food bank garden, where, once a week, luscious fresh vegetables are taken to the Ballard food bank.

One summer I was hospitalized for several weeks, and was worried about my plot getting weedy. I received a nice get-well card from Mark, the site coordinator, telling me not to worry about my plot. When I got back to the garden, Lindy had carefully pruned and maintained my roses, and Mark had organized people to weed and maintain my plot. I was so surprised and delighted.

I realize that this garden is not the same as the original garden. It's still a quiet and beautiful oasis, and I still feel that God is in the garden with me. The difference is that now it's also a community of friends who enjoy and take care of each other. To me, that's a wonderful improvement.



The compost pile: waking it up for spring

By Christina Wilsdon

It's late winter in Seattle: chilly, damp, rainy, frosty, snow still possible despite sudden balmy sun-breaks. But the relentless tide of approaching springtime is everywhere. Crocuses and snowdrops dot lawns and gardens, forsythia may be speckled with yellow buds, and many a cherry and plum tree has burst into early bloom.

That compost heap, however, is still grumpily sleeping in, lingering in winter dormancy. Unless you're a compost dynamo with plenty of space for a well-tended three-bin system, you probably oversee a modest compost pile on an urban plot—and that pile (having been through a wet Seattle winter) may be a soggy, chilly mass right about now.

The bigger the compost heap, the warmer it is (due to the insulation provided by sheer size), but the critters in a typical garden's cubic yard of compost are feeling the effects of winter cold. A compost heap breaks down faster in summer than in winter because many of the bacteria species chowing down on its contents are more active in warmth. Worms, insects and other "minibeasts" are likewise more active when it's warm.

Fortunately, a soggy thick pile of not-completely-decomposed overwintering debris can still be revived and even used in the garden by spring. The first remedy is the addition of carbon-rich materials ("browns" such as dry autumn leaves, as opposed to "greens," or nitrogen-rich items such as fresh leaves) that will help soak up extra water in the pile.

A basic rule of (green!) thumb is to maintain a one-third nitrogen to two-thirds carbon material balance in a compost heap—a balance that may not have been maintained during winter, when many of us aren't gardening as much and aren't restocking the heap after pruning shrubs and the like.

So now's a good time to perk up the compost by adding carbon-rich filler that's been shredded or chopped into small pieces so it breaks down quickly: thatch, weed-seed-free straw, sawdust (from chemical-free wood, avoiding slow-to-decompose varieties such as redwood), last year's fall leaves (if you've stored up a supply and kept them dry). These materials will also help aerate the compost. Gardening sources also recommend shredded paper, cardboard and scrunched-up balls of newsprint (not glossy papers, though), adding them a bit at a time and always mixing well.

Be sure to turn the pile while adding these items, otherwise they'll mat and won't assist much in aerating it. You'll be using a fork or shovel on the pile, anyway, to turn it over and break up mats and clods. While you're at it, chop up any large woody chunks you find to help them decay faster.

Experts also suggest adding an activator to help kick-start the composting process in early spring. This activator would be a nitrogen-rich substance. Among the choices for an activator are blood meal; bonemeal; alfalfa meal; vegetable and fruit peelings; ripe, "finished" compost or some garden soil; "compost tea"; chicken feathers; and chicken and rabbit manure. Some sources suggest tossing in rabbit food pellets or dog kibble, though not so much as to attract rats and taking care to shove them in toward the center. Commercial activators are also available. Vermicomposting author Stephanie Davies (<http://www.urbanwormgirl.com>) suggests buying red-wiggler worms and adding them to the pile in late winter

or early spring (once temperatures are consistently above freezing) so they can get busy eating, excreting and aerating the compost.

Another suggestion for prepping the pile for spring utility is to cover it (if it wasn't covered in winter) and digging a trench beside it to help dry it out and let water trickle away. And even if all these actions don't speed up the process quickly enough to produce picture-perfect crumbly compost, composting authors suggest that this nearly ready compost still makes a useful mulch.

What if you don't have a compost pile? Is spring a good time to start one? Many sources cite autumn as the best time to build one. For example, the Illinois University Extension Service states, "You can start a compost pile any time of the year, but there are limitations during certain seasons... In the spring and early summer, high nitrogen materials are available, but very little carbon materials are available unless you stored leaves from the fall... Fall is the time of year when both nitrogen from cool season lawn mowing and carbon from fallen leaves are readily available."

