

MCGA Monthly Newsletter

April 2025



*****We will be starting our WORKSTATION renovation soon because we procured the funding!!***

Work parties will be announced to help with demolition and construction.

We are looking forward to celebrating Passover, Vaisakhi, Easter, Earth Day and Arbor Day this month

Click here: [Check our website](#)

Click here: [Use this email address to contact the board for any reason.](#)



NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT: Gia P.

Dear MCGA Garden Members,

Happy Spring! I hope new gardeners have had a chance to sign up for new gardener orientations with your board members. We are all excited to meet you and introduce you to all parts of the garden. Please bring any and all questions to the orientations and we will do our best to address your concerns.

As we begin our season, please know your contributions to work parties are vital to the success and sustainability of our shared garden. Each work party is an opportunity to maintain and improve our space, ensuring that it remains a thriving community resource. Your time and effort make a real impact, and we greatly appreciate your dedication.

Due to high demand for work party slots, we ask that you take your commitment seriously. Please check your spam/junk mail for emails since it is our only vehicle for sharing information. When you sign up for a work party, we count on your presence.

To keep everyone on track with their work hour requirements, please note the following deadlines:

- **Half of your required work hours must be completed by July 1**
- **Work hours must be reported within 15 days of completion. False reporting will not be allowed.**
- **Late reporting is no longer accepted beyond 15 days from the completion of your work.** Please submit your hours on time to ensure they are counted toward your requirement.

These guidelines help maintain the smooth operation of the MCGA and ensure that all members contribute their fair share to our communal efforts. **Thank you for taking your work hours seriously and helping us keep our garden growing.** If you have any questions, please reach out to board@marymoorgarden.org

We appreciate your cooperation and look forward to seeing you at the next work party!

Sincerely,

Gia

GARDENER SPOTLIGHT: Amy C.



Amy has been instrumental in developing plans for the new workstation, purchasing materials for and building all the raised beds, continuing as the Grounds liaison for the Board, all the while raising three children and even finding a little time to take a trip

to Japan! Thank you Amy, for all you do for the garden and for friendships and for being such a kind and helpful community member.



Amy joined the garden with her mom in 2020 and then took over when her mom moved to Arizona in 2022. She currently resides in plots D16/17 and is loving this newer location.

She loves vining plants and buys a new trellis every year to grow snap peas and sweet peas. She has also had success with broad beans (fava) so she is adding them to her traditions since she loves Pan Bagnat.

Since her family is Filipino, and her favorite dish is Tortang Talong (like eggplant omelette), she tries to grow Japanese eggplants. She admits it's a work in progress!

Amy loves seeing gardeners work together towards a common goal. Watching people, who would normally never interact, being kind and helpful to each other, really warms her heart. The garden is a special place that nurtures connections and makes her feel better about humanity.

FEATURE ARTICLE: Asparagus

Have you ever considered growing asparagus? It rewards with a delicious early spring harvest for years, has elegant feathery foliage, growing up to 6 feet tall in the summer and fall, and attracts pollinators.

Asparagus (*Asparagus officinalis*) is a hardy perennial vegetable that provides a bountiful harvest for years when properly established. A member of the lily family, the fern-like foliage turns from green to gold in the fall. Known for its tender spears and rich flavor, it is a rewarding crop for home gardeners. This vegetable is delicious when raw, cooked, and grilled, and can be a great treat if pickled. It thrives in well-drained, nutrient-rich soil and requires full sun for optimal growth.

Once planted, an asparagus bed can remain productive for 15-20 years, making it a long-term investment in your garden. There are green and purple stalk varieties to consider. You can also produce white asparagus! Like all plants, asparagus will not produce chlorophyll until exposed to sunlight. The trick is simple: keep the plant covered until harvest. Any variety of green or purple, deprived of sunlight, will produce white shoots. Plus, covering plants with a paper bag as they emerge and grow can create an interesting conversation at the dinner table.

The only tough part about growing this plant is patience: the plant needs to be well established for two years before harvesting. A true labor of love!

Key Tips for Growing Asparagus:

- **Soil Preparation:** Prepare the bed well before planting by incorporating organic matter such as compost or aged manure. A soil pH of 6.5 to 7.0 is ideal.
- **Purchasing:** The time to buy is in the early spring. Visit your local garden nursery or shop from a reputable vegetable catalogue. The crowns you purchase will have no leaves and long fleshy roots extending from the crown. Avoid buying crowns that are dried out or have rotten areas. If you cannot plant them right away, keep them cool and moist by lightly spritzing until you are able to get them in the ground.
- **Planting:** Crowns are typically one or two years old and should be planted in early spring. Place crowns in trenches 6 to 12 inches deep and space them 12 to 18 inches apart. Start with a light covering of soil and gradually add more as the plants grow.
- **Care and Maintenance:** Keep the bed free of weeds and apply mulch to conserve moisture and

suppress weed growth. Fertilize annually with nitrogen-rich compost or fertilizer.

