

# Free Garden: Just Add Water!



BY CHAD DARBY

Last year the local non-profit, Neighbors Nourishing Communities (NNC), organized home gardeners and grew almost 3/4 of a ton of produce for struggling families in our community. This helped families obtain wonderfully nutritious produce. With your help we will do even more this year!



As with last year, we will provide gardeners with free plants, seeds, and instruction in gardening, cooking, and preserving in exchange for 20% of the produce you grow from our plants and seeds. Simple! Your plants this year will include three types of tomatoes (Slicing, Roma, and Cherry) and three types of peppers (Ancho, Serrano, and Jalapeño). Our free seeds will

include most of your favorite vegetables, but in case there's something special you want to grow, we have a very large seed library this year, thanks to Victory Seeds. Our focus in plant and seed selection is to get the most nutritious varieties, so one of our additions this year is Purple Peruvian potatoes.

Whether you have a single container, a community garden bed, or a large backyard garden, we will provide you all the seeds and plants you need. We had a few struggling gardeners last year, so this year we have volunteers that will come to your garden and advise you on best locations, soils, and how to prune or take care of your plants once they come up. We had lots of fun last year with our cooking and preserving classes and it was just great to see how many people came forward to help local families and build a garden community. Please call or email us now to join NNC and to reserve your free plants and seeds. Every member will receive 10 packets of flower seeds while supplies last! Email: [NeighborsNC@gmail.com](mailto:NeighborsNC@gmail.com) or phone Chad Darby at (503)-523-7142.



**Chad Darby**, founder of Neighbors Nourishing Communities, has been a resident for 12 years with his wife and two daughters. NNC, founded in the belief that a dedicated group of gardening neighbors can ensure that everyone has access to nutritious food.

## Community Gardening in Tualatin: *Find Your Space*

Have you wanted a garden, but lack the space? Community gardens are expanding in Tualatin and the opportunity to garden has never been more available. We have three flourishing community gardens, due in great part to the efforts by some of our local churches. There are dozens of garden plots waiting for you to grow your favorite fruits and vegetables. The locations of the gardens are shown on the attached figure. You do not need to be a member of these church communities to garden at their locations. Everyone is welcome!

"Gardening can be a compelling cooperative activity. Your best harvest may be the pleasure you get from working with family and friends." - Steven Willson

To reserve your spot at a community garden near you, contact:

- **Hilltop Community Garden**

Jim Serrill (503) 539-4768

- **Tualatin Community Garden**

Laurie Jarmer (503) 692-5140

- **Abundant Blessings Community Garden**

Melissa Laninga (503) 885-8839

## Start your community garden bed for free:

If you are interested in free plants and seeds for your garden, the local non-profit, Neighbors Nourishing Communities (NNC), will provide free plants and seeds to anyone that will donate 20% of their produce for low-income families. If you are a family that is struggling to get by, NNC will help you find a no-cost garden plot and provide you with plants, seeds, and tools. All gardeners with NNC will receive free classes on gardening, cooking, and food preserving. Contact NNC at [NeighborsNC@gmail.com](mailto:NeighborsNC@gmail.com) or Chad Darby at (503) 523-7142.