



The oldest community garden in Somerset – in our **13th year**

We're Happy You're Here!

Ways to connect with us and each other:

- Follow us on Facebook
- Be sure to submit your registration so that we have your current reach information
- Help us remove most of the growth that weighs down the fence
- Chat with and help your garden neighbors
- Share success tips
- Bring new materials to enhance the compost pile

Off Season Improvements

- Secured composite decking as the 'floor' for the limited mobility section of the garden.
- Removal of most of the growth that was weighing down the fence
- New materials to enhance the compost pile

A huge THANK YOU to all who helped
and continue to help!!

Volunteer - Help Out - Get Involved

- The Somerset Community Garden is managed 100% by volunteers
- No one is paid
- We have a lot of volunteers signed-up... later in the presentation
- We can always use more help

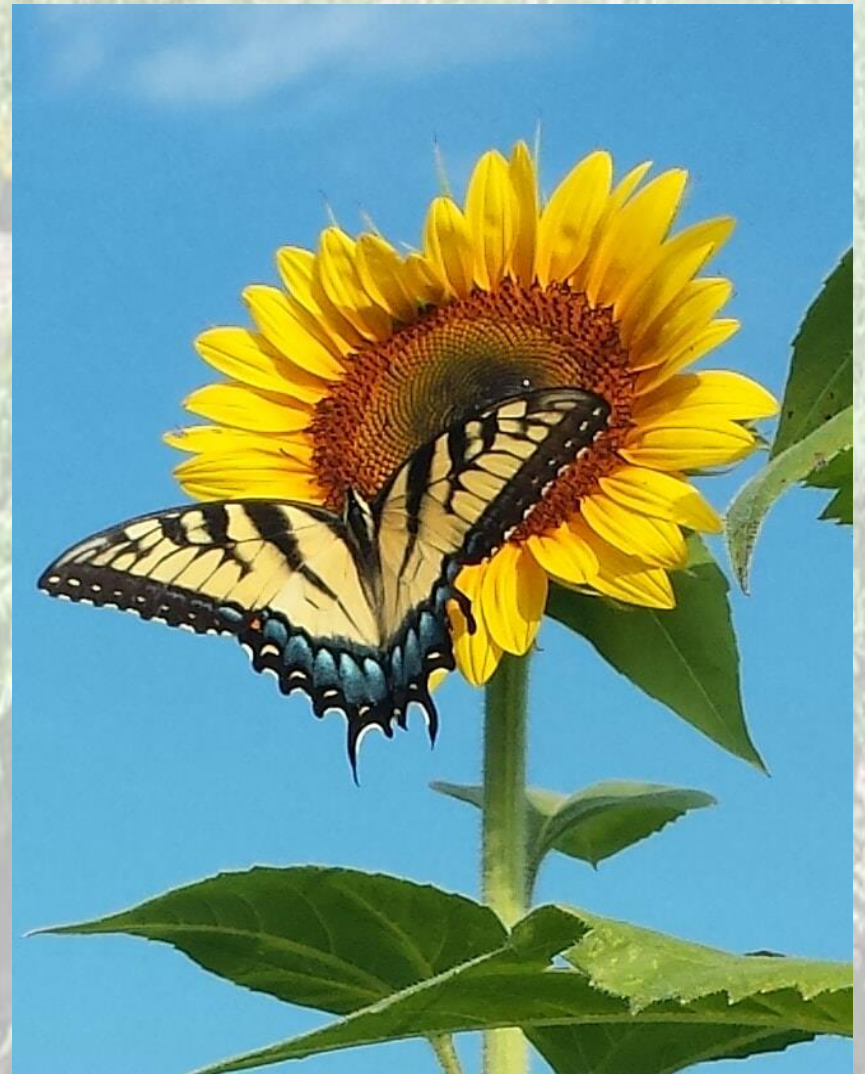
Garden Advertising Objective:

Increase gardening opportunity to more families and individuals

- 55+ community postings
- Banners
- Fliers
- Facebook Marketplace posting
- Facebook page

Expectations of Gardeners

- HAVE FUN!!
- BE SAFE
- BE KIND
- BE RESPECTFUL
- LEARN NEW THINGS
- MAKE NEW FRIENDS
- CARE FOR YOUR PLOT
- HELP OUT
- ADHERE TO THE GARDEN RULES



Hours and Season dates

- Dawn to Dusk
- First Saturday of May (May 7th) to October 31
- You must have something planted by June 1, or forfeit your plot
- **EVERYTHING** must be removed by October 31 – no exceptions!