- **Harvesting:** Avoid harvesting spears during the first two years to allow for the plants to establish. In subsequent years, harvest spears when they are 6 to 9 inches tall, snapping them from the base.

To learn more about growing this delicious perennial visit these helpful links:

[With the right care, asparagus beds will produce for decades | Newsroom | Oregon State University](#)

[Asparagus - June 2023 | OSU Extension Service](#)



WHAT TO PLANT NOW:

April is the true start of our garden season at Marymoor. The last standard frost date is April 15th in our garden microclimate which is a 6B-7b zone. Lots of rain and cold nights still ahead so remember the soils are saturated. Use care if you attempt to till your beds. Take advantage of the MCGA compost buy-in and generously amend your soil with other organic composts, leaf mulch, and worm castings.

Mid to end of April is the perfect time to put in your onion sets and leek plant starts. You can direct-seed all the lovely salad crops: lettuce, spinach, arugula, kohlrabi, and radish. It's not too late to tuck in various pea varieties and even sweet pea flower seeds.

If you have pre-started Brassicas like broccoli, cabbage, and kale, they love the weather! Your local garden centers will be stocking great starts this month so take a few field trips and support our local nurseries. A few suggestions:

Flower World [Flower World Usa](#)

Wells Medina Nursery [Wells Medina Nursery](#)

Swansons Nursery [Swansons Nursery](#)

Sky Nursery [Sky Nursery](#)

And don't forget your local Fred Meyer and Home Depot.

FOLLOW THE FOOD BANK GARDENS

Get ready to roll up your sleeves and dig in! We plan on kicking off Earth Day, Tuesday, April 22, 2025, with a food bank work party. What better way to honor the planet than with preparing our garden beds, and planting a few early season seeds to support our Hopelink community. Whether you're a seasoned gardener or curious to learn, join the fun! Connect with our garden neighbors, and make a difference - one spade full of soil at a time!

Spring can keep us guessing! Scheduling this work party is certainly weather-dependent, but the spirit of planting hope in our community will shine through, rain or shine! Fingers crossed for cooperative skies on this very special date. Watch for an email alert and sign up opportunity as the date approaches.

The first tasks in the Food Bank gardens will include removing winter cover of straw, pulling up the weed block fabric between beds, and removing weeds. We will also sow seeds for a few early season crops and we may have some starts to transplant.

We are keeping our fingers crossed for a clear weather Earth Day and a productive start to our food bank garden season.



The 2025 Food Bank is looking to our experienced gardeners and asking for help throughout the upcoming growing season.

We have reached out to our partner, Hopelink, for suggestions from their market clients, requesting vegetables they would like us to grow, in particular vegetables or herbs used by various cultural groups and varieties that match our growing climate.

Please consider stepping forward to help with the management of the food bank garden!

- If you have experience growing plants native to your cultural group, please share your expert advice and planting ideas.
 - We can all learn together; how to grow, harvest and how to prepare the crop.
- Help lead work parties throughout the gardening season.
 - If more willing folks step forward it will be easier to share the workload.
- Taking pride in preparing the soil, planting, watering, weeding and harvesting, seeing the process full-circle.
- Learning what worked, what did not this season and planning for the 2026 growing season.
- Meeting our community members and getting to know them better.
- Watering sections not set up with automatic sprinkler systems

FOOD BANK SPECIAL HELP REQUEST:

We have a unique opportunity for one of our community gardeners! If anyone has the interest and skill to refurbish the main food bank grape arbor dedication plaque and sanding the trellis, your time will be credited to garden service hours. Please consider and work your magic!



For questions regarding either of these projects, please contact:
Carol.Johnson@marymoorgarden.org or call 425-691-0919.

ORNAMENTALS: Ann S.



Spring is Sprung, and Our Ornamental Gardens Are Coming to Life! 🌷

Spring officially started on March 20th - we're excited to see the season unfold in our ornamental beds! We have weeded and cleared the overwinter leaf mulch from the welcome bed (bed behind the clean green), lilac lane (strip just before the 'A' area beds), herb bed (area next to the compost/soil bay), and our raised cut flower beds/demonstration garden (next to the woodchip bay). Things are looking fresh and ready for action!

