COMMUNITY GARDEN MENTORING PROGRAM

LOOKING FOR MCG GARDENERS TO BECOME GARDEN MENTORS & MENTEES

The MCG is currently looking for gardeners interested in becoming a part of the MCG Mentoring Program. The mentoring program was established last year to create a way for community gardeners to share knowledge with others in hopes of creating more confident, productive gardeners. The program was also established as a way to connect gardeners who might be looking for a little extra help in their garden with gardeners who would be willing to lend a hand.

Interested gardeners can become involved in one of two ways:

As a Mentor
- You have experience and/or skill in some aspect of gardening that you would like to share with others.
- You might need a little assistance with caring for your garden at times such as those ‘hard work’ garden tasks.
- In exchange for labor, you might be willing to share your garden’s produce with your mentee (you may or may not choose to share things from your garden).

As a Mentee
- You are a novice gardener and you want to learn about gardening in general or some specific aspect of growing crops that you know little about.
- You are new to our country or region and would like to learn more about how to grow things here in Kansas.
- You may want or need just a little ‘coaching’ now and then or you may want to assist someone else with specific needs such as ‘hard work’ garden tasks.

"If spring came but once a century instead of once a year, or burst forth with the sound of an earthquake and not in silence, what wonder and expectation there would be in all hearts to behold the miraculous change."

Equipment Orientation for All Gardeners

Orientation sessions for new gardeners and returning gardeners will be conducted on:

February 22nd - 5:15 PM
February 24th - 5:15 PM,
February 26th - 10:00 AM

All sessions will be held at the Equipment Shed. Gardeners need to attend one of the three listed sessions, unless you have already attended the first orientation session on Feb. 19th.

In addition to providing current information regarding equipment procedures, the 2011 combination for the locks on both sheds and the North Garden hydrants will be issued.

The combination to the locks will only be issued at these orientation sessions.
**President’s Corner**

After forty years in construction, I have to say this is the harshest winter I have experienced since 1971. At least we will have good subsoil moisture and the protracted low temperatures allow me ample time to browse through seed catalogs and start my seed sets. Even though this cold, snowy weather keeps us from working in our gardens, your volunteer board has been hard at work preparing for the March 5th Spring Clean-up Workday. This gardening season will be our 37th year of continuous operation as a community garden. As of this date we have nearly 20 new gardeners with one more scheduled sign-up to go. Once we have all of the plots rented out we will have over 25 new gardeners. This will be the highest number of new gardeners at MCG in recent history. I would like for all returning gardeners to be sure to introduce themselves to the new gardeners and help them get started.

Some of the principal work activities this winter by the board and various committees included the joint efforts of the Equipment & Grounds Committees. If you think the Tool Shed is a decided improvement, tell Pat Butler you appreciate his carpentry skills. When you return to work your garden plots this spring you will find a very neat and orderly shed with new shelving, new gasoline dispensers, and eight additional racks to hold all the tools in a safe fashion. Let’s keep the shed organized and clean by returning the tools to their proper location. All of the power equipment has been serviced and all of the hand tools have been sharpened. The Rules & Safety Committee is currently updating the guidelines and you will receive a copy of the revised rules in the near future. We are continuing the Mentoring Program initiated by Chuck Marr and coordinated by Erika Huber. We encourage all new gardeners to participate in this program and we will need a corresponding number of current gardeners to partner with and mentor new gardeners. The very popular and extremely useful Electronic Newsletter will return the week of February 18th. The Equipment Committee will conduct Tiller Clinics this spring for new gardeners and for returning gardeners who would like to refresh their skills.

All we need now is for spring to arrive so we can start working our gardens! You will find listed elsewhere in this newsletter the names and contact information for your 2011 board. Feel free to contact any board member if you have questions or concerns about MCG. If you wish to contact me I can usually be found at the Equipment Shed or working my plots in the East Garden and I will meet all of you at the Equipment Orientation sessions.

