

6 Feb 1990

Hi Alma!

Dear gardeners:

hi! I hope all is going well with all of you; I've been really busy trying to settle in to the semester. Unfortunately, the gardener we hired at the beginning of the year -- Heidi -- is no longer here. So we've been busy advertising and interviewing for a new gardener to start now and work during the summer. I am anxious to find one soon so that we can do a lot of good training on how to manage the community garden and greenhouse during the summer. As soon as we hire the new person, I'm planning to set up a time for you and other potential gardeners to meet her/him. Either way, we are going to be choosing community gardeners very soon. If you are interested in staying with the program, please let me know if you haven't already.

The cookbooks are finished!! Finally! and they are beautiful! I have 50 copies, spiral bound (they were too thick to staple very effectively). The print and the artwork looks great... printing costs (including the binding) ran \$5.00/ book, so I thought we'd sell them for \$5.95. I need to sell these before I can order more to have enough to put in the bookstore. So, any you could sell would be a good thing, or ideas you have for places to sell them. Come in and get a copy and show it to people! I will leave a copy in my box at the UEL... and will keep replacing it if you want to buy it. I will also bring copies to our first garden meeting. I will be in touch as soon as we set up a meeting time and hire a gardener. take care, everybody.

Lisa -- my # at the UEL is 863-2715 I am definitely here
on Thursday mornings, other times not quite set yet.
-- my # at home is 863-6396

call me with your plans for gardening this summer, or if you
need cookbook copies to sell... thanks!

I assume you'll
be back!
see you soon



BROWN UNIVERSITY Providence, Rhode Island • 02912

Center for Environmental Studies
Box 1943

Telephone: (401) 863-3449

July 2, 1990

Dear Community Gardener,

We have two meetings scheduled for the month of July. On Tuesday the 17th at 7:00 PM, one of the gardeners, Lois Atwood, will share her knowledge of local edible wild plants.

The following meeting will be on the 31st, also at 7:00 PM. Another gardener, Marilyn Fenton, will be leading a jelly/jam making session. Hopefully, we will be able to use some berries from the garden.

Again, I ask that if you plan on missing either of the meetings, let me know as soon as possible. If a certain date is particularly inconvenient for a significant number of the members, it may be possible to reschedule.

Thank you and hope to see you soon.

Sincerely,

Sandy Baptista

Tel: (401) 863-2715



BROWN UNIVERSITY Providence, Rhode Island • 02912

Center for Environmental Studies
Box 1943

Telephone: (401) 863-3449

July 20, 1990

UEL

Dear Community Gardener,

Hi! I hope you are all doing well. The plots look great!

I'd like to remind you that we will be having a meeting on July 31 at 7:00 PM. Marilyn will be showing us how to make jam/jelly. Those who attended the last meeting on the 17th had the chance to taste raspberry jelly which Marilyn prepared using the raspberries in the UEL garden. It was delicious! Thanks Marilyn!

And thank you Lois for an excellent talk on local edible wild plants.

Eight tomato plants were just recently donated to the UEL garden. They were sown in late May and are now planted in pots on the greenhouse seedling shelves. If anyone would like one or two of these plants, let me know soon. Also, I have some white and apricot statice seedlings that are up for grabs. They are also on the greenhouse seedling shelves.

For those of you who missed the last meeting, I am enclosing a mid-season questionnaire. Please fill this out and return it to me at the next meeting.

See you soon.

Sincerely,

Sandy Baptista

UEL

Tel: (401) 863-2715

1990
10/19

Introduction and Dedication

'Green Thumbs at Brown' is dedicated to the Providence Garden Club's Perennial Planters, whose generous donation made it possible to create the Urban Environmental Lab (UEL) and Edible Landscape five years ago.

Located on the East Side of Providence at 135 Angell Street, the garden and landscape serve as a demonstration of organic gardening methods in the city. The organic philosophy is based on preserving natural ecological systems, undisturbed by chemical fertilizers or pesticides.

Each year, interested applicants are pooled and community gardeners are chosen to work a space in one of the twelve raised beds in the garden. Each gardener brings new information, experience and interest to the program; group diversity breeds great potential for experimental learning and sharing of ideas and practices. Some of the organic gardening methods commonly utilized in the community garden include intensive planting and trellising for space efficiency; companion planting or using natural plant features to maximize healthy production; and biological pest control, i.e. the use of natural predators to control garden pests. We also grow crops in recycled containers, such as tires or bathtubs, to show possibilities for small-scale urban gardening.

As an alternative to the traditional ornamental landscape, we maintain an 'edible landscape' of plants chosen for their usefulness, hardiness and environmental requirements. Our perennial landscape includes a variety of berries, asparagus, grapes, kiwi, Jerusalem artichokes and a rhubarb/strawberry patch, all strategically placed according to their needs.

At the U.E.L., we are always in the process of generating ideas for future projects; right now we are planning to demonstrate the use of groundcover as an alternative to grass lawns, which require much unnecessary work, water and soil depletion.

We welcome input, ideas, suggestions and questions. Our garden library may be used in-house by the general public, and we are always happy to give tours of the garden, greenhouse and energy-conserving building. Please stop by 135 Angell Street, or call any of the gardeners at 863-2715 with your questions or to arrange for a tour.

Green Thumbs at Brown!

1990 Community Garden