

Update on projects made possible by the 2008 levy



Seven years ago, Seattle voters passed a Parks and Green Spaces Levy that included \$2 million to build four community gardens.

It was the first time that levy funds had been approved for that purpose. Since then, the City, community groups, nonprofit organizations, volunteers and businesses have stretched those dollars to add far more space for gardening and growing food to Seattle's urban fabric.

The initial levy funds, plus an additional \$427,000 awarded in 2013 to cover inflation, have:

- Supported 28 new and expanded P-Patch gardens
- Added 800 new plots
- Added more than eight acres of community gardens

This issue of the *P-Patch Post* highlights a few examples of how that investment has expanded opportunities to garden across the city, showcased sustainable practices and increased access to healthy food for diverse communities.

The UpGarden P-Patch is unique and quirky

By Carolyn Kresser

When you're standing in the middle of the UpGarden P-Patch, the scene is similar to all the other community gardens around Seattle. You can hear the birds chirping. Some bees buzz by on their way to pollinate plants. The scent of a flower bed is in the air.

But when you look outside the garden walls, you realize how different this garden is from all the others. That's because it's perched four stories off the ground – on top of a concrete parking garage. Established in 2012, the UpGarden is the first rooftop garden in the City of Seattle's P-Patch Community Gardening Program.

So how did a garden come to be located on top of a Seattle parking garage? The idea was hatched after voters approved a parks levy in 2008 that allowed the P-Patch Program to build several new gardens.

The Uptown area was designated as a priority area for a new garden but, due to development, there was virtually no vacant land to spare. That led to the Seattle Center offering nearly half the top level of the Mercer Street parking garage as an experimental site for a rooftop garden.

And so the planning and designing began. "The project overall was really exciting," says Nicole Kistler, one of the landscape architects who worked with the community to design the UpGarden. "The visual concept was really powerful – that we were attempting to make something green grow on top of a 1960s parking garage."



A donated 1963 Ford Galaxy with a custom iridescent paint job is probably the most eye-catching item in the UpGarden. Its roof was cut away to make room for plants that flourish in the lightweight soil mix.

But designing a rooftop garden proved to be a bit more difficult than it would be on a ground-level space. "We were caught off guard by how heavy soil can be compared to cars," says Eric Higbee, the other landscape architect who worked on the project. "The garage was designed to hold

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Schwabacher House features standing-height beds for low-income seniors

By Jennifer Langston

Chris Tortuga first noticed the flowers and a lone tomato plant grown by the residents of Schwabacher House who were lucky enough to have decks.

She also noticed how much time even able-bodied residents of the Ballard Seattle Housing Authority complex for low-income seniors spent indoors. So Tortuga hatched a plan to build standing-height gardening beds — high enough off the ground so that no one has to stoop, but still accessible to a gardener in a wheelchair or walker.

"I had done a lot of Americans with Disabilities Act analyses in my work, so I knew a lot about workstation modifications," says Tortuga. "I wanted them to be at least 30 inches high so that they could be accessible to people with physical problems, and also work for those who don't."

An initiative launched by residents resulted in a novel addition to the P-Patch system: eight individual plots in waist-high planter boxes

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The UpGarden has a unique tool "shed": a vintage AirStream travel trailer, stripped bare on the inside to make room for both tools and supplies, and also outdoor furniture for gardeners' use on the lawn next to the trailer.

Hazel Heights P-Patch features an unusual water system

By Fawn Ward



Hazel Heights gardeners can fetch water from an old-fashioned pump connected to an 8,000-gallon cistern that collects rainwater for the P-Patch.

The petite, six-year-old Hazel Heights P-Patch perches on a steep slope between Fremont and Ballard, winding nicely up the hill with paved switchbacks and plots on either side. Each of the 19 plots has a different view, and at the top sits an 8,000-gallon cistern devoted to collecting rainwater. A Hazel Heights gardener reports it seems to provide water for much of the summer in an average year, but in a dry summer such as the recent one the water has dwindled.

Most sides of the P-Patch are fenced by towering, delicious raspberries, the ever-present and encroaching blackberries, and heartily-growing grapevines from a neighbor's

fence. Hazel Heights is certainly not the easiest garden to locate, and its tucked-away solitude seems to be thoroughly enjoyed by those who garden there.

Hazel Heights P-Patch is owned by GROW (which was the P-Patch Trust at the time the property was acquired) and is a remarkable example of collaboration among the Trust, neighbors, City and County elected officials, and professionals who provided the expertise for developing the steep site. A description of the creation process, along with photos and site plans, is on the garden's website: <http://hazelheightspatch.blogspot.com/search/label/History>

UpGarden P-Patch

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40 pounds per square foot, but we found out that saturated soil can weigh as much as 100 pounds per square foot."

Spreading the soil evenly across the entire rooftop would result in only about eight inches of soil depth, which is not deep enough for most plants. Instead, the designers decided to concentrate the soil in broad terraces divided by wide pathways. That allowed them to get 12 to 18 inches of soil depth across the roof.

Another problem was the steep slope of the parking garage and concerns about whether the soil would stay in place. "We ended up used agricultural models of terracing and contour plowing due to the slope," says Kistler. "I love the way it looks, and we were able to do that only because of the unique slope the garden provided."

The harsh microclimate of a rooftop also provides unique challenges for the gardeners. "One thing you notice up here is that if the sun's out, it's always sunny. And there is always a breeze," says gardener John Carter. "It's easy to get dehydrated before you realize it."

To prevent the soil from drying out, gardeners have the option of adding a drip irrigation system to their plots. Designers created trellises that eventually will provide shade for gardeners.

Designers also had a bit of fun by adding some finishing touches that point back to the garden's original use as a parking lot. The tool shed is an original Airstream trailer, and there is an old classic car-turned-flower bed in one of the plots.

"We wanted people to feel like they were in a garden and not a parking lot, but we wanted to reference the fact it used to be a parking lot," says Kistler.

"I love the contrast," adds Higbee. "You have this lush, vibrant and bountiful space surrounded by parking."

Community members living in the area were involved in all aspects of the garden's visioning, design and construction. "I loved seeing neighbors who didn't know each other connecting in this forum, and then friendships growing out of it," says Kistler.

And despite the uniqueness of the UpGarden, gardeners say what they love most is meeting and getting to know their neighbors. "If you analyze the money I spend related to the amount I grow, it's probably more expensive than just buying food. But it's all about meeting people," says Carter.

Schwabacher House

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available to Schwabacher House seniors. Two accessible beds were built in the parking strip in front of the multi-family building. The others — along with galvanized tubs with communal herbs and tomato plants — are behind the residence.

The accessible beds were built in 2012 through a partnership with Seattle Tilth's Just Garden project, \$7,000 in Parks and Green Space Levy funds, and donated time and materials from local businesses and community groups.

In the years since, there have been some maintenance challenges. For instance: grass in the parking strip was replaced with crushed rock so wheelchairs could roll up to the beds. But, Tortuga says, no one considered how physically-challenged seniors would pull up the weeds that inevitable poke through the rocks.

But, overall, the garden beds have been a welcome amenity. "We have one garden fairy who nearly died, went through a year of rehab and is out there in her walker every day," Tortuga says. "She has this go-go spirit and she's back gardening."



Schwabacher House in Ballard has eight waist-high planter boxes and some galvanized tubs for its elderly residents' gardening use.