-Dick Green

**Upcoming Tiller Clinics**

A Tiller Clinic for New Gardeners and Returning Gardeners who would like to review, renew and refresh their skills on the proper operation of our tillers will be conducted by the Equipment Committee. All sessions will be held at the Equipment Shed. Topics to be covered will include the techniques and procedures for each type of tiller. MCG has 3 front tined tillers and 1 rear tined tiller for all gardeners to use. Each Style of tiller works a little differently and there are even differences between the front tined tillers that have frustrated many of our gardeners. There is one procedure in particular that is quite helpful regarding the rear tined tiller. Clinic participants will receive hands on training with each type of tiller. So come in your work clothes and try your hand at pre-check-out, starting, transporting, controlling tiller depth, and post-use check procedures. The 1st clinic is March 3rd @ 5:15 PM and the 2nd clinic will held after the March 5th Workday wraps up. **Please note:** the tiller training clinic is a separate and distinct program from the equipment orientation sessions.
**Mentoring Program  
(cont. from pg. 1)**

- You may know a lot about gardening ‘typical things,’ but would like to learn more about preserving things you grow, growing oriental vegetables, or how to control bindweed, for example.

**How Will It Work:** After indicating your interest in participating in the program, you will be sent a brief survey to fill out (either electronically or by mail). The program will be coordinated by Erika Huber, a MCG Board Member. Erika will ‘match’ interested mentors and mentees based on their survey responses (i.e. interests, knowledge, availability, etc.). The survey responses will be confidential – only shared with your ‘match’ gardener. You will then determine with your match’ how you wish to collaborate, how often to meet and/or how you will communicate with each other.

**How To Participate:** Contact Erika Huber @ erikamattson@gmail.com or 406-600-5884. When e-mailing, be sure to indicate if you want to receive a survey to be a Mentor, Mentee or Both. After returning your survey, Erika will contact you with your potential ‘match.’ We are hoping to have participants matched in the next month.

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**Meet The 2011 MCG Board**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Office</th>
<th>Committee</th>
<th>Telephone</th>
<th>Email</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dick Green</td>
<td>President</td>
<td>Equipment</td>
<td>785-532-9440</td>
<td><a href="mailto:harahey31@gmail.com">harahey31@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ron Downey</td>
<td>Vice President</td>
<td>Rules and Safety</td>
<td>785-537-2129</td>
<td><a href="mailto:downey@ksu.edu">downey@ksu.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dale Stearns</td>
<td>Secretary</td>
<td>CROP Walk Liaison</td>
<td>785-410-4318</td>
<td><a href="mailto:dnalongview@gmail.com">dnalongview@gmail.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Linda Teener</td>
<td>Treasurer</td>
<td></td>
<td>785-539-8763</td>
<td><a href="mailto:linda@tryufm.org">linda@tryufm.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pat Butler</td>
<td>Tilling &amp; Grounds Maintenance</td>
<td></td>
<td>785-539-2857</td>
<td><a href="mailto:npbutler3@gmail.com">npbutler3@gmail.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Chris Feit</td>
<td>Compost and Mulch</td>
<td></td>
<td>785-395-0586</td>
<td><a href="mailto:feitcr@gmail.com">feitcr@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Erika Huber</td>
<td>Newsletter &amp; Mentoring Program</td>
<td></td>
<td>406-600-5884</td>
<td><a href="mailto:erikamattson@gmail.com">erikamattson@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Susan Oviatt</td>
<td>Records</td>
<td></td>
<td>785-776-0801</td>
<td><a href="mailto:susanovia@sbcglobal.net">susanovia@sbcglobal.net</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cybil Perkins</td>
<td>Workdays &amp; Socials</td>
<td></td>
<td>785-587-8750</td>
<td><a href="mailto:communitygarden@tryufm.org">communitygarden@tryufm.org</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Jean Squirres-Lake</td>
<td>At-Large Member</td>
<td></td>
<td>785-313-2409</td>
<td><a href="mailto:jeannesquires@yahoo.com">jeannesquires@yahoo.com</a></td>
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**Please do not call MCG Board Members after 9pm.**
GARDEN WORKDAYS AND SOCIALS

Community Garden = Teamwork
The success of our Community Garden depends on ALL of us doing our part. To that end, each of us volunteered to help with various tasks when we signed up for our plots. Below is the summary of the 2011 Community Garden jobs that you volunteered to do. Please add these commitments to your personal calendar, if you haven’t already. If a time conflict arises please reschedule by contacting Susan Oviatt at susanovia@sbcglobal.net. (Any gardener who does not fulfill their required hours of service runs the risk of not being able to sign up for a garden plot next year.)

