



The

SEEDER'S DIGEST

6917 Kensington

Kansas City, Missouri 64132

www.kccg.org

April 2012

Satellite Site Seed and Plant Distribution Schedule

This year KCCG is bringing our seeds and plants to you! Gardeners in Independence and KCK can sign up for membership and pick up seeds and plants through a local distribution site.

Kansas City, KS

Community Housing Wyandotte County
2 South 14th Street
Kansas City, KS 66102

This site will be open on the following
Wednesdays, from 4pm to 6pm
April 18, May 2, 16

Independence, MO

Independence Health Department
515 S. Liberty

Independence, MO 64050

This site will be open the following Mon-
days from 4pm to 6pm
April 16, 30, May 14

Organic Fertilizer for Sale

KCCG is selling organic fertilizer in the form of pelletized chicken manure. Members receive a 10 lb bag with their membership and may purchase additional quantities. Extra 10 lb bag - \$2.00. Five gallon bucket (34 lbs) - \$4.00. Call 931-3877 for 1/2 ton and 1 ton prices.

Looking for a Place to Garden?

We have plots and raised beds available at our two new garden sites, Ivanhoe/Richardson Community Garden located at 35th and Park and the Eastwood Hills Community Garden located at 8100 Ozark (East of I-435). There are raised beds and plots available at both locations. It's not too late to start gardening!

If you are interested in renting a plot or a bed contact Earlene Franks at 816-931-3877 or email at earlene@kccg.org.

SAVE THE DATE

FALL FAMILY FESTIVAL
at the Beanstalk Children's
Garden

6917 Kensington

Kansas City, MO 64132

Saturday, September 8th

10am to 3pm

ADMISSION FREE

SIGN UP NOW for your 2012 KCCG MEMBERSHIP

Now is the time to come to the Community Gardens office at 6917 Kensington in Swope Park to sign up for your 2012 membership. Your membership will provide you with 10 packs of seeds, a bag of fertilizer, our newsletter, tiller loan privileges and discounts on vegetable plants, seeds and gardening supplies.

Call 816-9831-3877 for more info.

SAVE THE DATE

Fall Fundraising Event for
KCCG

Saturday
September 15

"The Gardens at Sunset"

an evening supporting
KCCG

WARM SEASON VEGETABLE PLANTS ON SALE APRIL 26

at 6917 Kensington

Tomato, Pepper, Eggplant & Herbs

Must have a 2012 KCCG Mem-
bership to purchase plants!

KCCG OFFICE OPEN
SATURDAY
MORNINGS
9AM TO 12 NOON
THRU MAY 5TH

GARDENER PROFILE: SAMMY HOWELL



When Kansas City Community Gardens needs someone to get gardens ready to plant, we often turn to Sammy Howell.

Sammy is the go-to guy for the big tilling jobs. With a tiller attached to the back of his tractor, Sammy can till gardens quickly and efficiently provided, he says, that he can get through the gate if there is a fence.

Sammy modestly estimates he has tilled

more than 1,000 community and home gardens since 1998, when he started helping KCCG.

Earlene Franks, KCCG administrative assistant, assigns most of the tilling work for KCCG, and she says Sammy's tractor/tiller combination allows KCCG to do the much larger gardens quickly. A tilling job that would require someone to push a tiller all day takes Sammy only an hour, she says.

Sammy does almost all the gardens measuring more than 3,000 square feet. He has a "fan club" at KCCG - people ask for him every year. Earlene says some gardeners only want Sammy to come to their home to till.

But Sammy does more than just tilling for KCCG. He is an asset to Kansas City Community Gardens in several ways. A member of the Board of Directors and its Program and Marketing Committee, he always is willing to volunteer his time and talents. He stops by the KCCG office in Swope Park daily during the gardening season. If the office is busy or gardeners are working outside, he is always willing to help carry an extra load of fertilizer or help a new gardener pick out seeds and plants. He also achieved quite a bit of fame at the Fall Family Festival last September when he brought his horses for the children to ride.

Sammy grew up in Tullahassee, Okla. His father died when he was two years old. His mother and grandparents had a garden and that was his first introduction to gardening. Eventually, after attending college and working for a time, he took a job at Hallmark in shipping. He was employed at Hallmark for 27 years, met his wife there, and retired in 2002. He and his wife have property where they have a garden, and he also participates at his church's large community garden.

