

GARDEN GAZETTE

Official Newsletter of The Junior League of Boca Raton Community Garden

The mission of the Junior League of Boca Raton Community Garden is to cultivate the spirit of community and enhance quality of life by creating and sustaining an organic garden of vegetables, flowers, plants, and trees. The garden fosters environmental sustainability and stewardship, advances horticultural and nutritional education, provides a beautiful and natural retreat, and produces a healthy supplemental food source for its gardeners and the hungry.

Junior League of Boca Raton Community Garden

GARDEN PLOTS, BRICKS AND BENCHES

Support the Community Garden

Garden plot yearly leasing is assessed on a first-come, first-served basis. The plots are posted and can be viewed on jlbr.org.

- 4x4: \$75 per year
- 4x8: \$100 per year
- 4x12: \$125 per year

All Gardeners must agree to the [Garden Agreement](#) and the [Release of All Claims](#).

Purchase a brick and/or bench and support the Junior League of Boca Raton's Community Garden. The bricks are available for purchase on jlbr.org.

- 4"x8" Brick \$100
- 8"x8" Brick \$175
- 8"x8" Brick w/logo \$250
- Bench \$1,250

Questions please contact garden@jlbr.org.



FOLLOW US

Join our Facebook Group

Search for Friends of the Boca Raton Community Garden and answer the questions.

This page is not an official page of the Junior League of Boca Raton or monitored by their social media team. Any views and comments expressed by users on this Facebook group are those of the users and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Junior League of Boca Raton.

All site users are personally responsible for the content of their own posts.

HARVEST DAY/FOOD DRIVE

Thank you for your support!

We would like to thank all of our fellow gardeners for their hard work and commitment this year throughout the Community Garden's growing season. We are happy to let you know that so far, this growing season, we have donated 300 pounds of fruits and vegetables to Boca Helping Hands! Let's continue to work to supply our community with our delectable herbs, fruits, and vegetables. We'll be hosting another Harvest Day/Food Drive on Saturday, May 20, 2023, from 9:00 am to 11:00 am. The garden committee will deliver all food donations to Boca Helping Hands at your convenience. See you in the garden!

EXPERIENCING PLOT FLOODING?

Helpful tips for our gardeners

Please lower your water pressure to prevent high-speed water from gushing through your soaker hoses and/or sprinkler systems. Please be aware that nothing will change regarding the way that water is provided to your plot. In order to prevent floods and early wood rot in your garden plots, it is crucial to double-check your spigots to make sure they are only partially in the "On" position. It might be time to inspect your soaker hoses because they may need to be replaced due to regular wear and tear. You should also check your hose connections to ensure that there are no leaks that could waste water. Make sure to regulate the water pressure to prevent water from spraying onto your neighbor's garden plot. Avoiding water buildup and flooding, which are crucial components in maintaining our communal garden, is critical. We recommend watering for 20 minutes every 12 hours this time of year.



ADVISORY NOTICE

For Gardeners

We will require gardeners to harvest their tomatoes and remove every tomato plant from their garden plots by the end of May in order to aid in the prevention of insects and diseases during the upcoming humid summer months. We appreciate your help in maintaining the health of our Community Garden. For more information, please email garden@jlbr.org.

WHAT'S ON THE MENU?

Homegrown Summer Vegetables

There's nothing like having homegrown vegetables right at your back door. Growing your own garden helps you eat healthily and provides personal and health benefits.

Vegetables: This is the ideal time to plant beans, peas, sweet potatoes, and hot peppers such as red chili peppers and jalapenos. Mulch beds well and monitor irrigation.

See [Vegetable Gardening in Florida](#).

Herbs: In addition to their culinary value, many herbs are ornamental and attract butterflies to the garden. [Florida Vegetable Gardening Guide](#)



SOIL SOLARIZATION

Control soil-borne pests as well as soilborne diseases with solarization during hot summer months. The hottest days of summer are coming with temperatures in the 90s with heat indexes above 100 which some folks may find too hot to work in the garden, but you can put the climbing temperatures to use and solarize your garden. Soil Solarization is an environmentally friendly method of using the sun's energy to battle pests such as bacteria, insects, and weeds in the soil.