Squire Park: a place to meet neighbors

By Ashley Mouldon

“It’s so good to just get outside,” says Katie Easton, one of the gardeners at the Squire Park P-Patch, which is celebrating its 20th anniversary this year. Easton has been gardening at Squire Park for the past eight years, one of the longest stints of any of the current gardeners.

Easton formerly lived in the Capitol Hill neighborhood, but wanted to be someplace that was “a little quieter,” but where she could still walk to places. Thus her move to the Central District. Easton has seen the community change over the years, and it’s been getting busier, she says, but the Squire P-Patch is a constant at the corner of 14th Avenue and East Fir Street.

This corner wasn’t always an attractive community garden space, however. The site was once home to the crumbling concrete foundation of a multi-apartment building, sitting directly across from the legendary Washington Hall that was constructed in 1908 as a jazz performance venue.

In recent years, Easton says, Squire Park gardeners have taken advantage of concerts that could be heard through the hall’s windows and doors, and often planned work parties around them. Although the likes of Duke Ellington, Billie Holiday and Jimi Hendrix no longer grace the neighborhood with their sounds, Washington Hall is still a staple in the community and is about to undergo renovation.

In 2010, Seattle artist Mary Cross was commissioned to design new fence displays to surround the garden. The project, named Seeds of Jazz, took a chapter from the neighborhood’s longtime music history: each fence panel is an ode to something unique about the community’s musical past.

The aging apartment building was demolished at the site in the late 1950s and, for the next several decades, the lot was nothing more than an empty space craving for something colorful to take root there. Although the City of Seattle gained land use rights on the property, the P-Patch Program wasn’t fully established until 1973, and it took another 22 years before the Squire Park garden was developed.

Fast forward to 1995: a group of enthusiastic neighborhood members rallied with the P-Patch Program to turn the unused plot of land into a community garden, and the space we know today was born.

“You meet so many neighbors,” says Easton, “Through gardening, I finally met longtime neighbors I didn’t know I had!”

Today, the garden is an active community space with about 30 plots. “People come here to garden from all over,” says Easton. “It’s a dense neighborhood with not many people having yards,” making it the perfect gathering place for people to exercise their green thumbs. On the parking strips along the outside of the garden, the group has planted communal vegetable and fruit beds for the general public to enjoy: another feature, according to Easton, that gives a true sense of community.

Kyle Ford has been a member of the garden for the past seven years and loves being a part of the community. “More people have been getting excited about the garden” over the past few years, he says. They have set up scheduled work parties to keep people engaged, which has also created ways to meet neighbors and get to know everyone.

“There’s a real range of garden know-how, and a big mix of ages,” according to Ford. This adds to the magic of Squire P-Patch: because of the range of demographics and knowledge, everyone gets to learn a



Wheelbarrows glow in the warm late-day sun at Squire Park P-Patch.



Each of the fence gates at Squire Park P-Patch is individually created, and features handmade ceramic leaves as well as information about the neighborhood’s rich musical history. This one says, “Seattle was a combo town in the 1930s while big bands became popular elsewhere. Why? Population, Finances and Racism.”

little something from their fellow gardeners.

One sunny summer afternoon in the garden, nine-year Squire P-Patch veteran Scott Gehring was tending to his raspberries. “You know, gardeners are the most optimistic people in the world,” said Gehring as he taste-tested one of his ruby-red berries. He’s been gardening for the better part of 50 years and enjoys the way everyone “interacts and asks questions” these days.

Walking through the garden, a visitor can’t help but notice the colorful hummingbirds and butterflies that zip around the flowers. It’s a place for two-legged gardeners that’s also home to a multitude of wild creatures attracted to its atmosphere. From rainbow chard to climbing summer squash, it’s easy to see the love that the gardeners put into their plots.

Thank you, Squire Park P-Patch, for bringing life to this corner lot in the Central District. Here’s to another 20 years!

Eastlake P-Patch is now double its original size

By Fawn Ward

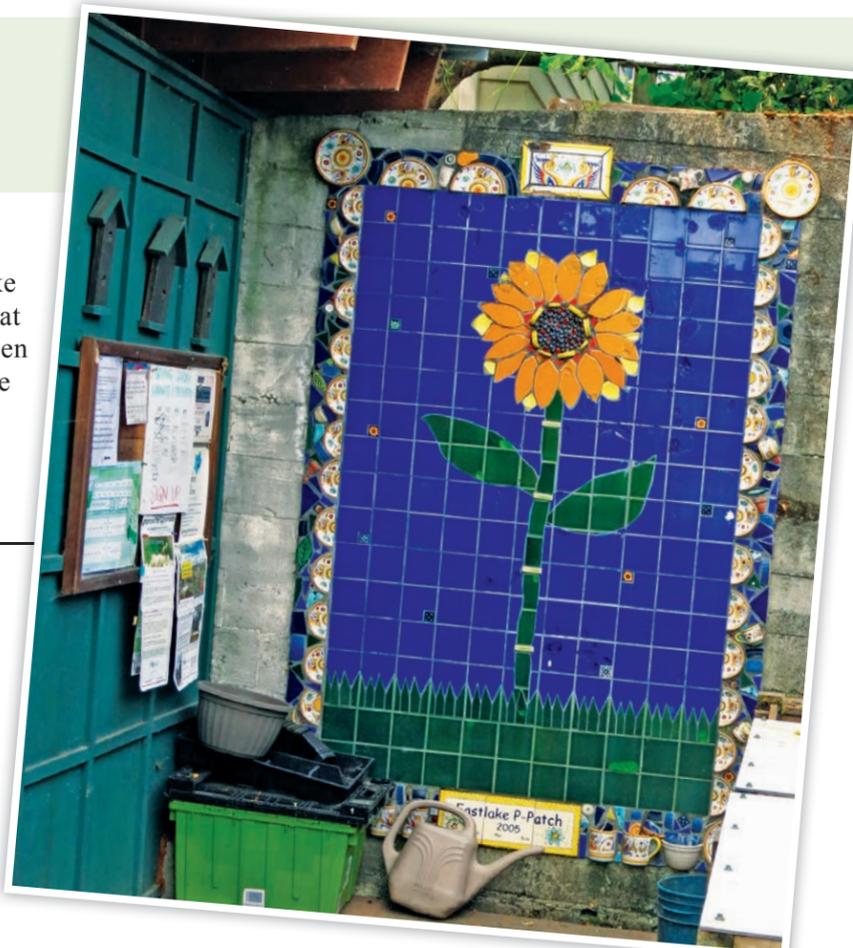
The Eastlake P-Patch is nestled under a row of newer apartment buildings along the waters of Lake Union, where a lovely breeze filters up among the plots. Thanks to funds from the 2008 Seattle Parks and Green Spaces Levy, the P-Patch has been expanded to double its original size, adding additional space dedicated to a food bank donation garden.

Gardeners here seem to be very ambitious and devoted to tending their plants, which range from huge artichokes brilliant with purple flowers to trellised winter gourds and climbing beans. The perimeter of the patch is also highly designed, with esplanade-style stone-fruit trees and towering rose bushes of every color. The success of this garden is surely heightened by the beehives that are situated on the top level of the step-style patch arrangement.

One part landscape design haven for passersby and one part productive fruit, herb and

vegetable garden, the Eastlake community gardens are a great neighborhood destination, even if you don’t garden there. The view, the care of the patches, and the scent of the roses will absolutely make it an enjoyable diversion.