Expected Work Day Volunteering

Saturday April 30th 9am-3pm

- Initial plot layout and placing boundary stakes and string
- Fence Repairs
- Limited-access section setup
- Initial laying down wood chip paths, hoses, fence repair
- Maintaining the paths by pulling weeds (and during the season)
- Pull weeds along the fence (and during the season)

Composting

Compost pile material – please place all compost material in the compost bin

- Spoiled vegetables
- Weeds
- Dirt
- Anything organic

Do not bring materials from home and place in the compost pile

Dumpster is for Church Use Only

Limited-access Garden

- Currently five garden tables for wheelchair/walker access
- Tables will be set up as needed
- Tables will be lined with landscape fabric and filled with special soil for shallow planting
- New this season - composite decking as the 'floor'

Water

- No sprinklers
- Don't leave water running
- Don't change the head of the hose
- Be mindful and considerate

Fencing and Gates

- Keep gates closed **at all times**. Animals will come in!
- Each garden member must volunteer for a section of the border fence for weeding and eliminating vines from the fence
- Report any damage to the fence so it can be quickly repaired. Contact :
Maurice at mrosenstraus@hotmail.com
- If you see an animal, let us know and we will attempt to trap and relocate it

Tools

- Shovels, pitchforks, rakes and wheelbarrows are available
- Please return them to the wood chip pile
- Do not lay them against the fence
- Return wheelbarrows upside down

Donations of tools are gladly accepted

Weeds/Soil Health

- Keep your plot and path free from weeds
- NO chemical pesticides
- Organic pesticides are OK
- Use organic fertilizers if possible, e.g. aged horse manure
- Agricultural lime is helpful, since the soil is acidic.
- Try to get to a 7-8 pH. Blood, fish and bone meal add nutrients. Mixing in peat moss enables moisture retention.
- Easy on the wood chips, as they contribute to soil acidity
- Well balanced mulch and organic compost works wonders

- Be a Weeding buddy
- Schedule time to work with your buddy(s)

Prohibited Plants

- No strawberries
- No asparagus
- No ginger
- No sweet potatoes
- No perennials of any kind
- Containers are OK
- Be aware of invasive species and perennials
- Ask if unsure