But if you hope to have compost in the fall, spring is indeed an excellent time to start a pile! (University of Michigan's Extension cheerfully suggests that "spring is the perfect time to start a compost bin," perhaps because a Michigan winter would be a dreary time to start one.) If you've saved autumn leaves or can beg, borrow or steal some, you've got a great carbon-rich component ready to go. As soon as your garden starts generating "greens," you can add them together and launch them on their new career as the future "black gold" for your soil.

Here are some useful books about composting (all available at the Seattle Public Library):

- *Compost* by Ken Thompson
- *Composting* by Bob Flowerdew
- *Composting Inside and Out* by Stephanie Davis
- *How to Make and Use Compost* by Nicky Scott
- *Let It Rot!* by Stu Campbell
- *The Complete Idiot's Guide to Composting* by Chris McLaughlin

Tribute to Jack Rucker, Picardo P-Patch co-founder

By Scott Freeman, Picardo gardener

If you stroll through the Picardo P-Patch on a sunny summer Saturday, you'll see acres of produce bursting from the deep black soil. You'll pass by hoop houses jammed with tomato plants, pole beans climbing up bamboo canes, trellises covered with cucumbers or grapes or peas, raspberry bushes surging out of their beds and dozens of gardeners scattered about—some bent over with their hands in the soil, some standing in a knot to lean on long-handled tools and chat.

Keep walking and watching, and you'll start to notice other things: a new garden shed that volunteers are building for the children's garden, a well-designed water system, a central "barn" with tools any gardener can borrow, community orchards and compost-collection bins, a demonstration garden for garden wannabes and a drop-off site where food pantries pick up thousands of pounds of produce every year. The gardeners seem to be giving as much to each other and the broader community as the soil gives to them.

How did something like this—the place, along with a community that lives these kinds of values—get started? Talk to a Picardo person and sooner or later—but probably sooner—the name Jack Rucker comes up.

Jack Rucker was a member of the small group that started the Picardo P-Patch in 1973. Jack's involvement was a natural for him. He was, as his daughter Andrea says, "a son of the soil." He'd grown up on a wheat farm near Pullman, served in the Korean War, gotten a degree in forestry from WSU, and was working in Seattle as a quality engineer for U.S. Plywood.

It's important to recognize that in 1973, the victory gardens of World War II had long since been converted to lawns. Organic farming was a fringe idea at best; industrialized and subsidized agriculture was sweeping the country. No one had heard of community gardens sustainable agriculture or urban farming. Jack and his co-founders were helping to start something that, almost 40 years later, has blossomed into both a national and international movement.

Jack started with one plot at Picardo then expanded to a second. He worked the same patch of ground for decades, as his children and grandchildren arrived, after he retired from U.S. Plywood and began a second career at Maple Leaf Hardware, and as he became established as a quiet pillar of the University Congregational Church. At UCC he showed the same kind of gentle vision that he'd shown at the founding of Picardo P-Patch, when he helped vote in the first gay couple as leaders of a mainline Protestant church.

For Picardo gardeners, Jack was probably best known as the Water Czar. He was instrumental in designing and installing the water system that serves the P-Patch so well now, and for decades was the point man for getting the system up and running each spring.

For so long the garden was a key element in the rhythm of his family life—he'd drop daughter Andrea and son Paul off at Wedgwood pool and then go work at Picardo. Now Jack's love of gardening has rubbed off on his grandchildren—his granddaughters have a 10 x 10 plot at home they call "Grandpa's garden." His daughter Andrea will continue to grow in the same Picardo space Jack managed for so long. She shares this plot with Jack's good friend and co-gardener Gina Massoni. This season they carried on the legacy of the plantings Jack started for 2012, working together in the garden, remembering Jack and marveling at how his blueberry plants always flourished.

His son Paul recently wrote, "Jack Rucker was a gardener. He sowed love and compassion in all that he did and all that he knew." Andrea says simply, "The garden fed his soul."

Jack Rucker passed away on June 10, 2012 at the age of 84. A hand-lettered sign near Picardo's main entrance says it all: "He will be missed."

