

Judkins P-Patch has new life and many amenities, thanks to levy funds and hard work by volunteers

By Shawn Young, Judkins P-Patch

“Juddies,” my pet name for Judkins Park P-Patch, is 29 years old this year. It’s a lovely gem of a garden, tucked quietly behind a century-old cedar to the east and an alley to the west, and many people who have lived in the neighborhood for years are surprised when they realize a garden grows here.

Located at 24th Avenue South and South Norman Street, Juddies was started in 1986 after the home occupying the property was torn down and the lot was left to collect junk. And junk it did collect! Before garden-building could start in earnest, six truckloads of debris had to be hauled away from the 5,600-square-foot property. To this day, we continue to find broken glass, pieces of rusty metal, and remnants of old foundation as we till the soil.



For many of the early years, we had no waiting list to be assigned a plot. In fact, at times we had problems keeping vacant plots from growing bumper crops of weeds. Then the neighborhood started to gentrify and property values began to increase rapidly. Up to that time, the City simply rented the property from the owner, a more lucrative option for him than trying to maintain it in a vacant state.

Securing the long-term future of the garden

Thanks to the tireless efforts of two of our gardeners, Sean Phelan and Amos Rollman, we managed to avoid losing the site to redevelopment. After countless hours of advocating for purchase and preservation of this wonderful space, Sean and Amos were finally successful in securing monies from the P-Patch Trust (now GROW) and the P-Patch Program. Because the land on which Juddies sits is owned by GROW, it can remain verdant forever.

We were then able to access neighborhood matching funds for renovations and put up wood fencing, a grape arbor, and a small shed. Because money was tight, we designed and installed these features ourselves, and they sadly had a short half-life.

BIG Improvements over the past two years

Fast-forward to 2013: Juddies was awarded a large sum from the Parks and Green Space Levy Fund for major renovations and creation of additional opportunities for community gardening. This time we had the funding to hire landscape architects, and we chose Harrison Design.



Judkins gardeners moved tons of rock in building innovative retaining walls and dramatic pillars to mark the garden entrance and to support a trellis for grapevines.

Initially, we met as a community to identify the features we’d like to see created or maintained in the garden, and organized the plan for development. A small and dedicated focus group of gardeners continued to meet frequently over the next year to keep renovations on track.

We’ve now almost finished our first phase of improvements. Sawhorse Revolution, a volunteer organization that pairs teens with building professionals, created a lovely burnished wood shed with a curved roof, an entrance trellis, and a grape arbor. Stone Soup Gardens installed an impressive retaining wall with urbanite and pavers, atop which we hope to soon create an out-door kitchen and picnic area.

Many new individual gardening spaces were also created, and we are adding an ADA-accessible bed. Our native-plant garden, which provides seeds and berries for wildlife, had to be moved from its old home in the Norman Street side parking strip to the more appropriate protection of the old cedar on 25th. And we’ve also planted a neighborhood foraging garden, filled with berries, herbs, and flowers, along the alley.

Please stop by and see our progress for yourself!

GROW is official!

The transition is finally complete. The former P-Patch Trust — the organization that has had several names and served a great many Seattle gardeners over the past 40 years — is now GROW. The new name was chosen by the Board of Trustees to match the advocacy organization’s broader focus and activities.

The GROW trustees created the following vision and mission statements to guide the organization through the coming years of work:

GROW’s vision

We see inclusive, vibrant Northwest communities fed by organic gardeners and farmers, and a healthy food culture.

Our mission

- We build healthy and diverse communities by:
- Advocating for, managing and funding organic community gardens, urban farms and green spaces
 - Providing educational opportunities for growing, sharing and preparing food
 - Acquiring and holding land for organic community gardens, urban farms and green spaces.



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Fiscal sponsorship by GROW: How it works for YOUR garden



By Mark Huston, President, GROW board of directors

Fiscal sponsorship is a legal and financial arrangement that allows a tax-exempt nonprofit entity such as GROW, formerly the P-Patch Trust, to provide nonprofit status and financial oversight to a project. When your garden has a fiscal sponsor, you can apply for grants that require nonprofit status. Having a fiscal sponsor also boosts the likelihood that a company, agency or individual will respond positively to a request for a grant, because they have the assurance that the recipients – in this case, the gardeners at a P-Patch – will handle the money in accordance with the laws and best accounting practices.