Garden Show Workers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Saturday, February 26</th>
<th>Sunday February 27</th>
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<tr>
<td>9-11:00 am Bill B. &amp; Kallie Mc.</td>
<td>12-1:30 pm Bill B &amp; Joe H</td>
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<td>11-1:00 pm Max U. &amp; Jackie Mac.</td>
<td>1:30-3:00 pm Dean Z &amp; John M</td>
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<td>1-3:00 pm Anita C. &amp; Leroy B.</td>
<td>3:00-5:00 pm Ernie M.</td>
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<td>3-5:00 pm Alan/Marilyn S. &amp; John R.</td>
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Scheduled Work Days
All work days occur on Saturdays mornings. You committed to help for at least 2 hours per shift. Reminder emails will be sent to you with the time and name of the coordinating Board Member. Please meet at the shed and remember to sign in so that we have a record of your work hours.

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<tr>
<th>March 5</th>
<th>April 2</th>
<th>May 7</th>
<th>June 4</th>
<th>July 9</th>
<th>August 6</th>
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<tr>
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<td>Nan A.</td>
<td>Nan A.</td>
<td>Elena B.</td>
<td>Ron C.</td>
<td>Anita C.</td>
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<td>Karen H.</td>
<td>Don B.</td>
<td>Sylvia B.</td>
<td>Corri F.</td>
<td>Annette F.</td>
<td>James C.</td>
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<td>Rose &amp; Carl H.</td>
<td>Leroy B.</td>
<td>Don B.</td>
<td>Leila M.</td>
<td>Monte F.</td>
<td>Annette F.</td>
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<td>Monica M.</td>
<td>James C.</td>
<td>Matt &amp; Emily B.</td>
<td>Nancy M.</td>
<td>Libby J.</td>
<td>Karen H.</td>
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<td>Malley S.</td>
<td>Larry D.</td>
<td>Krugar B.</td>
<td>Livia O.</td>
<td>Yuntao P.</td>
<td>J David M.</td>
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<td>Ruth W.</td>
<td>Derek J.</td>
<td>Leon L.</td>
<td>Michael R.</td>
<td>Melissa T.</td>
<td>Ron R.</td>
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<td>Liz &amp; Robert W.</td>
<td>Leon L.</td>
<td>Jackie M.</td>
<td>Wilma S.</td>
<td>Breanna U.</td>
<td>Evan T.</td>
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<td>Changhua Z.</td>
<td>Jack R.</td>
<td>Susan P.</td>
<td>Karla W.</td>
<td>Evan Z.</td>
<td>Stuart W.</td>
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<td>Rita &amp; Fred R-N.</td>
<td>Kimberly S.</td>
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<td>Yuntao Z.</td>
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<th>September 10</th>
<th>October 15</th>
<th>November 5</th>
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<tr>
<td>Jeremy &amp; Amelia B.</td>
<td>Matt &amp; Emily B.</td>
<td>Larry D.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sylvia B.</td>
<td>Jeremy &amp; Amelia B.</td>
<td>Sharon D.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kruger B.</td>
<td>Monica M.</td>
<td>Brad D.</td>
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<td>Peggy A.</td>
<td>Misha R.</td>
<td>J. David M.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Misha R.</td>
<td>Brad D.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Carol B.</td>
<td>Kalen M.</td>
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Scheduled Garden Socials
Garden socials are for the enjoyment and networking of ALL Community Gardeners! The people below have committed to contribute to the success of the event. Socials occur on Saturdays. The time and theme will vary. An email reminder will be sent to those listed below with the time, theme, and name of the coordinating Board Member. Please meet at the shed and sign in.