Solarization is the process of placing a clear plastic over a field, garden bed, or lawn to heat up the soil underneath. The intention of solarization is to kill weeds or grass with the obtained heat, though it can have added benefit of reducing pathogen populations in the soil. It is important, however, that only clear plastic be used to solarize garden areas. Clear plastic allows sunlight to pass through more easily, which is vital for soil heat retention.

[Reference](#)



The benefits of using plastic covering produce a greenhouse effect:

- The plastic traps heat and moisture, which encourages seed germination and plant growth.
- By blocking access to water and heating up the soil, the solarization process eventually kills the vegetation underneath.

Improved soil chemistry and erosion protection are the primary benefits of soil solarization. Profit from the warmest time of year, which is often the summer months of June, July, and August, for soil solarization success. During the sweltering summer, the preparation phase usually takes 4 to 6 weeks to get your garden ready for planting in the fall. Read more here: [How To Solarize Garden Beds To Eliminate Garden Pests In The Soil](#)

MAY WORKSHOP SAVE THE DATE

Summer Vegetable Gardening & Soil Solarization Presentation

Please join us on **Saturday, May 20, 2023**, at 9:00 am at the Community Garden where Melanie Kamburian, a member of the Junior League of Boca Raton and co-chair of the Community Garden will be available to answer any questions you may have about growing summer vegetables. She will also give a live demonstration on how to solarize soil to fight weeds and pests while preparing your garden for fall planting.

Melanie is a passionate gardener who has grown organic vegetables in our special South Florida microclimate for more than eight years. She completed FIU's Horticulture Program and is now preparing for the Certified Horticulturist Exam this autumn. She is eager to assist and share her knowledge with fellow gardeners.

PEST MANAGEMENT

Garden Tips

The primary goal of many organic gardeners is to create healthy cultural practices in order to produce food that has not been exposed to synthetic pesticides. Weeds, insects, nematodes, illnesses, and even animals like raccoons and birds are considered pests. Good cultural practices, such as maintaining proper planting dates, applying fertilizer and water effectively, rotating crops, and removing weeds that harbor certain pests, are the first step in effective pest management. The praying mantis, spiders, big-eyed bugs/assassin bugs, lady beetles, and all wasps are among the beneficial insects that you should become familiar with.

Another strategy that ought to be included in your pest management strategy is choosing vegetables that are pest-resistant or tolerant. Pest resistance is frequently noted on the labels of transplants, seed packages, and seed catalogs. Transplants that have been purchased should be free of insects and disease signs (such as leaf spots). Keep an eye out for early illness signs. To stop the spread, remove any unhealthy leaves or plants. [Reference](#)



THE POWER OF ELECTROCULTURE

Natural magnetic energies at the service of plants

More than 600 scientists and researchers from around the world have shown interest in this subject throughout the past 160 years, and many tests have been carried out, particularly in the first 30 years of the 20th century. The definition of electroculture in the dictionary is the application of electricity to agriculture, with the aim of improving and increasing production by utilizing certain materials to harvest the earth's atmospheric energy. It is a straightforward technique for using ambient (free) electricity to dramatically boost plant growth, reviving the soil and boosting yields by 100% to 300% using everyday items like copper wire (and/or magnets). Therefore, while using electroculture, pesticides, manure, and fertilizers are not required.

How does the electroculture antenna work?

The antenna gathers ground energy with wind, rain, and temperature change through a series of vibrations and frequencies. These antennas lead to stronger plants, better soil hydration, and fewer pest infestations.

DIY antenna for electroculture

Atmospheric antennas can be built with wooden dowels from Home Depot, Lowes, or a local piece of wood from your lawn. Wrapping a wooden dowel or piece of local wood in copper and zinc wiring can produce a Fibonacci spiral or vortex in the atmosphere facing Magnetic North.

When the sun shines on the antenna, the zinc and copper alloy can function like a battery. Then you will bury this antenna in the soil for around 6 to 8 inches, and Mother Nature will work her magic.

“All you need is the sun, the clouds, the rain, the nitrogen in the air, and the ability to harness atmospheric energy. These atmospheric antennas can be created from materials such as wood, copper, zinc, and brass. When adding these atmospheric antennas to your garden, soil, or farm they will amplify your yields, combat frost and excessive heat, reduce irrigation, reduce pests, and increase the magnetism of your soil leading to more nutrients in the long run.” – Matt Roeske, co-founder of superfood Cultivate Elevate on the Freedom Media Network.

Reference