Having GROW as a garden's fiscal sponsor enables volunteers to organize fund-raising and community involvement events like the Ballard P-Patch's successful Art in the Garden celebration.

Among the always-popular features at the annual event are bouquets of vivid flowers, like those at right, which are available for sale.

If your garden generates funds through fundraising projects like bake sales or plant sales, GROW maintains a separate accounting for your garden. When gardeners make purchases for the garden, GROW confirms that the purchases are approved and appropriate, and sends them a reimbursement check.

Increasing the likelihood of donations

Donors, foundations, and corporations are able to contribute funds to GROW and designate those amounts specifically for your garden. This is an important point, because donors – whether they are businesses or individuals – like the fact that their contributions are tax-deductible!

Many gardens have successfully applied for grants from the City of Seattle's Neighborhood Matching Fund (NMF). As a fiscal sponsor, GROW acts as an independent go-between to provide separation between the City staff and the neighborhood group for the handling of funds. The City staff works with GROW, and the neighborhood group also works with GROW. In that way, the City is not directly involved with the neighborhood group's cash management issues. This arrangement provides an additional set of financial management checks and balances.

A significant part of the NMF grant process is submitting a budget for the project. Once the grant is awarded, if GROW is the designated fiscal sponsor, GROW administers the funds awarded for the grant. Certain gardeners, such as members of your garden's treasury or finance committee, are designated as authorized approvers. When gardeners make purchases for a project, one of the authorized gardeners approves the purchase and submits it to GROW for reimbursement.

Expedited turn-around on reimbursement checks

To expedite the process, GROW can now accept a scanned copy of a receipt as an attachment to an e-mail. Reimbursement checks are issued twice per month to ensure gardeners are reimbursed as quickly as possible. GROW also has accounts with various Seattle area vendors, which means purchases from those businesses can be made with no out-of-pocket costs to the gardeners.

GROW is an all-volunteer organization except for one paid part-time employee, accountant Lance LaRowe. GROW charges a small administrative fee for grants and an even smaller fee to maintain the funds your garden generates through fundraising. The fiscal sponsorship fee helps cover the cost of offering this service to the gardens. The fees charged by GROW are very competitive with other fiscal sponsorship programs that offer similar services and resources.

We who serve on GROW's board of trustees are occasionally asked if individual P-Patches can't simply run their own "cash box" without having a fiscal sponsor, especially if they are sure they will never decide to apply for a small grant for site improvements. The answer is that it would be illegal to do so unless the gardeners at the site apply for their own non-profit status, which is a lengthy, complicated and expensive endeavor. GROW's fiscal sponsorships are a great deal by comparison!

For program questions about fiscal sponsorship, please contact one of the following individuals:

- Mark Huston, president, GROW Board of Trustees: mark.h@GROWnorthwest.org; 206-226-1089
- Joyce Moty, board president emeritus: joyce.m@GROWnorthwest.org
- Michael McNutt, board secretary: michael.m@GROWnorthwest.org

For questions about disbursements, budgeting, or other financial matters, contact GROW's accountant, Lance LaRowe: llarowe@comcast.net



GROW Trustee finds innovative way to contribute

GROW Board of Trustees member Karen Abbey has found an innovative – and impressively generous – way to support the organization.

Karen is a Coldwell Banker Bain real estate agent and a participant in the company's Community Partnership program. Here's how the program works: Each time a P-Patch gardener, or the friend or relative of a gardener, buys or sells a home through Karen, she will donate 10 percent of her commission to the organization. She has already handed her first donation check to the GROW treasurer.

Read more about Karen's background and perspective on community gardening in her profile on the Trustees' page of the GROW website: www.GROWnorthwest.org. And call her at 409-7415 to talk about the details of the Community Partnership program.



The *P-Patch Post* needs your help and your best photos!

The *P-Patch Post* is published three times a year by GROW, which is the new name for the P-Patch Trust. The *Post* helps GROW fulfill its mission of helping to build healthy and diverse communities through organic gardening and the sharing and preparing of food.