Right: The mosaic tile wall next to the tool shed at the Eastlake P-Patch, which was completed by artist gardeners in 2005, was protected during the recent expansion of the garden. It remains one of Eastlake’s most eye-catching features.



What's happening to pollinators in Seattle gardens?

Results from the Urban Pollination Project

By Susan Waters, Director of the Urban Pollination Project and gardener at Picardo P-Patch

What's for dinner? Got Greek salad, stir-fry, spaghetti sauce, blueberry pie? Chances are a pollinator was required for about a third of the food on your plate. That is, a pollinator visited a crop flower, bringing pollen from another flower of the same kind, and initiated the development of seeds and the fruit that surrounds the seeds. Every time you eat tomatoes, berries, apples, eggplant, peppers, cherries, squash, cucumbers and scarlet runner beans, a pollinator was responsible. And we need pollinators even for plants whose fruits we don't eat, like lettuce, mustards and broccoli: their flowers must be pollinated in order to produce seeds to plant the following year.

And yet, despite their crucial role in producing human food, all is not well with pollinators.

What's happening to pollinators in Seattle?

We have more than 4000 species of bees in North America, as well as many species of flower flies and other important pollinators. However, many pollinators are in decline and, among bees, the steepest declines have been seen in some species of bumble bees. For example, the Western bumble bee, formerly one of the most abundant bumble bees in our region, has declined so sharply in recent years that it is now extremely difficult to find it here at all.

There are multiple threats to bumble bees, such as pesticide use, habitat loss, parasites/diseases and climate change. Threats may be particularly intense in cities: for instance, pesticides tend to be applied at a higher rate on suburban lawns than anywhere else, and the loss of

nesting habitat in cities can be very extensive.

But raising food in cities is important! The Urban Pollination Project (UPP) is a citizen science initiative created to answer a key question: what's happening to urban pollinators, and how does it affect our ability to raise food in our Seattle gardens?



UPP interns Anthony Dang and Crystal Shin spent part of the summer measuring the size of tomatoes grown for the pollination research project.

UPP is interested in how important pollinators are for our crops, how diverse our food crop pollinators are, and how the urban landscape around P-Patches might affect the level of pollinator activity in different parts of the city. The surrounding landscape is relevant because it may relate to how much nesting habitat is available to pollinators. Bumble bees typically

nest in the ground. They need area that is not lawn (because of impenetrable roots), not cultivated ground (because their tunnels collapse in loose soil), and of course, not pavement.

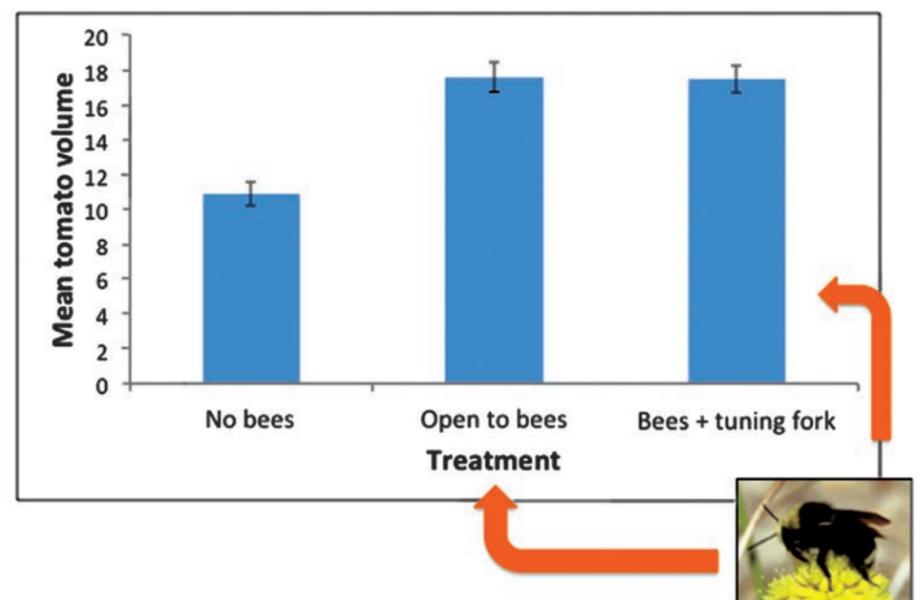
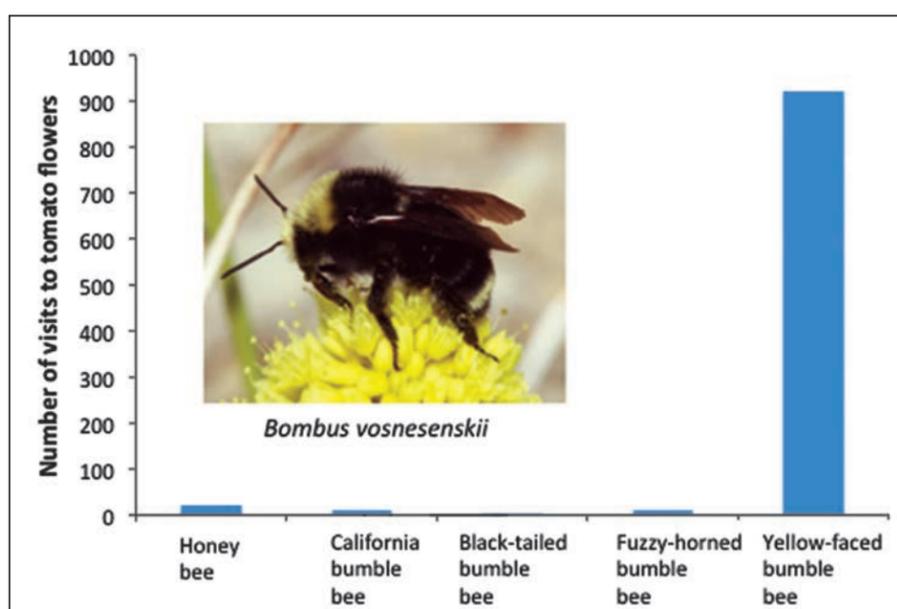
Look at a map of Seattle and eliminate the areas that fall into those three categories, and imagine what's left! Some P-Patches are located

UPP focused on tomatoes as a crop, because tomato plants in our region can only be pollinated by bumble bees. Bumble bees can perform a special type of pollination that other bees, like honey bees, cannot: buzz pollination. In buzz pollination, the bumble bee grips the tomato flower and vibrates her wing muscles at a certain frequency, corresponding to the musical note C128 (the C below middle C). Playing that note with bumble bee wing muscles causes mature tomato flowers to release their pollen. Since other bees can't do this, we can get a sense of how active and effective bumble bees are by looking at how well tomato plants are producing tomatoes.

Carrying out the experiment

UPP grew and gave away hundreds of Sungold cherry tomato starts to willing P-Patch gardeners. We had three experimental treatments on the tomato flowers: 1) a control, open to bees as usual; 2) a "no bees" treatment, excluding bees with netting so that the flower could only self-pollinate; and 3) an "extra help" treatment, in which we allowed access to bees and also pollinated the flowers by hand, mimicking the action of bumble bees with a C128 tuning fork. The gardeners grew the plants as usual, then counted and measured their tomatoes (and ate them!). Meanwhile, 15 UW student interns travelled to participating P-Patches, identifying all the pollinators that visited the tomato plants.

in areas with lots of pavement and impermeable surfaces, where the P-Patch is an oasis of green. Others are located within parks or near forested areas. We wanted to know: does the landscape around a P-Patch influence how frequently bees are visiting crops in that P-Patch? And does crop production in a P-Patch reflect this factor?