Note: A memorial bench will be placed in the garden in honor of Jack. Please pause there and consider all the good that has come of his efforts.



Jack Rucker enjoying the garden.



JANUARY FEBRUARY MARCH

ASPARAGUS		seed	transplan	har
BASIL				
BROCCOLI			plant st	
BEANS (GREEN)				
BEETS		harvest		
BRUSSELS SPROUTS	harvest			
CABBAGE				
CARROTS	harvest			
CAULIFLOWER				
COLLARDS				
CORN				
CUCUMBER				
EGGPLANT				
FAVA BEANS		seed		
GARLIC				
KALE	harvest			
LEEKS (WINTER)	harvest			
LETTUCE (OAK, RED-SAIL)				
LETTUCE (SIMPSON)				
ONION SETS			pla	
PARSNIP		harvest		
PEAS (SNAP)		seed		
PEPPERS				
POTATOES				
PUMPKIN				
RADISH			seed	
SPINACH		seed		
SQUASH (SUMMER)				
SQUASH (WINTER)				
SWISS CHARD		harvest		
TOMATOES				
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APRIL MAY JUNE JULY AUGUST SEPTEMBER OCTOBER NOVEMBER DECEMBER

Planting Calendar



American Community Gardening Association 2013 Conference in Seattle

Article by Rich MacDonald, Department of Neighborhoods,
Jennifer Bailey, Program & Facilities Committees for 2013 ACGA Conference,
and Laura Matter, Program Coordinator, Garden Hotline at Seattle Tilth

Community Gardening World Descends on Seattle

Imagine hanging out with interesting community gardeners from across the country and around the world. Imagine days of presentations and tours devoted to all things community gardening and urban agriculture. Do you like what you see? Well, imagine no longer, because that vision will be reality from August 8 to 11, 2013 when Seattle hosts the American Community Gardening Association and hundreds of individuals engaged in all things gardening and greening from the United States, Canada, and abroad.

The theme for the Seattle 2013 conference is *Cultivating Community, Harvesting Health: Community Gardens to Urban Farms*. Over three days, speakers, workshops, and tours will feature the multitude of ways that community gardening and urban agriculture touches the community food system and builds healthy communities.

Seattle last hosted the conference in 1998 in concert with the University of Washington School of Landscape Architecture at Gould Hall. This fantastic team is hosting the conference again next year. With its great campus and access to all parts of Seattle, the UW is a wonderful central location for the conference. We are fortunate to have a department that has traditionally been so supportive of community gardening.

The four days of the conference will be jam packed. Thursday is a pre-conference day organized by Seattle Tilth that looks at the ad hoc food economy. Presenters will discuss how the community food system is growing on our front doorstep. Merchants will sell wares showcasing the variety of goods available. Friday is opening day and we are still looking for a fabulous keynote speaker who can passionately speak about community, gardening and health. The rest of Friday, part of Saturday and Sunday are devoted to work shops and presentations. Saturday afternoon attendees take off on tours that will feature everything from community gardens to backyard agriculture to urban farms. Friday evening, we hope to troop to the Seattle Center for the gala event at the Space Needle restaurant. Saturday evening, conference goers can enjoy a film festival featuring juried films about all aspects of the community food system.

The ACGA conference is a community-driven event. There will be myriad ways to get involved. Watch for more details in this newsletter, the P-Patch listserv and the ACGA website at communitygarden.org/conference.

Urban Agriculture, Events, Tours and More!

The American Community Gardening Association conference is a wonderful time for networking and learning about community and gardening. Since this summer the conference will be in Seattle, we'll also celebrate the robust and energetic urban agriculture movement that is so much a part of our area.

Our ACGA 2013 events and garden tours will lead us on an adventure into meeting the folks who are championing urban agriculture and allow us to sample, view and learn about all the different and complementary ways to approach growing healthy food in our community. Here is what to look forward to!

Our events will include a full pre-conference day, organized by Seattle Tilth and including great panels of speakers and breakout groups to discuss everything from community gardening to urban agriculture in the Northwest. We plan to have educational displays and some urban agriculture demonstrations showcasing some of our area's finest urban livestock and crafting. Value-added garden and farm goods—like honey—will be available for sale!