The *Post's* editorial policy

The *Post* welcomes articles, commentary and photos about the Seattle P-Patch Community Gardening Program and its gardens, other urban and community gardening efforts, organic gardening, sustainable agriculture, food security and related issues. Material submitted for publication must be received by the stated deadline prior to publication.

GROW reserves the right to edit submissions for accuracy, clarity, conciseness and

editorial style. The *Post* editor makes every effort to contact contributors if substantial edits are proposed. The editor will determine whether submitted publications are published. GROW is not responsible for the factual accuracy of contributions.

Use of contributors' photographs

Images can be credited to reflect the source, and providers of photographs will be asked to help ensure that necessary permission is obtained from individuals who are recognizable in photos.

Letters to the editor will be published as space permits. Letters should be signed and accompanied by a phone number and/or e-mail address. Opinions expressed in the *P-Patch Post* are those of their authors and not necessarily of the P-Patch Program or GROW.



Gardeners in some Seattle P-Patches are going batty! Volunteers at Hillman City put up a bat box (left) for the flying mammals last summer, and the Evanston P-Patch has one, as well. The boxes provide protected resting space for up to 200 bats, which are welcome in the gardens because they are voracious nighttime insect-eaters and can have a significant impact on mosquito populations. The boxes are designed to be attractive to potential tenants; building plans and expert advice are available from Bats Northwest:

www.batsnorthwest.org

Save the Date!



The 2015

Chef in the Garden

GROW's signature fund-raising event will be held on Thursday, July 16!

The gala evening in the Interbay P-Patch will feature an extraordinary dinner by Tom Douglas Catering and a silent auction.

Tickets will go on sale at Brown Paper Tickets in May.



is among the beneficiaries of the Seattle Foundation's annual GiveBIG campaign: a one-day event in which people can make online contributions to the non-profit organizations they care about, and have their gifts "stretched" by the Foundation, up to a total of \$2,500 per gift. It's a remarkable opportunity to maximize the impact of your charitable giving, thanks to the generosity of the Seattle Foundation.

GiveBIG Day is May 5

and you can donate online anytime during the entire 24 hours.

Simply visit: www.seattlefoundation.org/giveBIG

Thank you!

Beautiful gardener-made quilt finally has a long-term home – and GROW has more \$\$ in its coffers



The *P-Patch* quilt is a work of art. Its 49 squares include images of flowers, vegetables, a windmill, an umbrella and even a slug. Gardeners used appliqué as well as hand- and machine embroidery to create the blocks.



The much-traveled P-Patch quilt, handmade by a group of dedicated gardeners and quilters, has finally found a permanent home.

Long-time P-Patch gardener Pam Lewis purchased the quilt when it was auctioned on eBay. The proceeds of the sale will support GROW projects.

Pam and her daughter Katie Moxley made squares for the quilt when it was being created – through the volunteer efforts of more than 30 P-Patch gardeners – in 2006. Pam plans to enjoy the quilt and eventually pass it on to Katie, establishing a family heirloom.

The quilt was originally sold through a raffle in the fall of 2013 – an effort that raised more than \$4,700 for GROW. Carole Blakey was the lucky winner of the raffle. But Blakey, who lives in a small apartment, decided with disappointment that she didn't have room for the quilt. She donated it back to GROW to give the organization an opportunity to raise more funds.

A mother-daughter gardening duo

Pam started gardening in the Jackson Park P-Patch more than 30 years ago. Much involved in her community, Pam managed specialized programs for children and adults with the Seattle Parks Department and taught elementary school until her retirement. As the founder of Sustainable Magnolia, Pam advocated for the development of the Manor Park P-Patch.

Katie learned her gardening skills from her mother when they shared plots at Picardo Farm and the Interbay P-Patch. She is a geologist working in the field of environmental remediation. Katie now gardens in her backyard in West Seattle.



Thanks to donors!

GROW is grateful to the many donors listed on this page, whose gifts were recorded between October 1, 2013, and September 30, 2014.

Contributors are essential to GROW. Your financial support helps the organization enhance community gardening by serving and advocating for organic community gardens and assisting low-income gardeners.

*We hope to merit
your support again in 2015!*

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so we can correct the information.