The graphs above show 1) the yellow-faced bumble bee was the overwhelmingly dominant pollinator of tomatoes in the Seattle study, and 2) tomatoes pollinated by bumble bees, or bumble bees plus a vibrating tuning fork, were much larger than the tomatoes on plants that bees could not access.

What have we learned about urban pollination so far?

- **Bumble bee visits are definitely important to tomato production.**

Tomatoes pollinated by bees, or by bees and a tuning fork, were much larger than tomatoes not pollinated by bees. In many cases, cherry tomatoes not pollinated by bees were no larger than a fingernail. On the other hand, tuning forks that mimic bees did not do a good job of increasing pollination.

- **Virtually all pollination of Seattle tomatoes is being done by a single species of bumble bee.**

Although we have about 6 bumble bee species in Seattle, more than 91 percent of pollinators visiting our tomato flowers were a single species – the yellow-faced bumble bee. This implies that tomato growing is somewhat ecologically fragile in our gardens, since any decline in this single bumble bee species would have significant impacts on pollination of our tomatoes. It would be preferable to see a more diverse set of bumble bees pollinating tomatoes.

- **The landscape around P-Patches does have a significant effect on the level of pollination that plants receive.**

The greater the proportion of impermeable surface (e.g., pavement) around a P-Patch, the lower the visitation rate by bumble bees. This suggests that availability of nesting habitat might be important to ensuring bee activity. We found this to be true both when we considered the impermeable surface only within a relatively local area (a radius of 250 m), and when we expanded to consider a wider area (a radius of 1 km).

This past summer, UPP collaborated with a group of students from across the U.S. who were working on Pacific Northwest conservation issues through the Doris Duke Conservation Scholars Program at the University of Washington. We surveyed a set of P-Patches to examine the diversity of all kinds of pollinators, and what crops they were visiting (not just tomatoes). Our thanks to all the P-Patch gardeners who welcomed us to your gardens and generously shared your tomato data! We hope to continue to work with you to understand our urban pollinators, and to keep our dinners full of blueberries, tomatoes, cucumbers and all the other pollinated foods we love.



If you have questions about the Urban Pollination Project, please direct them to:
smwaters@u.washington.edu

Information about the Doris Duke Conservation Scholars is at:
<http://uwconservationscholars.org/scholars>

Garlic Rust

By Betty Lucas, Queen Anne P-Patch

This year my garlic developed a full-blown case of garlic rust, almost before I noticed it.

Garlic rust (*Puccinia allii*) is a fungal disease that affects plants in the Allium family (onions, chives, leeks, garlic, etc.) It starts on the foliage of the plants and spreads rapidly by leaves touching and/or by spores being blown from plant to plant by wind. At first it appears as small white or yellow flecks. The spots enlarge and become oval or diamond-shaped and take on an orange cast, which is why it's called rust.

Garlic rust can VERY quickly take over a whole crop. Some gardeners report that some of their alliums seem to be more prone to it than others. Rust spores infect perfectly healthy plants and, by the time you see that characteristic orange color, they'll be spreading their nasty little fungal babies far and wide.

What causes it?

Common contributors include excess moisture from over-watering and/or humid, wet conditions. This past spring and summer didn't have our typical wet, cool, foggy days, so that doesn't seem to fit. But I did water in the evenings, and maybe too well.

Infection rates are highest at cool temperatures (50 - 59°F) and 100% relative humidity. Temperatures below 50°F and above 75°F inhibit the disease. So maybe our warmer-than-usual June was a contributing factor.

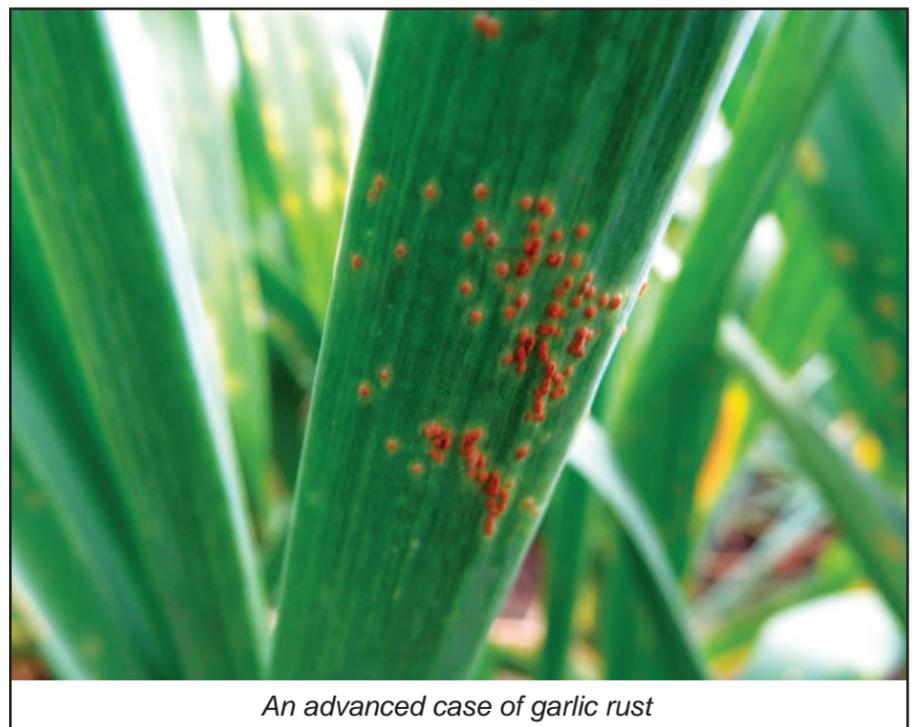
Overcrowding the garlic is a common cause of rust, but I didn't plant the bulbs any closer than usual.

It's worse in over-fertilized soils, so you shouldn't overdo nitrogen or compost.

Garlic rust fungus may also over-winter on volunteer garlic and onions, or on wild hosts. I am wondering if my habit of over-wintering some of my winter leeks might be a factor in my case.

How to treat garlic rust

There really isn't a cure for this fungus. The only way to get rid of it is to snip off the leaves as soon as you see the rust start to appear. Throw the infected leaves in the trash (not the compost bin!). And pick up any leaves and bits that land on the soil. I had to strip some of my plants all the way down to the ground. Be sure to avoid spreading the infection by washing your hands and



An advanced case of garlic rust

clothes, and disinfect your tools. The garlic rust will stay in the ground and will over-winter.

Preventing garlic rust

Watering: Avoid watering your garlic in the evening, because the moisture will linger overnight and create the perfect environment for fungus growth. Try to water in the morning so the plants can dry out during the day.

Tools: With this kind of plant disease, it's important to sterilize tools that came into contact with the fungus, and to wash your hands before working in other areas of the garden.

Crop rotation: Most experts suggest avoiding planting garlic and other alliums in rust-infected areas for at least three years.

Sad to say, no resistant garlic lines have been identified. But in many cases, if the rust is removed as soon as possible, there can still be an acceptable harvest.

I pulled my brown tempest garlic the first week of July and, and though the bulbs were smaller than I expected, they looked just fine.



Did you know you can grow eggplants here in Washington?

