

CCGA July Newsletter: Giant Green June Beetles, Perennial Distribution THIS Friday & Upcoming Events

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» Chicago Community Gardeners Association



News for Community Gardeners

In summer, the song sings itself.

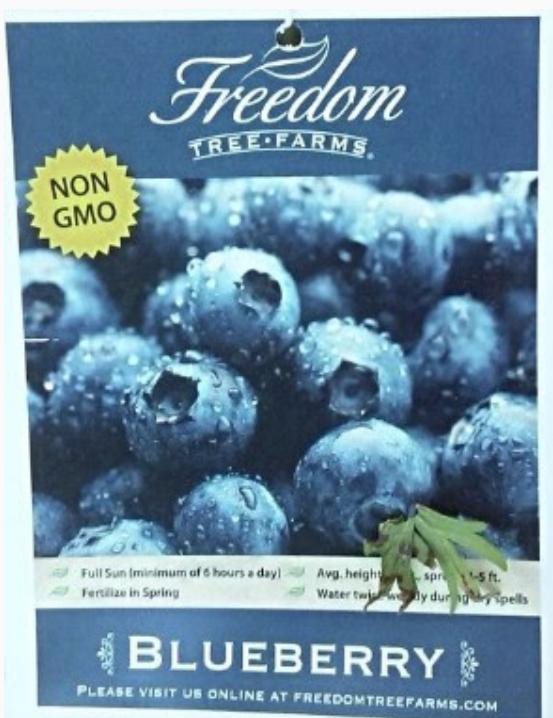
~William Carlos Williams

Hello Community Gardeners!

If you have any room left in your planting beds, here is some good news: the **CCGA Resources Committee** has planned a perennial distribution for **THIS Friday, July 21st at 10:30am**. A huge thank-you to **Elite Growers** who will once again donate over a thousand perennials for distribution to Chicago community gardens. For full details about how to register, click [HERE](#). If you can't make it on Friday, don't worry, there will be another opportunity on August 11. Stay tuned for details!

CCGA has offered gardeners an almost endless number of mini-distributions so far this gardening season. Last weekend, our [event at New Horizons Garden](#) included lots of vegetable seedlings, native plants, and ornamentals that were distributed without cost, and—best of all—it was a great opportunity for 15 gardeners to compare notes and stories. Community gardeners are the best! The July 5th distribution at the African Heritage Garden featured 80 blueberry bushes, 24 apple trees, and a selection of herbs. We're grateful to **Whole Foods** for providing the plants, and thanks also to the 26 community gardens that participated in the distribution.

Two well-attended workshops were presented by CCGA's Education Committee. On June 10th, **Sarah Mallin**, a chef and caterer of very creative ability and inventive and inspired food preparation presented Growing Herbs for Flavor, Nutrition, and Health. She gave a fascinating history of herbs, recommended reading, invited attendees for a sensory exploration of six families of herbs, and prepared delicious samples that you can read more about [here](#). At the Beneficial Insects for the Garden workshop on July 8th, presenter **Allen Lawrence** from the **Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum** offered anecdotes and bug facts that folks were clearly interested in hearing during his very focused presentation about gardening with and for beneficial insects. CCGA thanks the presenters, attendees, volunteers who made these workshops happen!





From the top: Attendees sampling herbs at the Growing Herbs for Flavor, Nutrition, and Health workshop; Gardeners received Non-GMO blueberries at the July 5 plant distribution; Aarafa (left) and Que-dah with their tomato seedlings in hand from the July 15 mini-distribution; Gardeners intently listening at the Beneficial Insects workshop.

Save the date for these upcoming events!



Summer Gardening at Leland School in Austin

Join friends and neighbors for conversation, fun and gardening! All are welcome! No previous gardening experience required. Kids 13 and under must be accompanied by an adult. Be sure to wear sunscreen and bring water to stay hydrated. Tools and gloves will be provided.

George Leland Elementary School

512 S. Lavergne Ave.

Every Tuesday in July and August from 10:00 am - Noon

Dates: 7/11, 7/18, 7/25, 8/1, 8/8, 8/15, and 8/22

For more information, please contact **Danielle Russell** via the School Garden Hotline: [312-863-6269](tel:312-863-6269)

Managing partners: Healthy Schools Campaign & Openlands [Greening Chicago Schoolyards](#) project.

Download the flyer [here](#).

Children's Theater at Winthrop Harmony Arts Garden

Teenagers in Uptown have a unique summer job at **Winthrop Harmony Arts Garden** as they work for **Green Scene Chicago**, adapting an Iroquois legend, growing their stage set from seeds, and playing the show free to young audiences in the garden.

A Tale of Three Sisters synthesizes an Iroquois creation myth with a legend that imparts the wisdom of planting corn, beans, and squash (the three sisters) together. Since May, the ensemble of teenagers has been growing this traditional Iroquois planting as scenery for the play. On August 10 and 11 they will perform their adaptation in a six-show run for free at Winthrop Harmony Arts Garden. Audience members will get to explore the garden to see the planting system in action as they learn about balanced nutrition and see an interactive play that expresses the strength of family and the importance of working through differences to support one another. Audience participation, puppetry, music, and sign language from the First People make up this fun and educational show. Read about this wonderful event for children [HERE](#).