April is the perfect time for garden cleanup like cutting back the dead foliage on perennials, especially the spring bloomers like peonies! It's also a good opportunity to prune your roses. If you're noticing new buds on your perennials, it's a good sign. Now is the time to give your plants some organic fertilizer to help them break dormancy and thrive. Compost, organic granules, or alfalfa meal or pellets are all great options, but be sure to wait 1-2 weeks after pruning to give the plants time to recover and use the fertilizer on fresh growth.

We're seeing the first signs of life with spring bulbs popping up in the demonstration garden and welcome beds, which is such a joy after a long winter. Later this month, the ornamental group will meet to plan the layout of the beds and pick out some annuals to add color and pizzazz. Our goal is to create beautiful, welcoming spaces for the Marymoor gardening community to enjoy, while also supporting our pollinators in their seasonal journey. We can't wait to see everything bloom!

Happy gardening! 🌿🌻 [Fraser Valley Rose Farm Rose Pruning Tutorial](#)

Important Garden Benchmark Dates:

- ❖ **May 1:** Gardens need to be weeded and show signs of being cultivated.
- ❖ **June 1:** Gardens need to be partially cultivated.

Check the FAQ and Policy 3 for more details.

[FAQ Page | MCGA](#)

[Rules and Policies | MCGA](#)

Garden Work Parties:

Sign up for all planned work parties here, when they become available:

[MCGA Calendar](#)

Gardeners: Your gifting contributions are very needed! Please consider! Follow the link below and scroll to the bottom of the page if you'd like to make a donation.

[Home | Marymoor Community Garden Association](#)

The image shows a green donation form titled "Support Our Cause" with the subtext "Leave a one-time donation". The form includes the following fields: "First Name" and "Last Name" (with a red asterisk), "Email" (with a red asterisk), "Garden in the name of" (with a dropdown arrow), "However note:" (with a red asterisk), "Any request on how to use your donation?" (with a red asterisk), and "Enter the amount you wish to donate:" (with a red asterisk and a "\$" symbol). A "Donate" button is at the bottom.



The "GARDEN REMINDERS" section can now be found on the website

Under the [Newsletter Tab](#)

Parking Basics:

Our garden parking area can be used by ALL park visitors. Vehicles without our watercan logo sticker can also use our lots. Tickets will be issued to those who park in the garden (or anywhere within the park) who do not have a King County monthly sticker or \$1.00 parking pass. Please get one before you get a ticket!! King County is ticketing cars without the daily pass or the monthly pass. DON'T let this happen to you!



This is our MCGA sticker, issued to our gardeners. It will allow access to our garden when there are major park events, such as concerts.



This is the parking sticker issued by Marymoor Park. It is purchased from the parks and can be issued for 6 or 12 month intervals. It is handy to have.



If you do not have a parking pass, you MUST purchase a daily ticket from the park kiosks. Cost is \$1 and is only a day pass. It can only be used for the date it is purchased.

Wheelbarrow Etiquette

For new gardeners, and as a review for returning gardeners, please make sure to observe these few simple rules in the interest of safety and keeping our wheelbarrows in working order:

1. When you're done using a wheelbarrow, lean it upside down against the bulkhead in "single file." DO NOT STACK them upon each other. This results in an unbalanced mess, and can be hazardous to hands and fingers when trying to retrieve one for use!
2. NEVER leave a wheelbarrow rightside up, as it will fill up with rainwater and increase rusting of metal bins and hardware.
3. If a wheelbarrow has a flat tire or any other defect, place it upside down against the bulkhead on the north side of

the main entrance (by the picnic tables) to the right of the sign. If the defect is not obvious, leave a note or email the MCGA board.

Thank you! Jon Diemer-Chief Wheelbarrow Engineer

BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2025

- ❖ President- Gia P
- ❖ Vice President-Vinay M
- ❖ Treasurer-Karen P
- ❖ Secretary-Michael L
- ❖ Tech Officer-Ken A
- ❖ Mentorship Officer-Mary Anne S
- ❖ Grounds Officer/Liaison-Amy C
- ❖ Food Bank Officer/Liaison-Carol J
- ❖ Newsletter Officer-Betsy G

[Email board members](#)

Board Meetings 2025 /Zoom Link

Board Meetings are held on the third Wednesday of each month, except December, at 7 pm. We welcome your attendance at all board meetings. Please join via this link:

[Board Meeting Zoom Link](#)

4/16	8/20
5/21	9/17
6/18	10/15
7/16	11/19

Board Members

The board is happy to announce that we are always taking applications for new board members. This is a great opportunity to help direct the management of our gardens! Here's how to apply: Review Article IV; Section 2: Appointment:

[By-Laws | MCGA \(marymoorgarden.org\)](#)

[MCGA Calendar](#)

[MCGA Newsletter](#)

A LITTLE SONG FOR YOU: Hills Of Morning