Giving gardens grow at Roosevelt P-Patch

By Renee Davis, Roosevelt P-Patch

By the time Roosevelt P-Patchers were celebrating a decade of community gardening, the garden had begun to show its age. Of all the plots, the worst for wear was the more productive bed of our two giving gardens. Although it measured only two by eight feet, the sun there is ideal, and we managed to give 143 pounds of produce to the University Food Bank during the 2013 season.

By the end of 2013, it was clear that our giving garden would not make it for another season. What to do? We had no money in our coffers. I approached our Roosevelt Whole Foods and requested their help. Marketing Team Leader Christine Rendak thought we would make a good partner for Earth Month and generously agreed to give us bag refunds for the month of April.

With Whole Foods' generous support, we were able to replace the deteriorated bed and also able to expand, thanks to the addition of five new metal feed troughs. All produce grown in our five new gardens goes directly to the University Food Bank! Additional funds raised will be used to gradually replace the rotting wood in our community garden beds.

Later in the spring, Green Team members from Whole Foods came to our garden kickoff party and worked side by side with Roosevelt P-Patchers to install and plant the new beds. Not only did they offer their labor, but they also brought us lunch! The day couldn't have been better, with the sun deciding to show its face after several days of solid rain.

Some unexpected developments

The first growing season in our new beds proved to be a learning year. We harvested more peas and beans than ever before, but what should have been an outstanding year for squash, tomatoes, cucumbers and all sun-loving, heavyweight vegetables turned out to be a bust. The three-way growing mix we purchased to fill our beds contained tiny bits of wood that competed with and defeated the plants in the battle for nitrogen. The good news is that now we know what is needed to amend the soil for this year, and we're preparing for a much more productive season.



The deteriorated raised bed ...



... and some of the metal feed troughs that replaced it

The P-Patch Post is published three times per year by GROW, the nonprofit organization that advocates and provides services for organic community gardens. (GROW was formerly the P-Patch Trust.) GROW welcomes articles, photos and story ideas for future issues; please send them to p.patch.post@GROWnorthwest.org.



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- Acquiring and holding land for organic community gardens, urban farms and green spaces.

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YES! I want to help GROW 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)
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SUPPORTER: \$50-\$99 (pays one year of liability insurance for one garden)
CONTRIBUTOR: \$100-\$249 (funds a GROW tool grant for one garden)
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PATRON: \$500-\$999 (pays a significant percentage of the annual support for Lettuce Link)
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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.

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The importance and pleasure of keeping a garden journal

By Nikki Daniel, Queen Anne P-Patch

Have you ever looked at your garden patch and asked yourself, “What exactly did I plant, anyway? What kind of tomatoes are those?” Or: “When did I plant my garlic last year?”

