

DENVER BOTANIC  
**GARDENS**

Community Gardens at Congress Park

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**GREEN! Gardener' s Resource Exchange and Education Newsletter**

Vol. 1-2016 April 2016

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**From Brien:**

Welcome back to our returning gardeners and welcome to our new gardeners! We had a large number of plots turn over this year, so if you see an unfamiliar face in the garden, please introduce yourself and answer any questions our new gardeners might have!

As I said at our spring meeting, 2016 is the year of staying on top of our weeds. Let's start the year off right by getting an early start on the weeds in our plots, in the pathways, and in the common areas.



**Calendar:**

Deadline for ordering straw bales: April 22<sup>nd</sup>

Straw bale delivery: April 23<sup>rd</sup>

Work days scheduled for May:

May 14<sup>th</sup>: 9-noon; meet at the entrance to the gardens; please come as close to nine as you can!

May 29<sup>th</sup>: 9-noon; meet at the entrance to the gardens; please come as close to nine as you can!



**We're Back!**

Welcome to a brand new season at the Denver Botanic Gardens community garden at Congress Park! The garden was established 8 years ago as a partnership between DBG, Denver Water, and Congress Park Neighbors. We are proud to be a completely organic garden that uses no synthetic fertilizers or pesticides. Our site houses 89 individual plots, a solar powered fountain, several compost bins, two active honey bee hives, and about 140 kind and wonderful people. Happy gardening everyone!

### **Newsletter Notes:**



Our newsletter is published monthly from April through October. Each issue contains announcements from our beloved garden coordinator Brien Darby, a calendar of upcoming events, gardening tips and information, and a timely delicious recipe. To keep things fresh, we plan to try a few new things here and there this season. Stayed

tuned. If you have any suggestions, comments, or requests please let us know:  
<http://botanicgardenscommunitygarden.org>.

### **2015 Season Survey Results:**



Thank to everyone who completed the 2015 End of Season Community Garden Survey. We really do use your input. To view this year's results, click on:

[https://www.surveymonkey.com/analyze/S5BVPIXDxg8CpqDRjjZvkOrhGQoSqtGmfY\\_2Bml31L3r0\\_3D](https://www.surveymonkey.com/analyze/S5BVPIXDxg8CpqDRjjZvkOrhGQoSqtGmfY_2Bml31L3r0_3D)

### **Early Spring Planting:**



As April begins it's time to plant those "cold weather" crops: spinach, peas, broccoli, onions, radishes, lettuce, kohlrabi, cabbage, and turnips. As the last spring frost draws nigh you can plant your beets, carrots, cauliflower, parsley, parsnips, potatoes, and Swiss chard. Using a ground cover after sowing your seeds will help to speed germination by retaining heat and moisture in the soil. It can also help to protect young plants from a light frost and allow you to get a jump on the season.



### **Soil Preparation:**

Soil amendments and organic fertilizers can really help a garden grow. Amendments are materials that enhance the physical condition of the soil. They improve drainage, aeration, and rooting depth. If you still have a lot of clay in your plot, "Clay Buster" soil conditioner is a good amendment. Fertilizers are nutrients that feed plants. Many organic amendments like organic compost also contain plant nutrients but in lower concentrations than most fertilizers. The nutrients that vegetables need the most are nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium; the three numbers listed on bags of fertilizer refer to the relative proportion of these nutrients. In addition to using amendments and fertilizers, one of the best things you can do for your garden is to "double dig" your plot. Though it takes some effort, double digging works wonders and the benefits last for years. For more information and a "how to" video, see:

<http://www.wikihow.com/Double-Dig-a-Garden>.

### **Gardening Wit and Wisdom:**



No occupation is so delightful to me as the culture of the earth, and no culture comparable to that of the garden. ~ Thomas Jefferson

Unemployment is capitalism's way of getting you to plant a garden. ~ Orson Scott Card



### **Garden Committees:**

Together with Brien, three garden committees work to oversee the operations of our community garden. The Operations Committee helps to plan and administer the day to day operations of the garden. The Neighborhood Committee is responsible for communications and maintaining positive relationships with our neighbors. The Education Committee compiles the newsletter and answers gardening related questions. If you would like to serve on a committee, please let me know by filling out the very short survey at this link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/633VXKG>.



### **April Recipe:**

## **Mediterranean Spinach Salad. Makes 4 servings.**

### Ingredients:

1 can (15.5 oz) garbanzo beans,  
rinsed and drained  
5 oz baby spinach  
1 cup sliced cherry tomatoes  
1 cup thinly sliced radishes  
¼ cup sliced green onion  
⅓ cup crumbled Feta cheese  
Pepper to taste

For the Dressing:  
½ teaspoon minced garlic  
½ teaspoon salt  
2 tablespoons fresh lemon juice  
1 teaspoon Sumac\*  
3 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil

\*You can find sumac at Middle Eastern grocery stores.

### Directions:

After rinsing, let the garbanzo beans drain while you make the dressing. Mash the garlic and salt together, then whisk in lemon juice, Sumac, and lastly, olive oil. Put the garbanzo beans in a shallow bowl and toss with 2 tablespoons of the dressing; let beans marinate while you prep the other ingredients.

Slice the tomatoes, radishes, and green onions. Add the spinach, sliced vegetables, marinated garbanzo beans to a bowl big enough to toss the ingredients. Toss with enough dressing to coat the salad to your liking. Toss with most of the Feta, season with pepper, and serve, garnishing with a bit of crumbled Feta. – *Kalyn's Kitchen Blog*