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<tr>
<th>April 2</th>
<th>May 7</th>
<th>June 4</th>
<th>September 10</th>
<th>November 5</th>
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<td>Utsab C.</td>
<td>Utsab C.</td>
<td>Livia O.</td>
<td>Peggy A.</td>
<td>Annual meeting</td>
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<td>Ana F.</td>
<td>Ana F.</td>
<td>Corri F.</td>
<td>Colleen H.</td>
<td>plus potluck lunch</td>
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<td>Breanna C.</td>
<td>Liandi L.</td>
<td>Wilma S.</td>
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<td>Kallia Mc.</td>
<td>Carol B.</td>
<td>Elena B.</td>
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<td>Alan &amp; Marilyn S.</td>
<td>Wade R.</td>
<td>Michael R.</td>
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<td>Karla W.</td>
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Mowing

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<th>Garden Shed</th>
<th>March/April</th>
<th>May</th>
<th>June</th>
<th>July</th>
<th>August</th>
<th>Sept/October</th>
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<td>Susan s.</td>
<td>Al S.</td>
<td>Jenny C.</td>
<td>Joe M.</td>
<td>Stoner S.</td>
<td>Dee B.</td>
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<td>North</td>
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<td>Larry O.</td>
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<td>Richard S.</td>
<td>Habib D.</td>
<td>Ernie M.</td>
<td>Kathy B.</td>
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<td>Organic East</td>
<td>Doug C.</td>
<td>Jeff L.</td>
<td>John E.</td>
<td>Roger H.</td>
<td>Donn L.</td>
<td>Jerry V.</td>
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Flower Bed Maintenance, as needed

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<tr>
<th>8th Street Flower Beds</th>
<th>Shed Area Flower Beds</th>
<th>SE Parking Flower Beds</th>
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<td>Butch H.</td>
<td>Dave &amp; Bernice S.</td>
<td>Rita &amp; Fred R-N.</td>
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<td>Stuart W.</td>
<td>Kalen M.</td>
<td>Colleen H.</td>
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Equipment Maintenance, as needed

| Bruce Mc.             | Richard S.             |
| Joe H.                | Jack R.                |
| David H.              | Gary N.                |
| Christopher F.        | Monte J.               |
|                       | Derek J.               |
|                       | Francis B.             |

Tilling, as needed

Attention Gardeners: Interested in having your plot tilled this spring? Contact board members, Dick Green, Pat Butler or Susan Oviatt. *Please refer to pg. 3 for board contact info. Please note: there is a $5.00 charge for this service.
The purpose of this article is to get you thinking about your garden and what you want and will need to do to have a productive year. Planning our plot layout, buying seeds and bulbs, finding time to till, etc., are tasks we will need to do to have a bountiful garden. As a fairly new community gardener (three years), I am not the best person to help you with the planting and growing tasks. However, the one thing I do know is WEEDS.

Your weeds are not just your problem; they become your neighbors’ problem. When your weeds are out of control, they infringe on all of us. They mature and spread seeds to other plots, they migrate into the paths and obstruct our movements, and they obstruct our view. In total, they become the collective gardens’ problems. When your weeds are out of control, you are violating the garden’s rules. Lack of weed control is the most common rule violation we have. This rule violation is one that you can avoid with some simple actions.

Whether an experienced gardener or a first-timer, we all have to deal with weeds. The productivity of our soil gives us both excellent vegetables and flowers, and loads of weeds. As you plan your assault on planting, you need to equally think about how you will control the coming assault of the weeds.