By Jlyn '15, Jackson Park P-Patch



One day a gardener came to me and said we couldn't grow eggplants in Washington. I asked why not, and she said it was too cold. I thought, "Gee whiz, must be something wrong with me." And then I said, "Why don't you warm them up?"

The lady continued to tell me how it couldn't be done in Washington. We were standing in front of my garden, and I told her to look down. I had about six eggplant plants and 18 eggplant fruits in July. "How did you do it?" she asked.

The eggplant's Latin name is *Solanum melongena*. The *Solanum* family is commonly known as the nightshade family. In America, Canada and Australia, the common name is eggplant; in a lot of restaurants, as well as in France and Britain, they are known as aubergine.

It can be cold in Washington, so I grow eggplant varieties that require the fewest days to maturity. I do well with the Asian eggplants, but don't let the skinny guys fool you: some take just as long as the big guys. The Asians were the first to grow eggplant, and they've got it down.

Strategies for coaxing eggplants to produce

Start your seeds indoors 8–10 weeks before the planting date. Follow the package instructions on how to plant in pots. To protect the new seedlings so they don't break as they start coming up out of the soil, make a foil tent above the pots. Then cover them to keep them dark, put them in your oven and turn the light on to warm them. That helps them sprout more quickly. Once the seedlings are up, take the pots out and put them under a light or in a greenhouse. Mist and bottom-water only at this point; don't apply fertilizer because you don't want to burn the roots as they get established.

The seedlings can be transplanted when they have two sets of leaves. Keep moving them to larger pots as they grow so they don't get root-bound. Once you have them in six-inch pots, you can start fertilizing. Use organic fertilizer and follow the directions.

As soon as the soil in the garden gets into the 60s, transplant the

starts into holes about 18 inches apart and prepared with lime, fertilizer and composted chicken manure worked into the soil. Fill the holes and water well.

I stake each plant or use cut-down tomato cages for support. If I have a group of plants in a staggered row, I also put two sticks at each end and wrap 6-mil plastic 2-½ to 3 feet high around the group, leaving one end with a tie to open or close. The plastic must touch the ground; it's the roots that need to be warm.

I cover the top with a row cover and wrap a string around it to hold it on; the plant will breathe, not mildew or cook, and you won't have to cover and uncover every day.

Eggplants need humidity

Don't forget that eggplants are a tropical plant. To help humidity levels, I spritz them off and on with water using a clean household sprayer. I spray along the inside walls of the plastic and the cloth on top, and around the bottoms of the plants. You also could put a bowl of water nearby for humidity. I try not to top-water the plants very often — only spritz them. Once it gets to the high 70s during the day, you can take the plastic off, but watch out for cold nights.

The eggplant has both male and female parts in each blossom, so another variety of eggplant is not needed. I hand-pollinate my blossoms to help them along. Just gently tap or brush the blossoms — using your finger, a small paintbrush or a soft cotton swab — daily during the blooming season from mid- to late summer. That helps shift the pollen from the anther to the pistil. Be sure to keep the same varieties together, because eggplants will cross-pollinate.

Watch out for flea beetles and other insects. You can wash them off with water using a hose or spray bottle, or you can use Neem.

And voila! Eggplants in Washington.



Belltown P-Patch's 20th Anniversary

By Eryka Anson
Belltown P-Patch Site Coordinator

The Belltown P-Patch celebrated its 20th anniversary in June, but the history of this little garden goes back much farther than 20 years. In fact, the story behind the Belltown P-Patch actually started in the early 1900s.

At that time, the land was owned by real estate speculator and developer William Hainsworth. There were 11 cottages on his land, occupied by blue-collar workers employed on the nearby waterfront. These working-class cottages more or less remained the same for the next 40 years, although along the way the lot was divided and some cottages sold to those living in them.

As the years progressed, Belltown changed around the cottages, and the land and individual



Gardeners and neighbors gathered for the 20th anniversary party at the Belltown P-Patch, which is the only green oasis in a sea of high-rise buildings.

three cottages, that the land's current (and best) use became clear.

In 1988 several Belltown residents gathered with the idea of building a P-Patch community garden in their neighborhood. One of the cottage residents suggested the land behind the cottages, which at the time was littered with old mattresses, discarded 40-oz. bottles, cardboard and lots of blackberries. (The blackberries are still thriving next door.) After rounds of meetings, letters and community gatherings, the Friends of the Belltown P-Patch was formed.

Ownership of the corner lot was divided between Joe Diamond (owner of Diamond Parking) and Skyway Luggage, and neither wanted to sell. (They had been trying to keep the land away from one other for years.) In 1989, more than

130 properties were being considered for purchase by a recently passed King County Open Space Bond. The competition was stiff, but that didn't stop the Friends of the Belltown P-Patch. Colorful grassroots lobbying (featuring cookies and veggies, sidewalk chalk and lawn gnomes) eventually won out, and the City was able to purchase Joe

Diamond's four-fifths of the property (including the three cottages) in 1993 for about \$450,000.

Two years later, after intensely difficult work by cottage residents, neighbors, founding gardeners, the Friends of the Belltown P-Patch and others, the P-Patch celebrated its opening on June 21, 1995. Based on accounts from those who attended, it was a lovely opening day, complete with balloons, costumes galore, music by the Black Cat Orchestra, food, speeches by dignitaries, tours provided by local transvestites, and happiness all around.

In 2000 the remaining piece of the lot was purchased by the City, and the cottages (and site) were granted landmark status by the City of Seattle's Landmarks Preservation Board.

When the P-Patch -- nestled between Seattle's bustling waterfront and Belltown's newest 12-story apartment building -- celebrated its 20th year in June, current and former gardeners, City representatives, neighbors, family and friends were invited to celebrate its success. It is presently home to 35 garden plots and more than 40 gardeners. In addition to the individual plots, a special area has been set aside for the Giving Garden, where produce is regularly harvested and delivered to the nearby Pike Market Food Bank.

This little garden is treasured green space: The abundant and colorful flowers and greenery provide an attractive urban oasis for neighborhood residents, tourists and hummingbirds. Happy 20th Anniversary, Belltown P-Patch!

Thanks to Glenn MacGilvra for the historical information for this article.



Two of Belltown P-Patch's three cottages, which are nearly 100 years old, are visible in this party scene.

cottages changed ownership. By the time the 1960s rolled around, most of the structures had been torn down. All that remained were three cottages on a parcel owned by Skyway Luggage Company, which rented the cottages to various tenants. It wasn't until the early 1980s, when one of the tenants started creating a vegetable garden in the backyard of the

The 2015 Chef in the Garden event was yet another delicious success!



Each year since 2009, Tom Douglas Catering has staged a fabulous dinner to raise funds for GROW – the advocacy organization for community gardens and orchards that was formerly the P-Patch Trust. The July gathering featured memorable Asian-influenced food by Eric Tanaka, Chef of TanakaSan in downtown Seattle and Tom Douglas' business partner.

GROW's fund-raisers are grateful to the suppliers of food and beverages for the event:

- Charlie's Produce
- Chateau Ste Michelle
- EC Wilson Meats
- Merlino Foods
- Ocean Beauty (seafood)
- Wismettac Asian Foods, Inc.

Thanks also go to the gardeners at Interbay P-Patch, who pitched in to help prepare the site for the event and donated a lovely array of flowers for the bouquets.