Other Prohibited Items

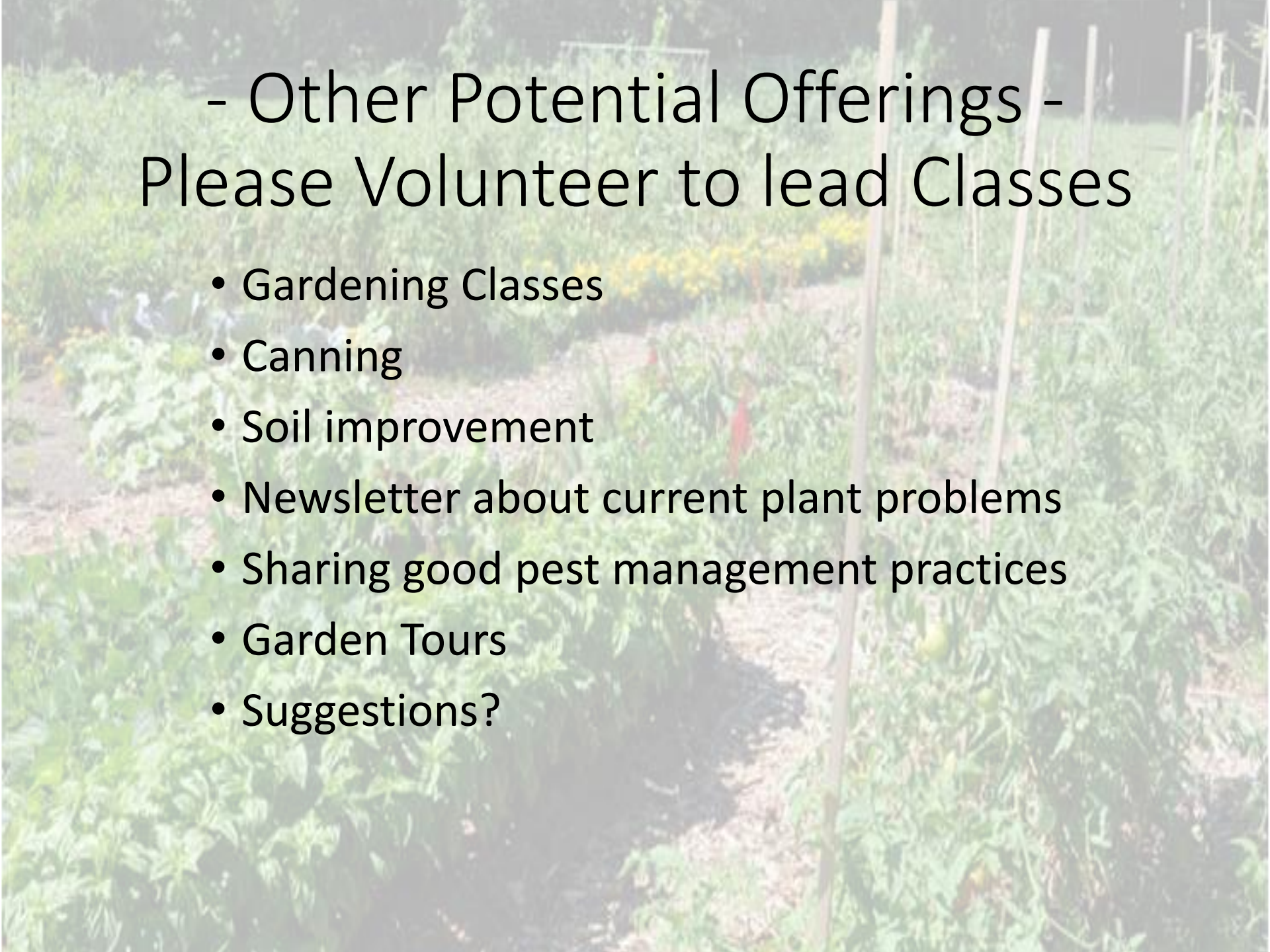
- No buried material or plastic sheeting
- Landscape fabric is OK, but it must be disclosed and removed before garden closing
- No stone, concrete or brick paving material
- No buried wood or metal border material
- No hay bales, stained wood chips, or non-biodegradable garden material
- No large structures are to be constructed (wood, bamboo, metal, etc.)

Abandoned Plots

- If you decide to no longer participate in the garden please contact Kshitija Joshi(KJ) at:
communitygarden20@gmail.com
- Plots must be cleaned-up at end of season, otherwise the gardener forfeits the right to return
- If plots become overrun with weeds, the gardener will be notified and if not remedied within 2 weeks, the plot will be reassigned to a wait listed gardener

End of Season

- Remove ALL materials from your plot
- Organic materials should be placed in the compost pile during and at end of season
- Inorganic materials - stakes, poles, tomato cages, totes and tools need to be removed from premises at end of season (not inside or outside of the fence or in the field behind garden)
- Dumpsters are for Church Use Only



- Other Potential Offerings - Please Volunteer to lead Classes

- Gardening Classes
- Canning
- Soil improvement
- Newsletter about current plant problems
- Sharing good pest management practices
- Garden Tours
- Suggestions?

Ideas for Future Plans

- Perennial beds
- Greenhouse
- Fruit and berries
- More garden beds
- Mason/orchard bees/pollinators/ butterflies
- Crop share/ seed sharing
- Wildflowers
- Pot Luck/ recipe sharing
- Toolshed, information board, covered seating area

Ongoing Critter Control and Fence Repair

- **Keep gates closed even if you are working in the garden or are continuously going in and out**
- If you see an animal in the garden try to identify how/where it got in
- Try to repair with fence patch and cable ties
- Place an object e.g. live trap, shovel, board over hole
- Let fence repair folks know