Weeds, including grass, create several problems. First and foremost, weeds reduce the productivity of the crops you want. They rob water and nutrients from all the things you have planted and want to grow. They compete with plants for light and make the plants spindly and less productive. They create problems when you want to harvest your produce. When the weeds grow, they make it hard to see the produce and to make your way through the garden to collect produce. Like our produce, there are different types of weeds: grasses, morning glories, pig weed, and so on and so on. Also like our produce, the weeds vary by the season. One thing you already know or will learn, once weeds and grass get a firm foothold, they are difficult to control. I am not sure this is right, but it seems to me that the heat and lack of water doesn’t hurt weeds to the same degree as it does produce.

Weed control requires constant attention. Here are some ways that you can avoid the ‘Attack of the Weeds:’

- **Hoeing** – from the time you plant the first seed or plant, hoeing between the rows and the plants will help. Using a hand hoe or cultivator, or a similar tool is hard work, so leave time each trip to the garden to do this. Try the mornings when it is cooler. A sharp hoe is essential so bring a file along to keep the edge of your hoe ‘as sharp as a razor’. It is also helpful to scrape the surface—not dig up a lot of soil. This kills weeds with much less physical work.

- **Mulching** – mulching is putting down a barrier to keep weeds from growing (it also helps with water retention). The garden provides us with a common mulch-dried grass. Spreading mulch between rows and around large plants, will help control the weeds and reduce the need for watering.

- **Planting** – Leaving enough room between rows and large plants (e.g., broccoli, tomatoes, etc.) will leave you the room to hoe and mulch with the added bonus of making it easier to pick produce. If you plant too close, you will have to use other methods to control weeds.
Pulling – When all other methods fail, and they will, you will need to resort to hand pulling of weeds and grasses. Again, done early and often, hand pulling works. It is likely that you will need to pull weeds and grass from around smaller plants (carrots, radishes, etc.).

Pulling (cont.)—When weeds are too close to a large plant that may be damaged by hoeing, you will have to pull the weeds by hand.

What you want to avoid is losing control of the weeds and grass. Once this happens, gaining upper hand on the weeds and grass becomes very difficult.

Mid-summer is one of the more difficult times, when weeding during the heat of the day is very hard work: think early mornings. Be a good neighbor to those around you and to the community and cut down those weeds. Thank you!

Upcoming UFM Gardening Classes

Vegetable Gardening for Beginners
2/9/11 to 2/16/11 (W)
7-8:30 pm
Learn the basics of growing a wide variety of vegetables including seed/plant selection, soil improvement, watering, and culture.

Container Gardening for Herbs, Flowers and Veggies
3/31/2011, 4/7/2011, 4/14/11 (Th)
7:30-8:30 pm
Enjoy the freshness of home grown with a container garden just steps away from your door.

Spring Back to Gardening Workshop & Plant Swap
4/2/11 (Sat)
9 am-1 pm
Join Riley County Extension Master Gardeners for their spring workshop and plant swap. There will be a variety of classes to choose from.

For more information and to register, go to www.tryufm.org or call 539-8763

Manhattan Area Garden Show

Saturday, Feb. 26th, 9-5pm & Sunday, Feb. 27th, 12-4pm  Place: Pottorff Hall in Cico Park

Seminar Schedule

Saturday, February 26, 2011
10 A.M.  Growing Orchids

11 A.M.  Controlling the Lawn Sprinkler

NOON  Exciting New Perennials for 2011

1.P.M.  Exciting New Annuals, Vegetables & Herbs for 2011

2 P.M.  Conifers for Kansas

3 P.M.  Small Trees for Landscaping

4 P.M.  Fragrant Shrubs

Sunday, February 27, 2011

1 P.M  Colorful Annuals and Shrubs

2 P.M.  Growing Blueberries

3 P.M.  Grafting Heirloom Tomatoes
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<tr>
<th>MAR</th>
<th>APR</th>
<th>MAY</th>
<th>JUN</th>
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<td>Beans (Snap)</td>
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Recommended Vegetable Varieties for Kansas

**Asparagus**
California types (Atlas and US157) produce higher yields in warm springs; New Jersey hybrids produce higher yields in cool springs.
- Atlas (H)
- California UC 157 (H)
- Jersey Giant (H)
- Jersey King (H)
- Jersey Knight (H)
- Jersey Supreme (H)
- Purple Passion (H)

