

September 2023

**"The best thing one can do when it's raining is to let it rain."** - Henry Wadsworth Longfellow.

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### Rain, Rain and More Rain

I'm grateful for the rain that we had this spring and summer as it provided a good harvest for a vast majority of our plots. However, as we look forward to fall and the end of our garden season, I regret that we have not been able to complete workdays as scheduled, plan for gatherings on weekends, or socializing with other garden members as we normally do.

Case in point, I was hoping to reschedule the September 16<sup>th</sup> workday for Saturday or Sunday, September 23<sup>rd</sup> or 24<sup>th</sup>, but the extended weather forecast called for rain on Saturday, Sunday, and Monday, as well as next Friday and Saturday.

The long-range forecast calls for a moderate to strong El Nino this fall and winter. Historically, strong El Nino's have had major impacts on our winters here in New England. A strong El Nino may affect our fall and winter weather with frigid cold and lots of snow.

We will carry any unworked hours over to next year, if the rain continues to make it impossible to complete workdays on weekends this fall.

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### Weeds

Unfortunately, a lot of rain also brings about a lot of dead plants and weeds not only in our plots but also in the common areas of the garden. **As a reminder**, garden members are required to clear dead plants and weeds from their plot no later than Thanksgiving weekend. We will remind everyone as we near the end of our garden season.

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### The Compost Bins

For the benefit of our new garden members, and for our seasoned members who may not remember, please do not put large flower stalks like sunflowers or vegetable stalks like summer squash and zucchini into the compost bins until you cut them up into small pieces. This will accelerate the decomposition process. It will also make more room available for other garden members to dispose of their dead vegetation.



### Do Not

Please do not throw anything into the compost bins that won't decompose. For example:

- plastic or plastic-coated products
  - bioplastics
  - treated wood
  - meat and bones
  - dairy products
  - cooked foods (salt is harmful to worms)
  - grass clippings or weeds
  - anything treated with chemicals, etc.
  - plastic vegetable pots and tags
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