Despite being busy, Sammy takes time to grow a variety of good foods in his gardens, where he plants tomatoes, sweet potatoes, mustard and collard greens, corn, and green beans, among other things. His favorite veggie to grow is eggplant, just because "I like to see them grow." In fact, he likes to see just about anything grow, and this year he planted some crops even earlier than usual because of the warm weather.

"Sometimes you can't wait," he says. "You hear the birds chirping and the squirrels dancing and you just want to get out in it." And so he does.

City Council Restores Funding For KCCG

As many of you know, KCCG was recently in danger of losing funding from the City of KCMO. The funding, which comes from the Community Development Block Grant program (CDBG), was in jeopardy when KCCG was excluded from this year's budget.

KCCG has been receiving CDBG funding for over 20 years. For the past several years, we have received \$35,000 annually (7% of our budget). This funding is a very important part of our budget because it provides money for tilling gardens and improvements for community gardens.

KCCG gardeners and supporters overwhelmed us with support. Many wrote and called their city council representatives and a large group of KCCG gardeners and friends attended the CDBG hearing to show support of KCCG. KCCG supporters also testified on behalf of KCCG at the city budget hearing.

We are thankful for all of your efforts. Just last week, the City Council responded and voted to put KCCG back in the budget for \$35,000.

Thank-you for all your support!

Kansas City Community Gardens Board of Directors

President	Deandra Palmer
Vice President	Becky Johnston
Secretary	Izola Pickett
Treasurer	Vince Magers

Leanna Flandermeyer	Sammy Howell	Vicki Johnson
Larry Lehman	Henry Marder	Laura Scott
Pati Thompson	Augusta Wilbon	

Advisory Board

Jill Bunting	Phoebe Bunting	Richard B. Cray
Dody Gates	Lorelei Gibson	Anna Graether
Andrew Kaplan	George Kroh	Alison Ward

Staff

Ben Sharda	Executive Director
Andrea Mathew	Program Director
Earlene Franks	Administrative Assistant
Phil Meyer	Garden Manager
MaryAnna Henggeler	Schoolyard Gardens Coordinator
Mary Roduner	Beanstalk Garden Coordinator
Bobby Wright	Get Growing KC Team Member
Sharon Goldstein	Get Growing KC Team Member
Kathy Jenkins Hart	Development Coordinator

GGKC - Mini Grant Funds High Tunnel at Niles Home



The mission of Get Growing Kansas City (GGKC) is to get more good food growing in Kansas City. GGKC's mini-grant program helps achieve this mission by taking applications from urban farms and community gardens to assist with projects up to \$3,000.

GGKC, a collaborative effort between Kansas City Community Gardens, Cultivate Kansas City, and Lincoln University Cooperative Extension, is funded by the Health Care Foundation of Greater Kansas City. After receiving many requests for assistance with community gardens and farms, HCF reviewers saw the need to help make funding available to groups trying to get good, healthy food into their communities and mini grants were established as part of the GGKC program.

The first round of mini grants was reviewed and awarded by the GGKC mini grant review team in the first part of this year. Three projects were funded, including Niles Home for Children's Garden, Whatsoever Community Garden, and an urban farmer - Lay Htoo. All were excellent proposed projects that, once implemented, will increase the amount of food being grown in the Kansas City area.

In mid-March, Niles Home for Children implemented the major part of its GGKC mini-grant request, which was buying the materials to build a high tunnel. A high tunnel is often described as an unheated greenhouse. The basic function is to extend the growing season and, in some cases, make year-round production possible. Patrice Gros of Foundation Farm in Arkansas, a well-known no-till farmer, designed the tunnel at the Niles Garden. Marty Kraft, head grower at Niles, has followed the no-till system and wanted also to replicate the high tun-

nel design Patrice had developed. The tunnel is fairly simple, using galvanized pipe, wooden hip boards, and greenhouse quality plastic. The total cost was less than \$1,400 and took two days to construct.

Marty plans on utilizing the tunnel right away, planting grafted tomatoes as soon as they are big enough to go out. In the fall he hopes to plant overwintering crops which could be harvested throughout the winter. As residents and students from the Niles Home engage in the garden, learning how to plant, care for, and harvest food, this tunnel adds a new dynamic to the Niles garden, increasing the food produced and the teaching possibilities.

The second round of mini grants has just been awarded. Look for more news on the exciting projects coming out of that grant cycle. There are still three more rounds for mini-grant funding. For more information on these GGKC grants visit www.getgrowingkc.org.