Most of all, GROW is grateful to Chef Eric Tanaka and Tom Douglas Catering and their staffs for their years of support for the Chef in the Garden event – and for community gardening, local food production, and efforts to end hunger.

The P-Patch Online Database – An Update

By Rich Macdonald,
P-Patch Program Supervisor

“What’s up with that online database P-Patch has promised for so long?” you might ask. Indeed, it’s been about a year since we contacted the P-Patch community announcing the technology that would enhance the P-Patch community experience, offering gardeners an account to pay and renew online and site leaders a window on their garden. After all this time developing the system, it now feels like an old friend, and we have accordingly given it a name, “Sprout,” to evoke our gardening roots and the hopeful notion that the database will help the P-Patch Program grow, flower and bear fruit.

New due date: about November 1

Alas, to add one more metaphor, Sprout’s birth has been painful and often delayed. The newest due date is the end of October. We started this project at a time that coincided with increased security and privacy concerns. During development, the City has become subject to more stringent requirements for credit card payments; at the same time, concerns about securing customers’ private information have necessitated a heightened security environment. Both of these concerns have stunted Sprout a bit.

But enough whining. What will Sprout do? For the average gardener, there should be some fun features. Have you wandered your P-Patch to check the great growing techniques of your awesome fellow gardeners? Log onto your Sprout account at home or via your cell phone, click on the Site Map icon, and zoom in to find the plot and name of the gardener whose vegetables you admire.

Log volunteer hours with electronic ease

Do you have an idea for a work party task, but can’t remember your site leader’s name? Sprout has that contact information at your fingertips. Are you curious about how close you are to finishing your volunteer hours? Log on to Sprout and find out, and record the additional hours when you finish a task. At renewal time, you’ll receive an email prompt to open your Sprout account to find the application form and an anonymous survey (which helps us track essential information). You’ll have an option to pay your fee or make a GROW donation by credit card, or print a receipt and continue to pay by check.

If you become a site leader, Sprout has a few more tricks for your use. You can see all the tasks for people in your garden, and you can create specialized tasks that are only relevant to your P-Patch. You can assign new site leaders and give them responsibilities: for example, assign a person to enter volunteer hours into gardeners’ accounts. As a site leader, you’ll also have access to contact information for all gardeners, although you won’t yet be able to print a list.

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Historic Preservation
Neighborhood Matching Funds
Outreach and engagement
P-Patch Community Gardening Program
Public Records Disclosure

You are signed in as:
Rich Macdonald
Account Profile | Log off

Find user
Find garden

GARDENER DASHBOARD

Please Note
It's time to renew and confirm your interest list participation.

Plot Management:
This section will include your plot's information. You will be able to see the plot map of your P-Patch, plot number, vacate option and an easier way to contact staff by email.

Garden	Plot Map	Plot	Status	Vacate	Contact Staff
Colman Park		1100	Steward	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="button" value="Contact Staff"/>
Queen Anne		3720B		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="button" value="Contact Staff"/>

My Profile:
This section will let you edit/update your contact information and everything related to your plots, history with P-Patch (Interest lists, payments, donations etc)

My Profile
Name: Rich Macdonald
Email: davep@wadeware.net
Phone: --
Account Balance: \$0.00
Donations this year: \$0.00

Volunteer Hours
Hours this year: .00
In-garden hours this year: .00
Hours remaining this year: 8.00

Volunteer Hours:
This section will let you manage your volunteer hours and interests.

Garden Interests:
You will be able to sign up for other Interest Lists, or swap your preferences.

Garden Interests
Garden
#1 Colman Park
#2 Estelle Street

Key Contacts for My Garden:
This section will include the contact information of your garden's leadership.

Key Contacts for My Garden:
Vanessa Gutierrez Site Leader
(206)615-1787
vanessa.gutierrez@seattle.gov

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Home / Site Leader Dashboard **This is our SITE LEADER DASHBOARD** Dashboard: Site Leader | Gardener

Historic Preservation
Public Records Disclosure

You are signed in as:
Van Gut2
Account Profile | Log off

MAD P LEADER DASHBOARD

Overview - Plots
This section will take you to the garden's map, plots, sizes and gardeners' profiles.

Assigned	Available	Garden Map
16	1	

Configure Garden
Manage volunteer skills, tasks and interests.

Available Tasks Types
Available Tasks
Available Volunteer Interests

Site Leaders
Van Gut2 Leader
vanessa.gutierrez@seattle.gov

Volunteer Hours
Hours required for year: 120
Gardeners w/hours not met: 15

Volunteer Hours
This section will allow you to keep track of all the volunteer hours of your gardeners.

The two diagrams above show a typical gardener and site leader dashboard. P-Patch staff members are preparing tutorials, and are looking for help developing online video guides. Let us know if you're interested!

Log onto your Sprout account at home or via your cell phone, click on the Site Map icon, and zoom in to find the plot and name of the gardener whose vegetables you admire.



“I had no idea”

THE TOP TEN LESSONS LEARNED

By Lewissa Swanson, Maple Leaf P-Patch

By a new gardener

This has been my first year of gardening. I never seriously thought I would try to be a gardener, much less a somewhat successful gardener who yields actual fruits and vegetables. Who knew I could actually grow things? I’m honestly shocked every day!

I’m the type of person who likes to catalog lessons learned so I can make better choices in the following years. I’ve been making notes, and want to share my top 10 lessons learned by a new gardener.

Get educated, especially about soil

Before starting on my pea patch, I had no idea what those three numbers meant on organic fertilizer. I now know the numbers represent nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium. I also know that next year I will send off some soil for analysis. I’ve listened to other gardeners as they have told me about my soil – facts like it has the best sun, and the original pea patch owner put charcoal in it. I had no idea there was special charcoal for soil; my mind was kind of blown when I learned that. I also didn’t know that I would work with compost and fertilizer, or everything else I would do to keep my soil healthy. I now know that, at a basic level, I must learn about and support my soil.

Start with some starts

As a new gardener, I needed some “wins” early on, and using a few starts really helped me have some early successes. I’ve also learned that you really need to use starts for some plants, such as red peppers and tomatoes, because we just don’t have the right weather to start them from seed. (If you disagree, see lesson learned #3.) I had no idea about that before this experience. I used some cilantro and lettuce starts and they were very successful, although I now know that I could have easily used seeds for both.

Talk to lots of people, and know they might not agree

I had no idea that gardening could be “controversial.” I planted some early tomato plants in April and was shocked by how much advice I got from people! Everyone thought I had planted the tomato plants way too early. People had different ideas about how I could “correct” my mistake. In the end, I bought some water walls and I’m very happy with the outcome, but I had no idea that people had very specific ideas about when to plant and how to plant. I also had no idea how many of my favorite people would disagree. Listen, learn, and experiment!

Plants yield a lot of food; be mindful and have plans for extra

Let’s talk about the thousands of peas I grew, along with the three-foot-tall cilantro plants which started from starts (I’m not joking about the height of the plants). I had no idea these little seeds and starts would yield so much food. My coworkers and neighbors got tired of the extra cilantro and lettuce when the season was just starting. The good news: I brought great salads to group events.

Let plants grow until you know whether it’s a weed or a plant

A master gardener friend told me to let things grow until I knew for sure whether it was a plant I meant to grow, a weed, or a “volunteer” plant that I might or might not want. For instance, I had no idea that the gigantic stalks growing in my patch were sunflowers until I questioned a fellow gardener with similar stalks in her plot. Ultimately, I pulled the sunflower stalks so they would not get in the way of my tomatoes. I also did a lot of Google searching to find out what the plants I planted look like, and what common Pacific Northwest weeds look like.