Each conference night will offer a chance to get together with others and share experiences at the Thursday night Food Truck Rodeo and Dessert night, the Friday night Gala Dinner which we hope to offer at the Space Needle, and the Saturday night Film Night which will showcase short films entered in our film contest and a feature film centered on the community urban agriculture movement.

The garden tours will take us all over Seattle boasting different themes and even some different modes of transportation—from bus tours of Arts and Architecture Gardens, Orchards, Learning Gardens, Urban Agriculture, Youth and Children's Gardens, Food Justice Gardens, Therapeutic Gardens, Backyard Land Sharing and straight-up Community Gardening to the Walking Scavenger Hunt tour and the "See the City on Two Wheels" bike tour. Something for everyone!

Conference Volunteer Needs

For community-driven conferences, there are many ways to join the fun. Organizing needs are top of the list now. At the conference itself, all manner of volunteers will be needed, which will be a great way to get in on some of the fabulous workshops and activities.

Currently each committee needs help:

- Tours – help organize the tours, find buses and volunteers
- Sponsors—do you have any contacts that could host an activity, sponsor an event or donate swag? Join this committee and help!
- Events – a gala dinner, silent auction, Film Festival, Lunches, Dinners and Food Truck Rodeo
- Program – help coordinate the program and organize presenters
- Food – Help solicit and organize the food and show conference attendees all that the northwest has to offer.
- Communications – We're just getting started on this one; we need help with social media and web communication.
- Regional outreach – making sure that the Pacific Northwest region, from BC to Montana to Northern California, knows about this conference will make it a true benefit to all.

Interested? Contact Eileen Eininger at EEininger@HotMail.com and she'll get you connected.

Iconic Logo for the Seattle 2013 ACGA Conference

What better way to represent community greening in Seattle than a bean sprout growing out of the Space Needle? This logo is the vision of P-Patch friend and graphic designer Miceala Suazo. Miceala grew up in the Queen Anne P-Patch, where her parents Jim and Carmen are founding members. She was excited to use some of her awesome talents to help a program that that is so important to her family. Thanks Miceala!

Video Festival: Growing Community from the Ground Up

Tell Your Urban Food Story! This invitation is open to anyone who has a story to tell about a community food project. Selected videos will be screened at the ACGA 2013 Conference in Seattle, WA. The entry deadline is July 8, 2013.

Visit the website for more information and to submit your video:
communitygarden.org/conference/film-festival/film-festival.html



Seattle | 2013

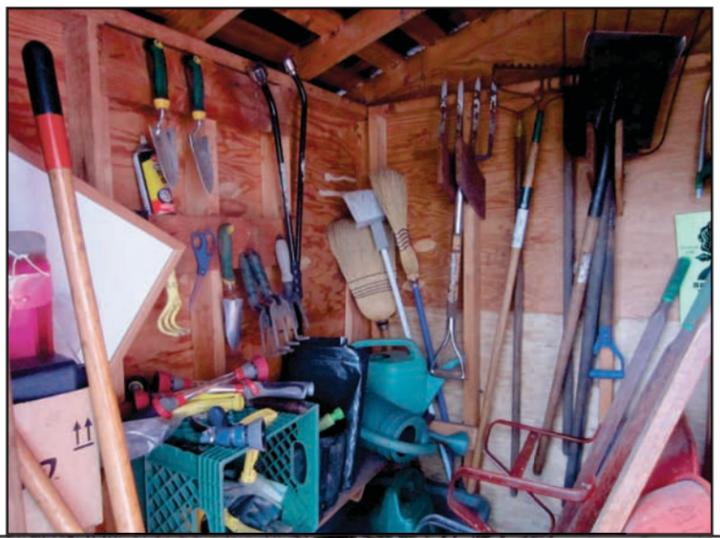
*Cultivating Community, Harvesting Health:
Community Gardens to Urban Farms*

Garden shed of the month: Good Shepherd P-Patch

Article and photos by Mark Huston, Member, P-Patch Trust Board of Directors

Here's the toolshed for the Good Shepherd P-Patch in the Wallingford neighborhood. It's on the grounds of the Good Shepherd building, which also houses Seattle Tilth.