Where

Winthrop Harmony Arts Garden
4919 North Winthrop, Chicago, Illinois 60640
Audience will sit picnic style in outdoor garden.

Show Times

August 10 at 11 am, 12:30 pm, 2:30 pm
August 11 at 11 am, 12:30 pm, 2:30 pm, 6 pm

Tickets

Performances are FREE!
Groups of 6 or more please make a reservation at martie@greenscenechicago.org

Season Extension Mini-tunnel Build Out Workshop

Have you wanted to build a season extension structure for your raised bed garden, but not sure how to do it right? Join U of I Extension Educator [Zack Grant](#) as he takes you step by step in constructing a mini tunnel season extension structure at the Village of Dolton Farmer's Market Site. Instructions, diagrams, sample budget and materials list are provided.

Saturday August 19, 2017, 9:30 am – 12:30 pm
Dolton Farmer's Market/Melanie Fitness Center, 14900 Greenwood Road, Dolton, IL

Free to attend, but please pre-register at go.illinois.edu/seasonextension or Sarah Batka at **708-449-4320 x 345**. For more info, see our post about it [here](#).

Grown in Chicago: AUA Summer Soirée & Showcase

Advocates for Urban Agriculture (AUA) invites you to the 3rd annual **Grown in Chicago: Summer Soirée & Showcase!** AUA's biggest event of the year features an urban farm-to-table dinner incorporating produce grown right here in Chicago, a showcase with local farmers and funding sources, and an exciting silent auction. Our 3rd annual gathering will be held at the urban farm of the 4-Star Certified Green Restaurant & Caterer, [Big Delicious Planet](#), 412 N. Wolcott Ave. on **Thursday August 10th**, 6pm-9pm

Early-bird tickets run through July 31st, see more details [HERE](#).

Come join us to celebrate and help grow Chicago's urban agriculture movement!

News You Can Use

PEST OF THE MONTH

Not Wanted: Green June Beetle (*Cotinis nitida*)



One of the scarab beetles, this shiny green menace is native to North America. Adult June beetles are brightly colored metallic green with yellow-orange margins and shiny green undersides; they are noisy in flight and quick-flying enough to be mistaken for buzzing bumblebees. They resemble the more destructive Japanese beetle, but are much larger - up to 1½ inches. Adult beetles may feed and damage various thin-skinned ripe and over-ripe fruits such as peaches, apples, pears, berry and bramble fruits, and soft skinned vegetables like tomatoes and corn. They use the small horn-like protrusion on their foreheads to break the fruit's skin and leave unsightly holes as they feed, attracted by the moisture and fermenting sugars of the fruit. If they're a nuisance, they can be collected and picked off in the morning when they're not very active and destroyed or drowned in soapy water.

The June beetle larvae are more destructive. They can damage or even kill plants and grasses by feeding on their root nodules, through which plants absorb vital nutrients in the soil. Wilted, brown or excessive dropping of leaves and large brown patches of grass usually indicate a grub infestation.

Milky Spore is a naturally occurring bacterium (*Bacillus popilliae*-Dutky) used as an organic control for common lawn grubs including June Bug & Japanese Beetle larvae and doesn't harm earthworms. It's been known to last 15 years or more with only one treatment!

Read more about the Green June Beetle on our website [HERE](#).

Beware of Black swallow-wort



A very aggressive, noxious weed is starting to make an appearance in the Midwest. Gardeners report that once it sets seed "watch out!" Black swallow-wort, or *Cynanchum louiseae*, is on the Illinois Invasive Species List as a Species of Concern. Also known as dog-strangling vine, it is an "herbaceous, twining, unbranched, perennial vine which can grow up to 6.5 ft. in length," according to the Center for Invasive Species and Ecosystem Health. This native of Europe flowers from June to September and "adapts readily to upland areas and tolerates a wide range of light and moisture conditions. The history of its introduction is uncertain, but it may have escaped from a botanical garden." Gardeners are pulling it out to try and starve it into submission before it invades their gardens. The root structure is tough to get out, so be prepared to do some digging! For more info, go to <https://www.invasive.org/illinois/SpeciesofConcern.html>.

Image credit: Leslie Mehrhoff, University of Connecticut

**Stay tuned for details about the CCGA
Coordinating Meeting in August and the Fall
Planning Retreat!**

Have ideas, suggestions or news you would like to share with fellow community gardeners in the next CCGA email? Please send those items to communications@chicagocommunitygardens.org.

For questions about CCGA and how to get involved, email membership@chicagocommunitygardens.org or visit chicagocommunitygardens.org/ccga-organization

Need resources for your community garden? Have resources to offer? Email resources@chicagocommunitygardens.org.



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