



## GARDEN HACK 101

**C**leaning and maintaining garden tools are incredibly important tasks, but it's a lot of work to hand wash and sharpen your tools after every use. Well, clean and sharpen no more with this DIY self-sharpening holding pot. A terra-cotta pot filled with a mixture of sand and mineral oil makes a perfect home for small gardening tools. The abrasive sand effortlessly sharpens tools simply by pulling them out and replacing them in the pot. The oil keeps them well-lubricated and cleans them for your next use.



## Turn Off the Water!

We continue to receive reports of water left running, hoses left unattended, hoses leaking and other water overuse issues. Be sure to check that your hose bib is off before leaving your garden plot and remind your plot partners.

Water overuse has a direct impact on the entire Village, as all residents share in water costs. Please do your part to save and keep our water costs low.



## Alternative Watering During Hot Weather

If your plants are drying quickly, fill a plastic bottle with water, poke several holes into it and bury it beside your plant to directly water the roots, protecting the foliage from burns and keeping the thirsty plant quenched. Be sure to match the size of the bottle with the plant to avoid overwatering.



## Vegepods Are Here

In case you missed the announcement, garden center staff is pleased to offer Vegepods—raised planting beds designed for those who wish to continue their hobby but experience difficulty bending down and/or kneeling, planting, weeding, picking fruits or vegetables, and performing other gardening tasks.



Vegepods will be located at Garden Center 2. Pods will be filled with healthy soil, and users will have access to a water source. The remaining maintenance will be the responsibility of the resident gardener. The cost to rent a Vegepod is \$50 per year. As with traditional plots, partner gardeners must be listed on the member's permit. Residents who transition to Vegepods must relinquish their current plot.

Please email [gardencenters@vmsinc.org](mailto:gardencenters@vmsinc.org) if you are interested in transitioning from your current plot to a Vegepod. Priority will be given to residents who have been at the gardens the longest if the number of requests exceeds the number of pods.

### WEED CONTROL

Keeping the path around your plot clear of weeds and plants may seem like a small thing, but it plays a big role in safety while walking the paths and in the overall aesthetics of the garden centers. As a friendly reminder, all plot holders must keep the path(s) adjacent to their plot clear of weeds and/or plants.

## A MESSAGE From TOM McCRAY

As we do our garden center walk-throughs, staff can't help but notice how many beautiful plots there are at both garden areas. The summer harvest looks like it has been a bountiful one.

I would like to extend a hearty thank you to those of you who shared your garden's goodness for the recent farmers market event and helped to make it a tremendous success. Your efforts helped raise \$2,200 for the Florence Sylvester Senior Center Meals on Wheels program.

Also, I'd like to provide a few reminders. Please remember that if you have a space in either a garden or tree plot, you are expected to aesthetically maintain your garden to keep the overall environment an enjoyable one for all. Many who were behind in gardening have restored their gardens, but some work remains. If you are planning on keeping your plot, please keep it in a state that fits with the overall beauty of the centers. Please contact Kristy Sakal at the garden center office at 949-268-2387 if you have any questions.

## Check Out These Podcasts!

**Growing With Nature**  
<https://bit.ly/3MT3R4Z>

**How to Create Habitat Features for Pest Control**  
[growingwithnature.org/create-habitat-features](http://growingwithnature.org/create-habitat-features)