Site leadership team member Melanie Foster pointed out, "It's not pretty." But it is functional, watertight and secure. The shed was built from a kit that was available at Home Depot. The shed is tight on space, but big enough to stow the hoses and picnic table in the winter. Note the efficient tool racks for the small tools.



The *P-Patch Post* is published three times per year by the P-Patch Trust. Approximately 2400 copies are distributed each issue. Please submit articles or story ideas to the editors at p_patch.post@ppatchtrust.org. The submission deadline for the summer issue is May 20.

The P-Patch Trust Vision

We see inclusive, vibrant northwest communities fed by organic farms and gardens, and a healthy food culture.

The P-Patch Trust Mission

We build healthy and diverse communities by:

1. Advocating for, managing and funding organic community gardens, urban farms and green spaces.
2. Providing educational opportunities for growing, sharing and preparing food.
3. Acquiring and holding land for organic community gardens, urban farms and green spaces.

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The *P-Patch Post* is published by the P-Patch Trust. Opinions expressed are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the P-Patch Trust or the P-Patch Program.

YES! I want to help the P-Patch Trust acquire and advocate for community gardens, and preserve and protect our existing community gardens.

Here is my contribution as a:

FRIEND: \$25-\$34 (pays the fiscal agency fee for one garden for one month)
GARDEN HELPER: \$35-\$49 (pays the plot rental fee for one low-income gardener)
SUPPORTER: \$50-\$99 (pays one year of liability insurance for one garden)
CONTRIBUTOR: \$100-\$249 (funds a Trust tool grant for one garden)
BENEFACTOR: \$250-\$499 (pays a portion of the property taxes on the Trust's gardens)
PATRON: \$500-\$999 (pays a significant percentage of the annual support for Lettuce Link)
GARDENING ANGEL: \$1000 or more (pays for printing one edition of the *P-Patch Post*)

You may be able to multiply your contribution through your employer's matching gift program. Please check with your Human Resources Department for information and the necessary form. Adobe, Amgen, Bank of America, Boeing, Microsoft, Starbucks and Chase Bank are among the major local employers that match contributions to non-profit organizations.

An acknowledgement of your contribution will be mailed to you.

My contribution is \$ _____

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Check here if you want to remain anonymous.

Make your check or money order payable to: "P-Patch Trust" and mail it to P.O. Box 19748 Seattle, WA 98109.

You can also use a credit card (VISA or MasterCard) to make a contribution to the Trust via our secure website: www.p-patchtrust.org.

Thank you! For more information contact us at p_patch.trust@ppatchtrust.org or call 425.329.1601

P-Patch Trust is a nonprofit, 501(c) (3) organization and donations are tax deductible to the full amount allowed by law. Our federal tax identification number is 91-1091819.



New guideline addresses P-Patch demand

By Rich MacDonald, Department of Neighborhoods

The P-Patch Community Gardening Program is implementing a plot sizing guideline which will result in 70 additional plots for families beginning in 2014. The guideline sets standard plot sizes for each community garden and will allow the P-Patch Program to create more gardening opportunities, provide clarity and transparency, and improve the fairness of gardening space among gardeners.

Elements of the program include:

1. Each P-Patch has a minimum and maximum plot size ranging from 50 sf (square feet) up to 800 sf. It is based on the total size of the garden and the length of the Interest List.
2. Plots that are larger than the maximum size established for its P-Patch will be resized. About forty-five gardeners will be affected, and they have been notified through the application process..
3. At P-Patches with a mix of plot sizes:
 - Vacant plots 200 sf and up will be divided if the Interest List wait time is more than two years.
 - Gardens may not increase plot size if the Interest List wait time is more than two years. Staff are currently working to create criteria for getting a larger plot.
 - Size of plots (over 100 sf) may adjust annually based on the length of the Interest List.

In addition to the plot sizing guideline, the rule that gardeners can only garden in one P-Patch will be enforced.

The Rationale

P-Patches are a city-managed public resource and fairness and transparency for current and potential users is paramount. As demand has grown, P-Patch has responded by building more gardens, enforcing existing rules, and establishing and enforcing maximum plot sizes at each garden to create more space. Over the last few years most P-Patches have had maximum plot sizes - new gardeners could not obtain more than the maximum, but existing gardeners were grandfathered. This current plot sizing guideline now establishes and enforces maximum plot sizes for each P-Patch and for all gardeners.

