



Repelling Rats

Unfortunately for gardeners, rodents are quite fond of fruit, flowers and vegetables. They also like hiding under pavers, pots or raised beds.



Help us make the gardens less enticing to rodents. There are many tried and true ways to keep your garden from becoming a rodent or bunny salad bar, including cleaning up fallen fruit and leaves, keeping plots free of debris, blocking off potential shelter, filling in holes and using hot pepper or various essential oils. For example, spraying a peppermint oil mixture around the perimeter of your garden may help reduce your unwanted visitors. Rats, which have one of the keenest senses of smell in the animal kingdom, stray from citronella and eucalyptus, as well.

Other do-it-yourselfers have also recommended grating or shredding Irish Spring bar soap around the garden perimeter. We can't verify whether this works, but it doesn't hurt to try!

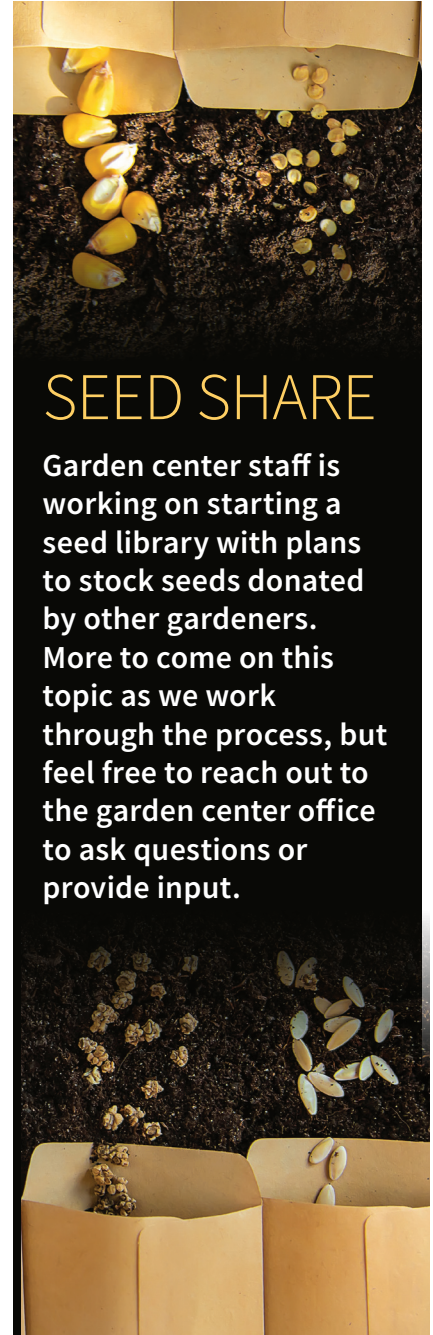
Did You Know?



Inside the garden center office at Garden Center 2, we have a few reference materials for both beginner and experienced gardeners. Stop by and check out the selection.

SEED SHARE

Garden center staff is working on starting a seed library with plans to stock seeds donated by other gardeners. More to come on this topic as we work through the process, but feel free to reach out to the garden center office to ask questions or provide input.



A Note From Tom McCray

As we get into the fall and winter seasons it is important to remember to continue to keep your plots in order and transition plants in accordance with the different growing climates. As spring and summer season plants shut down it's important to remove expired plants and replace them for the months to come.

If you are a gardener who splits time in another area or spends more than two weeks away from your garden, the need to maintain your garden doesn't travel with you—you must maintain your plot all year round. Make sure you have a registered partner who will be able to maintain the garden during your time away.

Plots with excessive weeds or other overgrown plants not only detract from the overall beauty of the garden centers but can spread invasive weeds to the surrounding gardens.

Other reminders:

- Please use the green waste, landfill and recycling bins only for the intended items. The trash company **will not** pick up bins containing incorrect items.
- After using garden center tools, please replace them in the sheds for others to use. We have had a rash of our tools locked behind the gates of an unattended garden.
- Thanks to all of those who have spent time getting their gardens in order. I would like to remind everyone that it is each gardener's responsibility to keep excessive weeds out of your garden and the surrounding paths, and to remove all plot items not used for gardening.

Another Overwatering Reminder

While this newsletter is not intended to repeat topics each issue, we continue to observe over watering, water left running, hose bibs dripping and other issues. Please, please, **PLEASE** be water aware and save this precious resource.



HOSE HACK



Many of the less expensive hoses feature aluminum hardware that, after time, will weld to the brass of the hose bib, causing the need to replace everything (the hose and the hose bib). Help minimize this by purchasing an adapter to attach to the hose bib before attaching your hose.