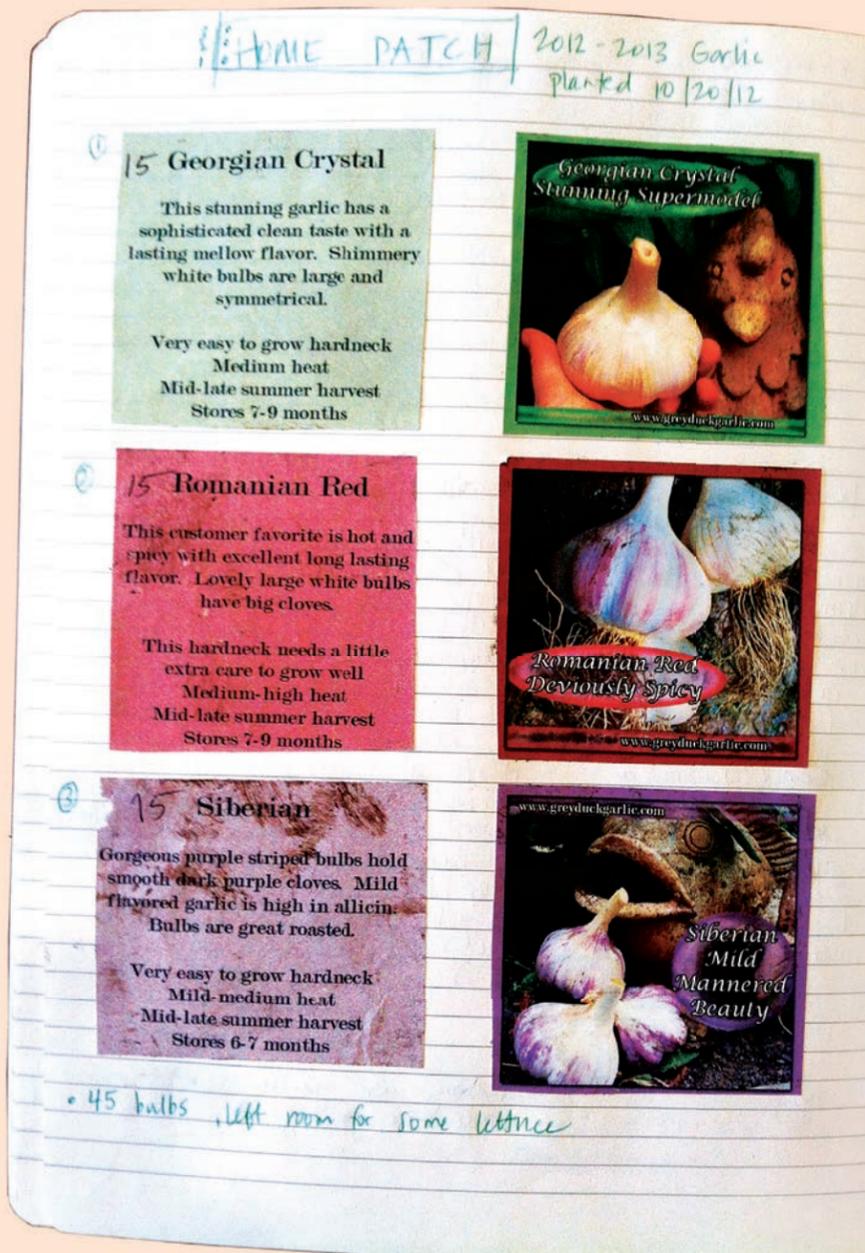
These are all questions I have asked myself over the past few years. Luckily, all I have to do is look back in my garden journal for answers.

I started my garden journal in the spring of 2011. I didn’t have any format in mind; I just wanted to keep track of what I planted, harvested, amended and rotated, and the overall success or failure of things. I got the journal idea from a tip in *Your Farm in the City* (2011) by Lisa Taylor. The author only spends about half a page on the topic, but stresses that once she started her garden journal, she saw improvement in her gardening every year.

This isn’t the first journal I’ve started over the years. I’ve had my fair share of travel journals, school journals, you-name-it journals. All of them have ended abruptly and are now somewhere gathering dust. My garden journal is the only journal I’ve kept up, and that’s because it’s useful. Some of my journal entries include:

- The dates when I plant and harvest my crops
- Soil amendments – like how many bags of compost and fertilizer I add each year
- Yearly hand-drawn maps of my garden configuration in colored pencil
- Pasted-in pictures of garden bounty and seed packet information
- Clippings of gardening articles
- Notations on what I learn from classes or fellow gardeners

Your garden journal can look like anything you want. You can spend a lot of time on it, or just make quick notations or observations. Like most things, gardening takes practice. When you keep a record of your gardening successes and failures, you can use that information to get better every year. When spring arrives in a few months, I’ll have my journal open, looking forward to another year of gardening.



Get a healthy start on the new growing season by paying attention to garden safety basics

By Mark Huston, President, GROW board of directors

When we’re working away in our P-Patch plots on a sunny day, we’re usually thinking about things other than safety. But safety in the garden is very important, and it’s something we really do need to keep in mind. We’ve been fortunate over the years that there have no serious injuries in the P-Patches, although minor injuries are common.

Here’s a good place to start:

Check your tool shed!

Does it have a first-aid kit? It should! It doesn’t need to be large or fancy. It does need to be in a conspicuous place. At a minimum, it should have small adhesive bandages, a couple of gauze pads, and some antibacterial ointment.

If you have gardeners at your site who are allergic to bee stings, they should carry bee-sting intervention medication – and let their fellow gardeners know they have it, just in case they ever need emergency help.



Hanging tools with the handles down is the safest way to store them.

Protect your hands!

Probably the most common garden injuries are minor cuts and scrapes. Because we’re working with dirt, when something cuts or punctures your skin, it’s important to stop what you’re doing, wash the affected area, bandage it promptly, and change the dressing when you get home.