Diagram your garden

Keep a diagram of your garden that shows where you planted different items. It is important to know where you planted different seeds so that determine which plants are weeds, and so that you know where to plant seeds



Sometimes, in a great growing season like Seattle has just had, P-Patch gardeners end up with far more fruits and vegetables than they expected at planting time. When that happens, food banks and feeding programs are happy to have the extra produce.

next year. I’ve learned it is important for the soil to rotate where you plant things.

Learn about and learn to live with bugs

I’m only now learning that there are “good” bugs and “bad” bugs for your garden. If you plant seeds, you need to learn to be grateful for bugs such as bees that pollinate your garden. I love ladybugs now, too! I’ve also learned about cabbage moths and other potential problem bugs. Who knew that I would appreciate some bugs?

Plant more strawberries

I have two little “volunteer” strawberry plants, which I now call “nectar of the Gods.” Who knew that those little red fruits grown in organic P-Patches could be that amazing? Next year I will plant many, many more strawberry plants, and you probably should, too!

It’s not really about the P-Patch. It’s about the community.

I got a P-Patch to grow stuff. What I didn’t expect, and now really appreciate, is that I found a whole P-Patch community. I enjoy the East Indian family with an amazing set of twins who love my Springer Spaniel, Rosie. I also have a garden mentor and water helper, whose name is Alice, and many other really wonderful P-Patch friends who are overwhelmingly nice and supportive. I am so appreciative of my new community that I didn’t know would accompany my P-Patch!

Have fun

This P-Patch adventure is one that makes me learn and grow. My patch is a lot of work and requires some money, but it’s been so much fun. I feel accomplished and incredibly happy when my hard work yields actual fruit! The people, the success, the fruits and vegetables... everything has been amazing. I love my P-Patch!

Thank you for letting me share my lessons learned. I’m sure you have many lessons, too. Please share them with me or your new P-Patch friends. And thank you to everyone who has taught me so much this year!



FYI: Ray Schutte, author of Ray’s Corner

Ray Schutte is taking a break from writing his usual garden advice column for this issue of the *Post*, because he’s been preparing for a show at a Pioneer Square art gallery. Besides being a gardener extraordinaire, Ray is a photographer and printmaker who creates prints of photographs from nature that have computer-generated elements layered on top. Not surprisingly, plants -- including lichens with remarkable color and detail -- are among his favorite things to portray.

Ray’s recent prints can be seen at Gallery 110, 110 Third Avenue South, until October 30. And you can always see samples of his work on his website: www.rayschutte.com.

Winterizing your garden plot makes good soil sense

By Laura Matter, Seattle Tilth, Garden Hotline

Gardeners are always a little sad to see fall come – that time when we finally give up on vine-ripened tomatoes and pull them green off the vine to sit on our kitchen windowsills instead. But take heart! This time of year is a rich one in the garden, a time full of promise for the spring. What we do now makes next summer's harvest even better! Fall is a time to fold the season's growth back into the soil, enriching your garden beds, and a time to sow cool-weather crops that will protect your soil, preserving nutrients through our copious winter rains. Keep busy this fall growing healthy soil in your garden, and reap the rewards next summer!

Grow over-wintering crops

Plant garlic and shallots found at local sources like Walt's in Ballard and local nurseries. There are some great mail order sources, too: <http://www.territorialseed.com/category/all-garlic-shallot-bulbs>; <https://www.filareefarm.com>; and <http://irisheyesgardenseeds.com>. Remember that garlic will be harvested in summer, June at the earliest, so plan accordingly to make sure you have room for spring and early summer plantings. Learn more here: <https://www.filareefarm.com/growing.html>

Overwinter long-season Brassicas like cabbage, broccoli, collards, kale and cauliflower. Hardier varieties can be planted in mid-July for overwintering. If you did not choose specific varieties but have some Brassicas still standing this fall, leave them in the ground and see how they do.

Leave some carrots, beets, turnips, parsnips and other root crops in the ground for harvesting through the winter. As the weather gets colder, mulch them deeply with straw or leaves to keep the soil from freezing too hard at the plants' crowns. As with the Brassicas, there are many winter-hardy varieties you can plan for in mid-summer.

Use a cloche

Cloche tender greens like lettuce, mustard, arugula, chard and spinach to protect them from sudden drops in temperature and keep them producing through the fall. If we experience another warm winter like last year, you might have them with you all the way into next spring!

Build your cloche with rounded plastic piping. PE pipe is a good, safe plastic for garden use. Attach a sturdy UV-protected greenhouse-grade plastic with specialized cloche clips or office binder clips.

Look for supplies at Charlie's Greenhouse Supply in Mount Vernon, <http://www.charleysgreenhouse.com>, or buy a cloche kit ready to go from Seattle Tilth at the Wallingford office: 4649 Sunnyside Ave. North, Suite 100.

Mulch your beds

There are many excellent reasons for mulching:

- o Keep cool-season weeds down this fall and in early spring.
- o Protect soil from loss of nutrients, especially calcium. Winter rains in the Northwest promote loss of calcium, making our soil more acidic.
- o Moderate soil temperature through the winter; mulch keeps temperature more even when the air temps fluctuate.
- o Protect soil from compaction due to rain.
- o Feed your soil. While you rest, the soil food web is continuing its good work.

Chop up your summer plants as you pull them, and use them as mulch in your garden plot. Mulching in place nourishes your soil while also protecting it from winter rain, and avoids overwhelming the compost bins at the end of the season.

Remove any materials suspected of harboring disease organisms. Inspect tomato family, Brassicas and onion family plants especially for signs of disease. Late blight (from tomato family plants) over-winters on live tissue and tomato seeds are notoriously difficult to compost completely, so remove fallen fruit from the garden. It is also important to remove stray potato tubers from your plot for this reason.

Apply chopped summer crops, compost, straw, leaves or any mixture of these types of mulch around winter plantings. Then lay burlap over your open areas of soil, tucking in chopped up plants, leaves and decomposing straw underneath to enrich the soil over the winter.

Finally, apply wood chips in your paths or around perennial plants.

Grow a cover crop

If you want to nourish your soil and protect it at the same time with a minimum of effort, plant cover crops in the open areas in your plot. You can find cover crop seed at Walt's in Ballard, and one of the best and most diverse sources of cover crops seed, Peaceful Valley Farm Supply, has mail order supplies. (<https://www.groworganic.com/seeds/cover-crop.html>). You can also find cover crop seed through some of the garlic sources previously listed.

Look for annual cover crops to be planted now and turned under in

the spring as soon as you are ready to plant and the soil can be worked. Do not let them go to seed, or you will continue to have them growing in your plot. Some types that do well in Seattle: crimson clover, winter wheat, annual rye, winter peas, vetch, and Cayuse oats.

What you are growing are generally either cereal grains (grasses) or pea-family plants. These are cold-hardy varieties that add nitrogen and organic matter to your soil when turned in next spring. Another good choice is fava beans, which you can harvest next season. Pea family plants have specialized nodules that convert atmospheric nitrogen to a form useful to plants. To jump-start this process, inoculate your legume seed with Rhizobium bacteria; it is sold alongside the seed and comes with instructions about how to inoculate and plant.

