



# GET

# GROWING

Now is the time to kick-start garden prep and ensure a thriving garden:

- Shop for summer seeds now, but most won't be planted until next month.
- Get a head start on warm-season veggies by planting a few seeds on a warm windowsill.

- Cole crops (cabbage, broccoli, cauliflower) are prime targets for caterpillars. If you only have a few plants, hand-picking works; otherwise, use BT (*Bacillus thuringiensis*)—a food-safe, organic solution.
- There's still time to plant cool-season herbs and veggies from transplants. Try arugula, broccoli, Brussels sprouts, cabbage, chard, collards, endive, kale, kohlrabi, lettuce, mustard, peas or spinach.
- Start beets, carrots, parsnips, radish and turnips from seed this month.
- Fava beans producing but not setting fruit? Cut off the top couple of inches of each growing tip to redirect energy into bean production.
- If you missed planting rhubarb, artichoke, horseradish or asparagus last month, do it now! Bare-root plants may still be available. Tip: Keep horseradish in a container—it can be invasive.
- Feed cool-season vegetables regularly.
- Stay ahead of weeds before they take over.

Read more in-depth gardening tips from Rogers Gardens [here](#).

**WELCOME  
TO THE TEAM!**

## WELCOME, **DAVID** SZEMENYEI!

We are pleased to announce that David Szemenyei has joined our team as the new Garden Center Coordinator. David will work alongside Tami Halle to help ensure the Garden Centers operate smoothly. If you notice anything that needs attention, please contact the Garden Center office at **949-268-2387** or email [gardencenters@vmsinc.org](mailto:gardencenters@vmsinc.org).

## KEEP IT CLEAN

Please dispose of trash and green waste properly in the shared garden center spaces.

### DO NOT

- Leave debris in large pieces, wasting bin space.
- Leave carts or full wheelbarrows instead of emptying them. Volunteers reported emptying 461 wheelbarrows left behind by gardeners.
- Dump debris on the ground for others to clean.

Bins are emptied twice a week. If full, use additional containers in the parking lot.



## QUICK REMINDERS

### ANNUAL BILLING

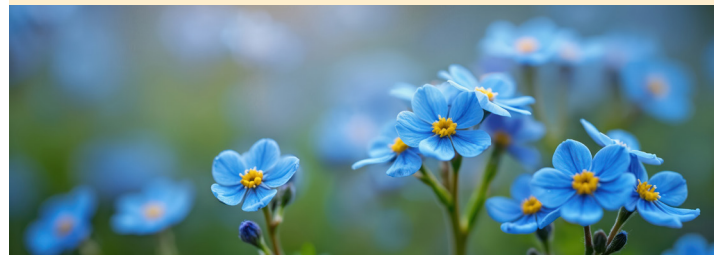
Annual Garden Center billing will be sent to all gardeners in January.

If you are no longer interested in gardening, please contact the Garden Center Office.

### WATER TURNED OFF DURING RAIN EVENTS

Water in both Garden Centers will be turned off when rain is in the forecast. Once the rain has ceased, Garden Center staff will assess ground moisture and determine when water can be turned back on.

Please contact the Garden Center Office with any questions.



### A Note From Tom McCray

## HAPPY NEW YEAR!

I hope you all had a wonderful holiday season and are looking forward to a fruitful year ahead.

We are pleased to share that the addition of Tami and David to the garden center staff will help ensure a high-quality environment for resident gardeners in the coming year.

As a reminder, maintaining your garden plot and the area immediately surrounding it, including keeping weeds under control, is the responsibility of each gardener. During recent visits, we observed a significant amount of weed growth outside several plots, and this is something that needs ongoing attention.

We appreciate your help in keeping the garden centers a beautiful and enjoyable amenity for everyone. You can review the operating guidelines [here](#).

Thank you for your attention and cooperation. If you have any questions or need assistance, please reach out.