**Beet**
- Chioggia
- Cylinda
- Detroit Dark Red
- Early Wonder
- Kestrel
- Perfected Detroit Red
- Ace (H)
- Ruby Queen
- Touchstone Gold

**Broccoli**
- Diplomat (H)
- Green Comet (H)
- Gypsy (H)
- Marathon (H) (late)
- Packman (H)
- Premium Crop (H)

**Cabbage**
**Chinese**
- Blues (H)
- Jade Pagoda (H)
- Asian Greens
- Joi Choi (H)
- Komatsuna
- Kyona Mizuna
- Mei Qing Choi (H)
- Tatsoi

**Carrot**
- Gold King
- Gold Pak
- Red Cored
- Chantenay
- Royal Chantenay
- Scarlet Nantes
- Tendersweet

**Cauliflower**
- Cheddar (H; orange)
- Graffiti (H; purple)
- Fremont (H)
- Self Blanche (late-maturing)
- Snowball (early maturing)
- Snow Crown (H)

**Lettuce**
- Head
- Crispino

**Leaf**
- Black Seeded Simpson
- New Red Fire (red leaf)
- Prizehead (red)
- Red Sails (red leaf)
- Red Salad bowl (red oakleaf)
- Salad Bowl (oakleaf)
- Slobolt
- Waldmans Green

**Lettuce (cont.)**
- Soft head
- Buttercrouch
- Ermosa
- Harmony

**Onion**
There is a lot of interest in growing sweet, mild-flavored onions. Original sweet onion varieties were Bermuda types (white or yellow) with flatshaped bulbs. Texas Grano or Granex are also mild-flavored onions (grown as Vidalia, Maui, etc.).
- Candy
- Granex (poor keeper)
- Redwing (red, good keeper)
- Red Burgundy (poor keeper)
- Super Star (white)
- Texas Grano (1015Y – fair keeper)
- Walla-Walla (poor keeper)
- White Sweet Spanish (late, good winter keeper)
- Yellow Sweet Spanish (late, good keeper)

**Parsnip**
- All-American
- Hollow Crown
- Harris
- Model

**Pea**
- Edible Pod
- Sugar Ann
- Sugar Bon
- Super Sugar Snap
- Sugar Sprint

**Peas (cont.)**
- Snow Peas
- Dwarf Grey Sugar
- Mammoth Melting Sugar
- Snow Green

**Radish**
- Multi-colored
- Easter Egg
- French Breakfast
- Red
- CherryBelle
- Red Boy
- Scarlet Globe
- White
- White Icicle

**Rhubarb**
- Canada Red
- Crimson Red
- McDonald
- Valentine

**Spinach**
- Long Standing Bloomsdale
- Space (H) – smooth
- Tyee (H) – slow to go to seed

**Swiss Chard**
- Bright Lights
- Fordhook Giant

(H) indicates hybrid variety

**Reference**
Ted Carey, Rebecca McMahon, Charles Barden, Ward Upham and Charles W. Marr, *Recommended Vegetable Varieties*, Kansas State University, May 2009
Manhattan Community Gardens c/o UFM
1221 Thurston Street
Manhattan, KS 66502

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What’s Inside
- Meet the 2011 MCG Board
- President’s Corner
- Join the Mentoring Program
- Equipment Orientations & Tiller Clinics
- Weed Prevention
- Upcoming Classes
- Garden Show
- Seeding & Planting Calendar
- Choosing Vegetable Varieties for Kansas

Thank You!
To the 2010 Board Members for your service.
We greatly appreciate your commitment to the Manhattan Community Garden!

Garden Plots Still Available!!
Please tell your friends, neighbors, co-workers, etc., there is still time to sign-up to join the community garden. There are six full plots and one 1/2 plot available as of Feb. 14th. Please contact Susan Oviatt @ 785-776-0801 or susanovia@sbcglobal.net to sign-up!