Additional Gardening Resources

- [All New Square Foot Gardening Book by Mel Bartholomew](#)
- <https://www.southernliving.com/garden/grumpy-gardener>
- <https://njaes.rutgers.edu/soil-testing-lab/how-to.php>
- <https://njaes.rutgers.edu/pubs/publication.php?pid=fs450>
- <https://njaes.rutgers.edu/fs678/>
- <http://www.sfgplanner.com/#home>
- <http://theselfsufficientliving.com/list-of-medicinal-plants-to-grow-in-your-garden/>
- <https://urbangardenersrepublic.com/seed-starting-14-worst-mistakes/>
- <https://urbangardenersrepublic.com/how-to-start-a-flower-garden-from-scratch/>

A photograph of a community garden with various plants and wooden stakes. The image is slightly faded to serve as a background for the text.

Make a Friend!
&
Have Fun!

Contact plot coordinator
Kshitija (KJ) Joshi at
communitygarden20@gmail.com
if you want your contact
information to be shared for
finding a watering or weeding
buddy

Connect With Us

<https://www.facebook.com/SomersetCommunityGarden/>

Garden Website:

www.SomersetCommunityGarden.org

Church/Garden main telephone number:

732-873-2888

Garden Email address for general questions:

garden@SomersetCommunityGarden.org

Local Supply Locations

- Lowes
- Home Depot
- Gaskos, 112 Federal Road, Monroe Twp. (cash only)
- Countryview Farm Nursery 599 BucklewAve. (RT 522 E), Monroe Twp.
- Barton Nursery, 949 New Durham Rd., Edison
- Daisy Garden Center and Sculpture, 183 US-206, Hillsborough Township, NJ 08844
- Ambleside Gardens and Nursery, 834 US-206, Hillsborough Township, NJ 08844
- Blooms at Belle Meade, 1980 US-206, Belle Mead, NJ 08502
- Schwarz Gardens, 4355 NJ-27, Princeton, NJ 08540
- Madden's Greenhouse and Nursery, 4312 NJ-27, Princeton, NJ 08540

Local Supply Locations (cont.)

- Baumley Nursery and Landscaping, 4339 NJ-27, Princeton, NJ 08540
- Amato's Garden Center and Nursery, 47 Deans Rhode Hall Rd, Monmouth Junction, NJ 08852
- Fama's Nursery and Landscaping, 1613 NJ-27, Somerset, NJ 08873
- Atlock Farm, 545 Weston Canal Rd, Somerset, New Jersey
- Coppola's Garden Center, 1600 New Durham Road, Plainfield

If you purchase from Amazon, please use:

Amazon Smile – Holy Trinity Lutheran Church Somerset

www.htlsomerset.org/amazonsmile

Somerset Community Garden Committee

- Garden Chair – Theresa Farkas theresafarkas796@gmail.com
- Website - Administrator – Tom Jennings tomj@optonline.net
- Facebook Administrator - Kori Fjordbotten koriyergler@gmail.com
- Garden Email Administrator - Vacant
- Plot Assignment – Kshitija (KJ) Joshi communitygarden20@gmail.com
- Orientation Workshop – Theresa Farkas theresafarkas796@gmail.com
- Fee Administer – Maurice Rosenstrauss mrosenstrauss@hotmail.com
- Open/Close Garden – Theresa Farkas, Joann Cummings, Kshitija (KJ) Joshi, Kori Fjordbotten, et. al.
- Garden Maintenance – Vacant
- Church Financial Advisor – Maureen Haney (haneyjc@comcast.net)
- Church Technical Advisor – Tom Jennings (tomj@optonline.net)
- Garden “Police” – Joann Cummings joann.cummings06@gmail.com

Volunteers

- Orientation – Theresa Farkas, Dale Fjordbotten
- Weed Management/Garden Police – volunteers needed
- Work Day (April 30th) – all gardeners
- Opening/Closing – all gardeners
- E-mail Monitoring – volunteers needed
- Fence Repair – volunteers needed
- Newsletter/Cookbook – volunteers needed
- Pest Management/Gate Signs – volunteers needed
- Soil Improvement – volunteer needed
- Experts/Videos/ DVDs on Organic Gardening – volunteer needed

Please be Generous - Donate

- Limited-access garden surface replacement – we were able to secure and pay for enough composite decking to make this area of the garden more permanent and stable
- Fence repair
- Future garden improvements costs