Kansas City Community Gardens Spring 2012 Workshop Schedule

Swope Park Workshops

All workshops are at 12:00noon on Fridays at our offices unless otherwise noted. Visit kccg.org for more information. There is no cost for attending the workshops. Space is limited so please call 816-931-3877 to register.

April 13: Growing Herbs

April 14 (Saturday) 10:30am- 12:00pm:

Advanced Schoolyard Gardening

April 20: Tomatoes and Peppers

April 27: Integrated Pest Management

May 18: Insects in the Garden

June 1: Plant Diseases

Independence, MO Workshops

No registration needed. Roger T. Sermon Center, 201 N. Dodgion Ave., Independence, MO 66050 (near intersection of Noland and Truman)

April 9 (Monday) 6:30-8:00pm Vegetable Garden Basics

Kansas City, KS Workshop

Community Housing Wyandotte County, 2 South 14th, Kansas City, KS 66102. Space is limited so please call 816-931-3877 to register.

**April 16 (Monday) 6:00 -7:30pm
Vegetable Gardens Basics**

**Food Preservation Workshops
Harvester's, 3801 Topping, KCMO 64129**



**May 17: (Thursday, Noon to 2pm)
Pressure Canning 101**

Want to know how to can vegetables, soups, and sauces? Then this is the class for you! Hands -on workshop will allow YOU to learn to use a pressure canner safely to preserve produce. Everyone takes home the jar they preserved. Cost \$20 per person. Limit 15 persons.

**June 26: (Tuesday, Noon to 1:30pm)
Fantastic Jellies and Jams**

In this workshop you will make both a cooked jam, as well as make a freezer jam, and take home your work. This workshop also teaches the safe use of a boiling water canner. Cost \$20.00 per person. Limit 15 persons.

**July 10: (Tuesday, Noon to 1:30pm)
Pack a Pickle**

You will learn both a quick-pickling method, as well as the steps to successful traditional pickling in order to make all types of pickles as well as sauerkraut. Cost: \$20.00 per person. Limit 15 persons.

July 19: (Thursday, 6pm to 8pm) Salsas Made Easy

During this hands-on workshop you will make and can of salsa and then to take it home to enjoy. Cost \$20.00 per person. Limit 15 persons.

**July 30: (Monday, Noon to 1:30 p.m.)
Freezing/Dehydration**

Want to learn how to make your own fruit-rollup? Dried fruit mixes? Jerky? Freeze corn on the cob? This workshop will teach you how to freeze and dehydrate foods for the best flavor, color and texture.

PLEASE SUPPORT THE 19TH ANNUAL ADOPT-A-GARDEN CAMPAIGN

Kansas City Community Gardens announces the 19th annual "Adopt-A-Garden" campaign to help raise financial support for gardens in the metropolitan area. Anyone can help by making a contribution to sponsor a garden. These levels include to "sponsor" a single family garden, a vacant lot garden, a community garden site, a schoolyard garden or a community partner garden.

Your support will provide vegetable seeds, plants, and fertilizer to enable low-income families and community groups to produce food from their garden plots. Contributors of \$50 or more will receive background information and a photo of their adopted garden.

Please fill out the attached form and mail it with your contribution to KCCG, 6917 Kensington, Kansas City, MO, 64132.

To make a secure on-line donation by credit card:

- 1) go to www.kccg.org
- 2) click on "Donate"
- 3) click on "Adopt-A-Garden" and follow the instructions.

For information on how you can adopt a garden, call 816-931-3877.

YES, I want to help grow a
Kansas City Community Garden

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____

Zip _____ Phone _____

E-mail address: _____

Adopt-A-Garden Levels

- ___ \$25 - "Seed"
- ___ \$50 - "Sprout"
- ___ \$100 - "Seedling"
- ___ \$250 - "Vine"
- ___ \$500 - "Community Trellis"
- ___ \$1000 - "Cornucopia"
- ___ Other (any amount will help) \$ _____



6917 Kensington
Kansas City, MO 64132
816-931-3877

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Kansas City, MO
PERMIT NO. 4516

Kansas City Community Gardens is a not-for-profit corporation that assists low-income households and other residents of the Kansas City metropolitan area grow vegetables and fruit from garden plots located in backyards, vacant lots, schoolyards and community sites.

For information, call 816-931-3877 or visit our offices at 6917 Kensington, Kansas City, MO 64132
www.kccg.org