Protect your back!

Lifting is another common way we can hurt ourselves. Be sure to lift properly and carefully. Better yet, ask someone else at the garden to help you.

Protect your face!

Store tools carefully. Be sure to put them away so the pointy parts don’t catch a fellow gardener unaware. We’ve all seen the classic car-toon of the fellow walking on a pathway and stepping on a rake that flips up and hits him in the face. If it’s your face that gets hit, it’s not at all humorous!

Protect your eyes!

Consider wearing goggles or other eye protection if you’re chopping compost, running a string trimmer, shoveling wood chips, or working at any other activity that might toss something into your eye.

Protect yourself!

Be aware of others who are nearby, and stay especially alert if you’re the only person in the garden. P-Patches are public places, and visitors are welcome.

Be friendly, but be sure to report suspicious behavior in and around the garden.

GROW, formerly the P-Patch Trust, pays for an insurance policy that covers gardeners working in their P-Patches. It’s important that you sign in and sign out at work parties. Once you’re signed in, you’re covered by GROW – just one of the many ways the non-profit GROW organization benefits you and your garden.





Ray's Corner

Is crop rotation REALLY essential in a small community garden plot? And other issues...

By Ray Schutte, Interbay P-Patch gardener and past president, GROW Board of Trustees

A word of caution: the following discussion is heresy and, if you choose to follow it, you do so at your own risk.

I am practicing heresies in my P-Patch garden.

Crop rotation is touted for building and maintaining soil and a means of disease prevention. Crop rotation is widely considered essential for organic farms. I am

challenging that assumption as it applies to a small community garden plot. Prevention is a process to keep from being infected, and control is what you do after you have the infection. Prevention requires that you start your own plants from seed in sterile potting soil and that you clean and sterilize every common tool before use.



Cauliflower struggling to grow in soil without amendments

Good soil is the best method of control. Soil-borne pathogens exist in soil; there's no getting rid of them. But a healthy soil-food web discourages the pathogens from multiplying and causing severe damage by building up beneficial microbes that will enhance the nutrients and feed on bad guys themselves.

Adding organic matter to soil increases the pathogen-fighting microbes by up to 1,000 times. Some beneficial microbes even secrete antibiotics or chemicals that are harmful to pathogens. Compost and mulches act as a source of food and shelter for the good guys, who in turn help discourage or prevent the germination of harmful fungal spores that cause soil-borne diseases.

Club root

So you have club root. The most common recommendation is not to plant any brassicas in that garden bed for 4 to 5 years. But just how practical is that in a 100- to 200-square-foot garden? So how can you continue enjoying arugula, broccoli, kale, and other brassicas?

Here are three things you can do to continue growing healthy brassicas:

- 1) You must raise the soil pH. I prefer to do this by adding a handful of wood ash to the soil for each plant. I prefer wood ash because it has more minerals than agricultural lime.
- 2) Add a good dose of compost or mulch as fertilizer; I use worm casings and leaf mold. Leaf and green grass works as well. Brassicas do not make use of the beneficial fungus in the soil, so the soil fungus gradually decreases. Beneficial fungi in the soil food web are the ones that attack disease. Club root loves heavy, wet soil. Compost lightens the soil and it drain.
- 3) Sow winter rye in the early spring, and till it into the soil 2-3 weeks after it germinates to reduce the club root spores. I have also observed club root seems to be reduced by sowing a crop of arugula rocket and pulling it out by the roots when it is young. Cut the roots off and dispose of them outside the garden, and enjoy a dandy salad made with the young leaves.

I have committed a bed in my garden that's infested with club root to test my heresy. To date the results are promising.

Carrots

Carrots require loose, sandy soil at least 15 inches deep. They also require heavy feeding but don't like too much nitrogen, which can cause split roots or healthy tops with little carrot. There are soil-borne diseases that attack carrots. Cavity spot, forking and stubbing are fungal diseases that are encouraged by poor drainage, uneven watering and excessive nitrogen. A healthy food web is essential in controlling these diseases.

The biggest threat to carrots is the carrot rust fly, *psila rosae*. The fly overwinters as a larva in carrot roots left in the ground. The larvae develop a cocoon in February and March, then hatch as adult flies beginning in mid-April and continuing until mid-June. The flies have a two-mile flying range, and hide in

shrubs and hedges as they lay their eggs on the soil surface or slightly below the surface at the base of plants.

