



READ ALL ABOUT IT!

This will be our last Newsletter for the 2017 garden season. We hope you enjoyed the Newsletter and look forward to providing you with more information and news throughout the 2018 garden season. Meanwhile be on the lookout for our email with a new 2018 Registration form.

WATER UPDATE



For those of you are enjoying the mild fall weather and are still gardening, here is the latest update on our water supply at the garden from the Medford Park Department. According to Mike Nestor:

As long as the weather is with us the water will stay on, but not past November 1st.

FALL CLEAN UP

Gardeners should begin to clean up their plot when the water is shut off, if they haven't already done so. As a reminder, this is not a work day activity so every gardener is responsible for cleaning up his/her own plot.

Please do not dispose of diseased or large plants in the compost bins. You should remove them from the garden or dispose of them in the wooded area behind the garden.



PLANTING GARLIC

Are you thinking about planting garlic this year? There are three varieties; hardneck, softneck and elephant garlic. In our garden, hardneck garlic seems to grow best. You normally plant garlic in our area around October 15th and harvest it around July 15th. A recent article recommends planting your garlic cloves 3-6 weeks before the ground freezes or becomes unworkable.

There is some controversy about covering your garlic with hay versus salt marsh hay. We've always been told that hay contains hayseed which will sprout in your garden in the spring. Salt marsh supposedly does not contain hayseed. However, this year after I picked my garlic, removed the salt marsh hay, turned over the soil and planted some new crops, I have hay growing with the new crops.

It's also recommended that you thoroughly wet whatever you cover your garlic with to keep out mice and voles that typically look for a warm snug place to burrow in.

FALL & WINTER COVER CROPPING

Visit www.sowtrueseed.com, to see if fall & winter cover cropping may be beneficial for your soil. Briefly, cover crops add "bio-available" nutrients to your soil. Cold hardy legumes like Hairy Vetch, Clover, or Austrian Winter Peas mix nitrogen from the air into their foliage. These make a nice slow-release "fertilizer" for your beds. Some cover crops have weed suppression qualities, like oats and rye. This means they can out-compete the weeds. In the case of some cover crops, like Winter Rye, they can reduce weed seed germination while they decompose right where you cut them down.