The Process

The guideline will be phased in over the next two years:

- Phase 1—Gardeners previously grandfathered with a plot size that exceeds their garden's new maximum will be required to release the additional space by December 31, 2013.
- Phase 2 – By the end of 2014, the standard will be applied to previously grandfathered immigrant and refugee gardeners with limited English proficiency. Approximately sixty additional gardeners will be affected.

Check out the P-Patch web site for the Plot Size Guideline and a chart providing the plot sizes allowed in each garden. https://www.seattle.gov/neighborhoods/ppatch/documents/PlotSizingGuidelineoverviewFINAL_001.pdf

If you have any questions, feel free to contact rich.macdonald@seattle.gov or your P-Patch garden coordinator.



LAURA RAYMOND

Proud garden volunteers rest and celebrate after a productive day of building garden terrace walls at the new John C Little P-Patch in SE Seattle.

My how we've grown!

Article by Laura Raymond, Levy Projects Coordinator

As we have been periodically reporting during the past three years, the P-Patch Community Gardening Program received a significant boost from the voter-approved 2008 Parks and Green Spaces Levy. The Levy allocated \$2million to grow at least four new community gardens. And grow we have! 16 projects have been completed and more are on the way. Most of these projects were brand new P-Patches and several were expansions and improvements to existing gardens.

As P-Patch community gardeners well know, a garden may sprout in the unlikelyst of places (say a disheveled vacant lot or a rooftop) but it takes a community of people working together to tend it and make it vibrant. In addition to Levy Funding, support from P-Patch Program staff, and on occasion the Neighborhood Matching Funds, these projects have truly been realized through the efforts of many volunteers and supporters of P-Patch community gardens.

The Parks and Green Spaces Levy Oversight committee recognized this great work and recommended that additional funds be made available for yet more P-Patch community gardening projects. In 2013, an additional \$427,000 will become available for more P-Patch community garden development – bringing the total number of projects supported by the Levy to 28 spread across the city.



HEIDI WASCH

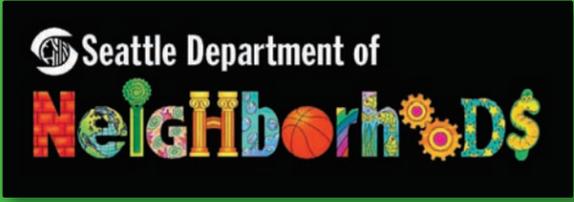
Barton St. P-Patch in SW Seattle celebrated the new garden, and the community that has formed around it, with a ceremonial unveiling of beautiful entryway art in Fall 2012.



HEIDI WASCH

Room to Grow

This map shows the original levy-funded P-Patch community garden projects and the new 2013 projects.



PARKS & GREEN SPACES LEVY

P-PATCH COMMUNITY GARDENING PROGRAM

Everything is illuminated

By Emily Meltzer, AmeriCorps Member
and Y @ Cascade People's Center
Manager

It started out as a dream to light the 80-foot-tall tree in the Cascade P-Patch. I had heard that in the past the tree had been lit up and could be seen all the way up on Capitol Hill. What an amazing vision, I thought, not realizing that it would cost \$10,000, plus the electricity bill.

We asked around to local organizations and companies about what we could do to make our P-Patch glisten for less than the price of a canary diamond. Peal Leung of Vulcan Inc. delivered our first holiday gift. She called the Y @ Cascade People's Center and surprised us by granting our wish—200 strands of LED holiday lights! As a Jewish girl from NYC, I had no idea of what to do with this many lights, but I knew it was a good thing. I had never decorated a Christmas tree, let alone an entire garden! Then and there, I decided to enlist the help of volunteers and, together, we would blanket the Cascade P-Patch in lights. It would be called the Illumination Walk. It would be the perfect way to mark our final First Friday Family Fun Night under our Department of Neighborhoods Small Sparks grant.

We were joined by Amos and Sean, longtime residents of the Cascade neighborhood, along with Dariyous, a Y @ Cascade People's Center volunteer. The three marveled when they saw the two garbage barrels filled to the top with 200 individually tested, hand-delivered strands of lights from Phil Fuji, who has been involved locally for many years. We got straight to work.