The eggs hatch and the larvae start feeding on the carrot root from mid-June to mid-July. When the larvae mature, they cocoon and the process starts again. A second brood of flies emerges in mid-July, co-coons in mid-August and emerges as flies in September. The fall brood then lays its eggs, which enter the carrot roots in October and over-winter in the soil.

Carrots, potatoes, tomatoes and other crops

Rather than rotating a carrot crop, I recommend developing a loose, well-drained soil and feeding it with rich compost every year. Enjoy those winter carrots and plant again in the spring in the same but enriched soil. Prevent the rust fly from attacking your carrots in the ground by covering them with poly cloth. Remove the cover only when there are no more carrots in the ground, and replace it when you sow the new crop.

I recommend rotating potatoes only because it requires the lowest effort to remove the culls from the year before. Potatoes harbor late and early blight in



Lacinto kale being grown in amended soil

the previous year's culls, which too many gardeners leave in the ground. Taking pride in never buying new potato seed is not the realistic approach to having a successful crop. I don't find a need to rotate any crop except peas and beans. Because these two are soil-builders, it would be foolish to grow them in the same spot every

year. Good mulches, compost and winter cover crops will fulfill the nutritional needs of any crop.

In summary: The best way to avoid diseases caused by soil pathogens is often nothing more or less than smart organic soil care. As organisms decompose complex materials, or consume other organisms, nutrients are converted from one form to another and are made available to plants and other soil organisms. All plants depend on the soil-food web for their nutrition. If you weaken or destroy the soil-food web, the soil becomes less productive and eventually sterile.



P.S. A quack grass update

After drying quack grass and its roots, I thought I would make a worm bin to digest them and then test the results to see how rich in nutrition they were. They take out of the soil approximately 55, 45, and 68 percent of the total nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium, respectively, I thought this would be a good return. I soaked the dried roots, added some worms and waited for results. Three days later I discovered the worms had fled.

I think it says something important when even the worms don't want anything to do with quack grass.

For more information on the soil-food web, check out: http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detailfull/soils/health/biology/?cid=nrcs142p2_053864



Phinney Ridge P-Patch grows new tool shed and compost bins, with help from a local business

By Mark Huston, GROW Board of Trustees

The Phinney Ridge P-Patch is affectionately known as “Billy Goat Bluff” because the plots are on a very steep, terraced hillside.

The wooden box with a hinged lid that Billy Goat gardeners used to store tools had deteriorated beyond repair over the years. The compost bins alongside it were even more deteriorated. For quite a while, tools were being stored alongside a neighbor’s house!

Seattle Tilth showed the gardeners a good set of plans for a three-bin compost bin system. Gardener Viv Lo Veith took a materials list to Limback Lumber in Ballard and, to everyone’s surprise and delight, Limback donated the lumber and hardware for the entire materials list!

At work parties, the gardeners had fun prepping the site. Alex and Brock Davis assembled the compost bins.

Finding the resources to use wood instead of plastic for the tool shed

To replace the tool shed, gardener Lee Harper offered to take up a collection for an inexpensive plastic Rubbermaid-type tool storage bin. Another gardener pointed out that a shed made of wood would last longer, look better, and be more environmentally responsible than a shed made of plastic, and made a significant donation toward a wooden shed.

Gardener Aileen Gagney found free shed plans on the internet. Viv went back to Limback Lumber with the materials list for the shed. Limback Lumber offered a discount for the purchase of lumber for the shed, and Viv enjoyed being able to go back to Limback to make a substantial purchase after the business had been so nice about donating everything for the compost bins.



In one session, gardeners cut and numbered all the 2x4s and plywood. Then, on a rainy Saturday morning, they had a work party in Aileen’s basement to assemble the floor and side panels. The final step was transporting the panels and assembling them onsite into a complete and tidy shed.

The shed was designed to be only four feet tall so as not to shade the plot above it. Gardeners have observed that if it had been just eight or ten inches taller, it would be more functional without significantly shading the next plot. But everyone agrees it’s adequate as is. And the group is planning one final step for their handsome new shed: some more-efficient tool racks.



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