In the spring when you are ready to work the soil, cut the cover crop plants down and then turn them under. Let the results sit for a minimum of two weeks; you might need to wait longer for the plant material to break down.

Annual rye grass has been shown to have an inhibiting effect on quack grass, through competition. (<http://umaine.edu/weedecology/files/2012/11/quackgrass-management.pdf>). Annual rye has also been shown to reduce the incidence of club root in soils that have been cover-cropped with it. (http://www.nysipm.cornell.edu/organic_guide/cole_crops.pdf). Do not use cover crops that are in the brassica group if you have planted or plan to plant brassica crops in the same spot – OR when you have known club root issues.

Plant perennials

Fall is a great time to plant perennial plants in your plot. Take this opportunity to add herbs, perennial edibles like rhubarb or blueberry, and/or beneficial insect-attracting plants like Echinacea and Sedum. Mulch around them with your chopped summer plants or other mulches. Do not use wood chips where you want to grow annual crops, to prevent tying up the nitrogen in the soil. Keep chips in the paths.

Test your soil

Fall is a GREAT time to take stock of the health of the soil in your plot. Test your soil to assess the pH level (acid or alkaline?), the percentage of organic matter, nutrient deficiencies, CEC or cation exchange capacity (related to nutrient availability and how nutrient over-abundance affects availability), and levels of metals in the soil, especially lead. Lead is a concern in areas that

have a history of pesticide use, automobile/gasoline exposure, or leaded house paint.

Places to send soil for testing:

- o King Conservation District (free testing the first time for King County residents only) (http://www.kingcd.org/pro_far_soil.htm) No heavy metals or contaminants permitted.
- o University of Massachusetts: (<http://soiltest.umass.edu>) Standard fertility and lead testing
- o Soil Test Farm Contaminants: (<http://www.soiltestlab.com>) Standard fertility tests, and you can add a metals panel

If your soil test indicates a low pH, fall is a great time to add lime to prepare it for next spring. Adding agricultural lime to your plot (in open soil areas) can help reduce soil acidity and mitigate clubroot to some extent. Agricultural lime or calcium carbonate is a good choice. Dolomite lime is calcium magnesium carbonate, and our soil is usually not deficient in magnesium.

Enjoy the season, nourish your soil and be satisfied that you have done what you need to ensure a healthy garden next year! Check the Seattle Tilth class listings for the classic "Put Your Garden to Bed" class, and learn these techniques hands-on in the Seattle Tilth Learning Gardens: <http://seattletilth.nonprofitsoapbox.com/veggie-gardening/event/471>.



For one-on-one advice about garden winterizing or other plant care questions, contact the Garden Hotline at (206) 633-0224 or send a message through the website: www.gardenhotline.org.

You can also follow the Hotline on Facebook, Twitter, YouTube and Pinterest!

P-PATCH ANNUAL HARVEST BANQUET

Inviting all gardeners and their families to join us in honoring P-Patch Community Members. There will be the following contests, bring your veggies to win fabulous prizes!

(1) Largest Veggie Contest – (2) Strangest Veggie Contest – (3) Best Squash Disguise Contest

When: Sunday - November 1, 2015 4-6PM

Where: Miller Community Center - 330 19th Ave E. Buses #8, #2 and #43.



Please bring food to share and your own serving and eating utensils. Beverages provided.

Questions:

Call 425.329.1601 or 206.684.0264

info@ppatchtrust.org – p-patch_don@seattle.gov



P-PATCH COMMUNITY GARDENING PROGRAM

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.) The *Post* is produced by volunteers, and GROW welcomes articles, photos and story ideas for future issues. Please send them to p.patch.post@GROWnorthwest.org.



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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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)
- 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 GROW tool grant for one garden)
- BENEFACTOR: \$250-\$499** (pays a portion of the property taxes on GROW'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.

Please check here if you would like to have a paper copy of your contribution acknowledgement mailed to you rather than receiving an emailed version.

My contribution is \$ _____

Name(s) _____

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City/State/Zip _____

Email _____

Check here if you want to remain anonymous.

Make your check or money order payable to: "GROW" 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 GROW via our secure website: www.GROWnorthwest.org

Thank you! For more information, contact us at info@GROWnorthwest.org or call 425.329.1601

GROW 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.



Haller Lake completes extensive renovation

By Carolyn Crockett and Colene McKee, Haller Lake P-Patch

Gardeners at Haller Lake P-Patch (HLPP) have had something special to celebrate and show off this summer and fall: the results of our P-Patch renovation, funded by a Small-and-Simple Neighborhood Matching Fund (NMF) grant from the Department of Neighborhoods (DON), with GROW as our fiscal sponsor.

HLPP was constructed on Haller Lake United Methodist Church property in 1998, with NMF funding from DON, fiscal sponsorship from Friends of P-Patch (now GROW), and a letter of support from the Haller Lake Community Club. Since then, the P-Patch has flourished, providing organically grown produce for families gardening at HLPP, as well as donating about 1000 pounds per year to local food banks, primarily North Helpline in Lake City.

HLPP's public areas provide aesthetic enhancement to the neighborhood, with flowers on the street edges, shady seating areas, and a children's play area. Visitors are often seen strolling the paths, and admiring or photographing our community garden. A butterfly garden and native plants and trees attract urban wildlife. From our P-Patch we have seen 36 bird species, six mammal species, seven

butterfly species and numerous other invertebrates.

After 17 years, the cedar used in the raised beds was deteriorating, and the two elevated accessible beds were collapsing. A grant-writing committee was formed and research done to find improved, longer-lasting materials that did not involve treated wood (not to be used in organic gardens). A budget and timetable were formulated, and gardeners pledged the matching hours and services required for DON's Neighborhood Matching Grant. Haller Lake P-Patch was awarded a grant of \$19,202.

30-year building material used for new raised beds

The Faswell material selected for new raised beds is made of wood chips and concrete, and is expected to last up to 30 years. Because the Faswall garden bed supports were beyond our budget and would not work well on sloping ground, the HLPP design team came up with a new method for securing the wall material, which comes in 45" lengths. We purchased the Faswall material from Shelter Works, who donated the double-height walls for the accessible beds. Because the Faswall material is somewhat fragile, the beds are capped with plastic lumber from Allied



The new raised beds at Haller Lake, even before the plastic lumber caps were installed along the tops, stood in significant contrast to the rotting old cedar beds.

Plastic Lumber, who gave us a 15 percent discount.

Renovations began in March 2015 and, as of late June, more than 1400 hours of matching hours had been recorded -- far exceeding the 906 hours pledged for the grant. Some of these volunteer hours were logged by United We Stand tent encampment members (then residing at HLUMC), and Boy Scout Troop 100. GROW Trustees Joyce, Eric, and Ruth worked the hours we "won" at last year's Chef in the Garden auction.

We have completed rebuilding the beds, including two elevated accessible beds and accessible paths,

and constructed new compost bins made in part from recycled cedar fencing, and a new patio from recycled concrete roof tiles from a Coast Guard Station. A new wash station was made from a sturdy table from University of Washington Surplus and a sink from Second Use. Sadly, the diseased apple trees along the northern border had to be removed, but are replaced by new planters and benches. Most of the planned renovations have been completed.

Please visit HLPP to see what we have accomplished: Haller Lake P-Patch, 13035 1st Ave NE in Seattle.

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Seattle's community gardens and orchards.