At first, it was a strand-by-strand, slow and steady process. By the end, we were lassoing trees, bushes and shrubs with as many lights as we could carry. Amos, the



strand-wrapping, light-hanging extraordinaire, claims that our native shore pine has four dozen strands carefully wrapped around its branches! We were exhausted, wet and hungry after two days of grueling work to ensure that our P-Patch would be ready for show time on Friday evening! And it was!

The Illumination Walk was a success. We saw so many new faces and received so many compliments about the work we put in. "Keep it longer!", "Only for one night?!" was the feedback we heard. So, with the go-ahead from Sandy Pernitz, we are proud to say that the lights stayed up through the holiday season!



Thinking outside the plot

By Robin DeCook, Lettuce Link

After several years on the waitlist, this past summer I was finally rewarded for my patience with my first P-Patch plot. I spent the Fourth of July holiday turning the soil, tucking beet seeds into the ground and gently wrapping plastic around my tiny tomato starts. Because I had such a short growing season, when September rolled around I have to admit I was pretty uninterested in sharing my small harvest. It was mine, and I worked hard for it!

But when I mentally step outside my 10 x 10 plot, I remember that I have a healthy back that can bend to plant seeds, and feet that can handle the two-mile walk from my home to my garden. I have an income that allows me to go to the store and purchase food that I can't grow.

Being a part of a community—a garden, a neighborhood, a city—includes sharing our resources with each other. P-Patchers across the city know this, growing a staggering 25,504 pounds of fresh vegetables in 2012 for food banks, meal programs and low-income housing units. They share their harvests, both bountiful and meager, with their neighbors who otherwise might not have access to fresh, locally grown, nutritious produce.

This past summer, Lettuce Link VISTA member Jessica Sherrow interviewed staff at food banks across this city to learn about their relationships with P-Patch gardeners and the need for fresh produce.

She found that fresh produce is always in high demand. Food banks often have on hand potatoes or onions, but leafy greens and other items which don't transport or store well fly off their shelves. Food bank clients look forward to the return of P-Patch donations all winter. A bin of lettuce fresh from the garden is much more popular than a several-day-old bin of lettuce from a grocery store donation. Garden donations help food banks be culturally appropriate and meet client needs. Immigrants from all over the world live in Seattle, and love to receive familiar fresh vegetables when they visit a food bank. Food bank staff and clients love it when P-Patchers learn about the demographics of their neighborhood and then plant their gardens accordingly.

When I huddle inside during the gray January days and pour over seed catalogs to plan my garden, I'll be remembering these themes. This season, I'll join with my fellow P-Patchers across the city, engaging in my community and growing a garden for more than just myself.

Robin DeCook works for Solid Ground's Lettuce Link program, which envisions a city where people have equal access to healthy, affordable and culturally appropriate food, and works in and with communities to grow and share food that is fresh and nourishing.



P-Patch Trust
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Seattle, WA 98109

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The P-Patch Trust is grateful to the many donors below, whose gifts were recorded between October 1, 2011, and September 30, 2012. Donors are essential to the Trust: your financial support helps the organization expand and enhance community gardens by acquiring land, preserving and protecting existing community gardens and assisting low-income gardeners. The Trust grows communities one shovel, one seed, one garden at time.

Your contributions helped the P-Patch Trust grow garden communities in 2012 by:

- providing fiscal agency services for 55 P-Patch gardens, enabling them to raise funds and undertake expansion and improvement projects on their own
- paying the plot rental fees for low-income gardeners who requested financial help
- supporting Lettuce Link with the distribution of fresh P-Patch-grown produce to food banks and feeding kitchens, and the purchase of seeds and plant starts for low-income gardeners and giving gardens in the P-Patches
- participating in the Food Resource Network Federation, which works at increasing area residents' ability to meet their own food needs and to ensure that local food banks have high-quality, nutritious foods for their clients
- partnering with the city and the Seattle Housing Authority to provide "Market Gardens," a community-supported agriculture program for people with low incomes
- Publishing the *P-Patch Post*

Your donation will strengthen the Trust's ability to build gardens and grow communities. Again, thank you for your support.

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Thank you also to our anonymous donors. We couldn't do our work without your generous support.

We hope to merit your support again in 2013!

The Trust is committed to ensuring that all of its donor records are accurate. If we have misspelled your name or omitted a contributor, please contact us at 425 329-1601 or info@ppatchtrust.org so we can correct our information.

Harvest Banquet 2012

Photos by Tegan Moore



What you most need to know about the P-Patch Trust

By Joyce Moty, President, P-Patch Trust Board of Directors and Member, Bradner Gardens Leadership Team

Greetings for gardening season 2013, and welcome to the world of community gardening in Seattle! I want to acquaint you with the work of the P-Patch Trust (PPT), the nonprofit charitable organization that supports Seattle's P-Patches and community gardening in many ways. The PPT is the glue that connects the gardeners to the Seattle Department of Neighborhood's P-Patch Program. Here are some of the most important things the Trust does:

1. Our Gardenship Fund provides assistance to low-income gardeners who cannot afford the full cost of plot fees, making P-Patch gardens accessible to those who want to grow food but might otherwise not be able to do so.
2. We support Lettuce Link with funds to provide culturally appropriate seeds and plant starts to low-income gardeners and giving gardens in the P-Patches around the city.
3. We carry an insurance policy that provides coverage for all gardeners as they work in the P-Patches, in case of injury to those who do not have medical insurance.
4. To the extent its budget allows, we purchase quality garden tools for gardens that need them.
5. We serve as a fiscal sponsor for gardeners who are developing new P-Patches or making site improvements to existing gardens. In 2012, the PPT served as the fiscal sponsor for 55 groups; many of these had Department of Neighborhood (DON) Matching Fund Grants that require a fiscal sponsor to accurately track all expenditures and volunteer hours. Without the Trust's involvement, many gardening groups would not be able to undertake projects to create and improve garden sites.
6. An important benefit of our fiscal agency services is that our non-profit charitable status allows contributions of cash, professional services and materials to be tax-deductible for the donor—which makes it easier to attract donations. The PPT can also hold funds in a bank account for individual P-Patches that raise funds for projects in their gardens. An example is the Ballard P-Patch, which hosts the Art in the Garden event every year. Last year Ballard used some of their funds as the required match for a Small Sparks grant from DON to rebuild their giving garden and make it accessible to handicapped people.
7. We're an incubator for small business ventures such as the two farm stands located on Seattle Housing Authority land in the New Holly and High Point communities. Low-income gardeners receive training and experience in growing and selling produce so that they can make the leap to becoming small-scale farmers who sell at farmers' markets.
8. We're an effective advocate for community gardening and P-Patch gardeners. An example of recent PPT advocacy is the development of almost 20 new gardens through funding from the Parks and Open Space Levy. Trust board members served on the citizens' committee that made recommendations for levy expenditures, and \$2 million was earmarked for development of P-Patches on publicly owned land.
9. As implied in the name, the P-Patch Trust is a land trust that preserves open space for community gardening. The PPT owns four gardens and shares ownership of two additional gardens with DON and the Seattle Parks Department. Again, the Trust's status as a non-profit charitable organization makes any gift of land tax-deductible for the donor. The PPT pays reduced property taxes on the land it owns.
10. We connect gardeners and provide them with useful information by publishing the *P-Patch Post* three times a year, with distribution to all P-Patch gardeners and other supporters. Editorial content is provided by gardeners, collaborating organizations and city staff.

The PPT is governed by a board of volunteers, all of whom are P-Patch gardeners and/or are otherwise involved in community gardening. The board currently has 12 members who serve 2-year terms, and the organization has a goal of growing the board to 15 members by the end of 2013.

We need your help. The PPT can only provide the above services if it has adequate funds. As president of the Trust, I invite every gardener to consider making a donation to the PPT, especially if you have never donated before. Every dollar counts: whether the gift is five dollars or five hundred, it makes a difference. In addition to directly funding our work, a broad base of financial support is essential to the Trust's ability to attract grants and other funding from additional sources.

You can make a donation to the P-Patch Trust online at ppatchtrust.org or mail a check to P-Patch Trust, P.O. Box 19748, Seattle WA 98109.

Please give what you can. And remember that your gift is tax-deductible to the full extent of the law because the Trust is a not-for-profit organization.

Happy 2013 gardening!